

1269. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Vienna / To / Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel, / Leipzig

Most highly honoured sirs,

Vienna, 27th Nov., 1799

In the suggestion I put to you in my letter of the 9th inst., I had your advantage in mind, but at the same time did not forget mine. [5] After your flat rejection of this in your answer of the 16th, I have to feel sorry for myself, because I lose the profit I had hoped for from you, and then equally so for you, because you thus render yourselves incapable of providing the public with the complete works, and now, because you force me to do so, I shall forthwith follow your advice to try to sell my entire stock of musical items profitably to somebody else all at once, in order to be released all at once from my uncertainty. This can and probably will happen in a fortnight, unless, as I hope, you yet take up the suggestion I made, a step to which you might easily be moved by reflecting that you will not be able to get anything from me at all in future after this sale. [15] You mean too well with me not to find this alternative natural and fair, inasmuch as I will find my great advantage one way or the other. But precisely for this reason, and out of the general *égard*³ in which I hold you, I shall continue waiting for the full fourteen days. [20] All at once, I am all too keen to settle down to a quiet life so as to know where I stand. A mother has to do her sums.

Recognise in my dealings with you the constant sentiments
of your
most obedient servant.
Constance Mozart

[25] I enclose some provisional notes for the biography.

You know that Mozart was a Mason.

There are 2 interesting letters over music, written by Mozart to Frau v. Trattner,⁴ to whom he dedicated his Fantasy and who was his pupil – the deceased wife of the now also deceased bookseller and printer. [30] I was refused them after her death. *Abbé* Ghelinek,⁵ who is at Prince Kinsky's, is said to have them now.

In:

angenehme und lehrreiche Beschäftigung für Kinder in ihren Frey=
stunden.⁶ Volume 2. Vienna, at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, 1788.

[35] there are said to be a text with Mozart's setting: I have not been able to procure this little book.

The young *Cannabich*⁷ composed a *cantata* on Mozart's death which was received with great applause in Munich and was also performed in Prague for the benefit of *Mamsell Cannabich*.⁸

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 = regard, respect.

⁴ BD: Maria Theresia von Trattner, née Nagel (1758-1793), married to the successful bookseller und printer Johann Thomas Trattner; a pupil of Mozart's. The Trattners were on several occasions godparents of Mozart's children.

⁵ BD: Joseph Gelinek (1758-1825), pupil of Albrechtsberger. Priest. On the recommendation of Mozart, who admired Gelinek's improvisation, Philipp, Count [Graf] Kinsky, made him his house chaplain and keyboard teacher.

⁶ = Pleasant and instructive occupation for children in their free time.

⁷ BD: Karl Konrad Cannabich (1771-1806), violinist, son and successor of Christian Cannabich, director of the court music first in Mannheim and then in Munich.

[40] In the pleasure dome belonging to the merchant Deyerkauf⁹ in Graz, the ceiling was painted in memory of Mozart, and the hall is called Mozart's Temple. Later, the ceiling was changed and embellished, and in yet another part of the pleasure dome a counterpart to it was made. I have seen this with my own eyes. – Perhaps you can send for the sketches; [45] should you be unable to obtain them, I will certainly let you use mine.

In the first years at least, the anniversary of Mozart's death was celebrated annually in Munich by *Baroness*¹⁰ Herding, the wife of the general, née St. Martin, with music only of his composing, as Deyerkauf still does.

[50] He once wrote concerning a performa[nce]¹¹ of The Magic Flute, [What]¹² gave me the most joy was the silent applause.¹³

Mozart's sister is *Baroness*¹⁴ Berchtold-Sonnenburg, whose husband is chief administrator in St. Kilian¹⁵ in Salzburg territory.

There are collections of beautiful song texts written out by Mozart himself, [55] just as they came to hand, with the aim of setting them sometime. He really did set some of them, e.g. Wenn die lieb aus etc.¹⁶

He had also wanted to found a society with the name The Grotto.¹⁷ I have found only a fragment of his essay on this and have given it to someone¹⁸ who may be in a position to complete it because he took part.

⁸ BD: Rosa Schulz, née Cannabich, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her.

⁹ BD: Franz Deyerkauf, art and music dealer in Graz; cf. note on 1168/4, 11-12.

¹⁰ "Baroninn".

¹¹ BD: Seal damage. Three or four letters lost.

¹² BD: Seal damage. Three or four letters lost.

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 1193/6-7.

¹⁴ "Baroninn".

¹⁵ BD: A mistake. Should be "St. Gilgen".

¹⁶ BD: KV 524, cf. note on Nos. 1059/4; 1243/22.

¹⁷ BD: "Die Grotte". Cf. No. 1301/5-9.

¹⁸ BD: The clarinetist Anton Paul Stadler (1753-1812), his younger brother was Johann Nepomuk Franz (1755-1804). They both probably played in Mozart's Serenade in B^b KV 361 (370a) in Mozart's concert of the 23rd March, 1784. Both brothers were Freemasons in Vienna. Stadler worked constantly on extending the range of his instrument.