

1405. CONSTANZE NISSEN¹ TO HER SON CARL THOMAS,² MILAN

EXCERPT:

Salzburg, 22nd January, 1826

If you should find anything more about Mozart, not only by himself but also written about him by others, enclose it with a letter, for your father³ is also looking for such things and sits buried in a heap of books and journals day and night, [5] so it is only with difficulty that I can see him. Yes, such a defender of Mozart as Nissen will hardly be found again, and I therefore repeat to you my request to help him at all costs wherever you can, since you must remember that everything he is doing, expending so much effort, he is doing only for you and your brother. It is immeasurable. Even the many letters which he writes on this account, [10] so many that I often become anxious because the tasks are much too great and could damage his health, which, thanks be to God, is at the moment good . . .

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Georg Nikolaus Nissen (1761-1826), secretary to the Holstein Legation in Regensburg and then to the Danish Legation in Vienna. Met Constanze at the end of 1797, was either her landlord or cohabitant. Nissen advised Constanze in all business matters from 1798 onwards, especially with the publishers Breitkopf & Härtel and André. The letters, often formulated by him and signed by Constanze, reveal an experienced, if cautious, businessman. Cf. No. 1224 for longer note.

² 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.

³ BD: Nissen is meant, of course, Carl's stepfather.