

1266. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Most highly honoured sirs,

Vienna, 13th Nov., 1799

I count it my duty, out of respect for you, to save you from an error which could compromise you in the eyes of the public. The last piece in the catalogue you sent me with the contents of your 6th volume: [5] *Andantino, Theme*³ (by Dittersdorf) is no more by Mozart, although it circulates under his name, than is Zum Steffan sprach im Traume,⁴ which is by Herr Eberle. In both of these pieces there are compositional errors. So, supposing the *Andantino* was by Mozart, which it is not, you would be doing his name and also the public poor service, [10] and would be acting against your principle that you wish only to publish his excellent pieces.

*Baron Swieten*⁵ is not here; I therefore cannot speak with him.

Your most obedient servant
Constance Mozart

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: cf. note No. 1224.

² BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800.

³ BD: KV App. 287 (KV⁶: App. C 26.04). 12 variations for keyboard on a theme from an opera by Dittersdorf: actually op. 6 by Anton Eberl; cf. note on No. 1225/4. Despite Constanze's warning, it appeared in *Cahier VI*.

⁴ BD: Likewise a set of 12 variations for keyboard by Anton Eberl; cf. note on No. 1225/4.

⁵ BD: BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), diplomat, writer, composer, conductor; introduced Mozart to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart.