

1275. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO JOHANN ANTON ANDRÉ,² OFFENBACH

Dear Herr *André*

[Vienna, 15th January, 1800]

At the end of the Hanauer Zeitung No. 2 of 4th Jan., 1800, someone is looking for a young person in the mercantile field. He should have the following characteristics:

[5] He must be between 14 and 16 years old, possessed of an upright heart, be able to write and count tolerably. These characteristics, partly to a greater extent and in one case to a much higher degree, are united in my elder son.³ (His age is that specified). He speaks some French, although admittedly little, he has also made no more than a start in English and Italian, [10] he has also long frequented Latin schools. I would like, with which he agrees, to make a merchant of him. Would you do me the friendly favour of finding out the trading company in question? Would I be dealing with a man of reputation and integrity? Would the young man, as in the advertisement, learn a great deal without cost, and what would this be? [15] What, quite generally, is it important for me to know, and what are all the conditions? Do you wish that I should write to the man myself afterwards, or he to me – or do you even wish to take the negotiations on yourself – I expect to learn this from your kind answer.

Be so good as to receive, in anticipation, my sincerest thanks
[20] and the assurance of the genuine sentiments
with which I have the honour to be

Vienna, 15th Jan.
1800

your
most obedient servant
Constance Mozart

[25] Answers to the advertisement are to c/o the Hanau newspaper delivery office.
Double your kindness to me by replying with all due promptness.

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

² BD: Johann Anton André (1775-1842), publisher. He was the third son of Johann André (1741-1799), composer, music director (from 1766), founded the music publishing business in Offenbach in 1784. It was thus in Johann Anton's first year as a publisher that the contract was concluded with Constanze (8th November, 1799) regarding the music in Mozart's estate. His full title in 1826 was "Music Director to the Grand Prince of Hessen and Court Councillor at the Princely Court in Isenburg" ["grossfürstlich hessischer Kapellmeister und fürstlich Isenburgischer Hofrath"].

³ BD: Carl Thomas, born on 21st September, 1784. He attended a grammar school while staying with Franz Niemetschek in Prague, returning to Vienna in 1797. Without completing grammar school studies, he joined a trading firm in Livorno, but Constanze, strangely enough, does not mention this. The enquiries in Hanau did not lead to employment, cf. No. 1285/33-37.