

1387. CONSTANZE NISSEN TO HER SON CARL THOMAS,¹ MILAN

EXCERPT:

Vienna, 7th May, 1810

I only want to tell you that I have just been to *Bridi's*² and paid 5~~44~~⁴³ so that you receive your father's *pianoforte*⁴ at once . . .

You see the motherly care with which I treat you, and that I am also bringing you the good fortune [5] of getting the *pf.* into your hands as quickly as possible. If only you already had it; I do not believe I shall survive this, very happily as I would part with it for you because I know how dear it must be to you, and so reluctantly if it were not for you; as long as you love it only half as much as I did. Never let it go . . .

POSTSCRIPT BY GEORG NIKOLAUS NISSEN:

[10] Your debts for the expenses which we incurred for you for the *Clemenza*,⁵ for the chest⁶ with musical items, and otherwise, are paid.⁷

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: Giuseppe Antonio Bridi of the firm Bridi, Parisi & Cie. He sang the title role in a private performance of *Idomeneo* in the private theatre of Prince [Fürst] Johann Adam Auersperg on 13th March, 1786 (cf. No. 1072/9).

³ BD: 5 ducats [= 22 ½ florins].

⁴ BD: Built by Anton Walter (1752-1826), used by Mozart in numerous concerts, especially at the beginning of 1785. Carl Thomas gave it to the Mozarteum in Salzburg in 1856 (Deutsch Bild Nos. 384, 385).

⁵ Cf. No. 1386.

⁶ BD VI, p. 600: Word corrected.

⁷ BD: Carl Thomas had obtained coral ear-rings for his mother: the costs involved were set off against the sending of the chest with musical items and the copy of *Titus*.