

1385. CONSTANZE NISSEN TO HER SON CARL THOMAS,¹ MILAN

EXCERPT:

[Vienna, 1st December, 1809]

. . . did Jagemann² tell you much about us? Didn't he tell you anything about the *mascarade* which took place in my home on Nissen's birthday?³ On this occasion Nissen was given a surprise with the Schauspieldirektor⁴ by your father Mozart, [5] for which your brother had composed a *buffa aria* which truly did not fall short of its aim and which I still consider to be the best that he has written . . .

. . . we once again had the great good fortune of receiving our much beloved monarch, the good Emperor,⁵ within our walls. In Pressburg,⁶ too, he was given a very fine reception at which they performed the *Clemenza di Tito*⁷ in his honour. [10]

¹ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858. Grammar school in Vienna; mercantile employment in Livorno approx. 1800-1805, after which he moved to Milan. Started musical studies, but ultimately kept music as a hobby and became a civil servant.

² BD: The painter Ferdinand Jagemann (1780-1820), who made a portrait of Nissen in 1809 (Deutsch Bild No. 573). He also painted Goethe four times. Brother of the noted actress Caroline Jagemann (1777-1848), who influenced Duke [Herzog] Carl August against Goethe in Weimar, eventually leading to the latter's resignation from his position.

³ BD: 22nd January, 1809. Constanze usually organised a musical performance on Nissen's birthday, cf. No. 1276.

⁴ BD: Singspiel KV 486 (1786).

⁵ BD: Emperor [Kaiser] Francis [Franz] I ("the Good", 1768-1835), son of Leopold II, from 1804 Emperor of Austria. He entered Vienna on 27th November, 1809, after the conclusion of the Treaty of Schönbrunn with Napoleon Bonaparte.

⁶ = "Bratislava".

⁷ BD: KV 621.