

## 1796

1217. CONSTANZE MOZART TO CHRISTOPH GOTTLÖB<sup>1</sup> BREITKOPF,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

Hamburg,<sup>3</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> January,  
1796

Most esteemed Herr Breidkopf! I would have been happy to give you news of the safe arrival of my Bandel terzett<sup>4</sup> [5] if I had not constantly been waiting for a clarifying answer to my letter. – I am very satisfied with both the beautiful printing and the paper, and there is nothing at all there to which I must draw your attention, other than that I ask you to answer my last letter |: if I am not mistaken, dated 11<sup>th</sup> X<sup>b</sup>.<sup>5</sup> :|, and to believe that you are dealing with a woman of honour, with which I will always have the pleasure, sir, of being your  
servant Constance  
Mozart

I would ask you to pass on to your esteemed wife,<sup>6</sup> on my behalf, every fine compliment imaginable.

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<sup>1</sup> BD VI: Corrected from “Gottlieb” as in BD IV.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Christopher Gottlob Breitkopf (1750-1800). He composed and was an outstanding player of the glass harmonica. His father, Johann Gottlob Immanuel Breitkopf (1719-1794), made the acquaintance of Mozart, as well as of Haydn and Gluck, on a visit to Vienna in 1786. Constanze probably met Ch. G. Breitkopf and his wife during her stay in Leipzig (November, 1795). Leopold Mozart’s correspondence with J. G. I. Breitkopf started in the year 1772 (cf. No. 0263). He repeatedly tried to interest the publisher in his son’s music, but apparently without success during Mozart’s lifetime. The publishing firm “Breitkopf” was founded in 1719; it later became Breitkopf & Härtel.

<sup>3</sup> BD: In autumn, 1795, Constanze undertook a concert tour in Germany along with her sister Aloisia Lange and the pianist and composer Anton Franz Eberl (1765-1807). Included was also Prague, where her son Carl Thomas was staying with Franz Xaver Neimetschek, by whom the younger Franz Xaver Wolfgang was also accommodated during the tour. The stay in Hamburg was at least from the middle of December to the middle of January. Eberl had composed a cantata “*Bey Mozarts Grab*” [“By Mozart’s Grave”] in December, 1791, and played a piano concerto by Mozart in a concert organised by Constanze in Vienna in 1794.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1216 on the conditions of publication by Breitkopf & Härtel..

<sup>5</sup> X = ten = *decem*; thus “December”.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Henriette Elenore, née Thilo. She married Ch. G. Breitkopf in 1793 and left him in 1796; the divorce was granted in November, 1797. Cf. No. 1216/29.