

1230. CONSTANZE MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

Most honoured sirs,

Vienna, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1798.

I owe you the most obliged thanks for the kind consideration you showed in presenting me with the first volume<sup>3</sup> of my husband's works: receive them, then, with this letter. [5] In doing this you have given me double pleasure: [5] by bearing me in mind so amicably, and secondly because the edition is so beautiful and lovable that it is certain to deserve and to receive widespread approval.

And now it still remains for me to clear my name in your eyes regarding my tardiness in thanking you. Will you believe it? [10] And yet it is true that Herr Traeg,<sup>4</sup> as he must admit to you himself, did not hand over this proof of your kind thoughts towards me until 12 days ago, when I called on him. It is therefore his fault that I am so late in enjoying the double pleasure for which I am indebted to you, and that I have perhaps been seen by you in the wrong light without my having given any occasion for it, which I wholeheartedly regret. [15]

You will have received my letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> October.<sup>5</sup> I hope you have not yet replied to it so that you can at the same time make a statement on the following question: Whether you wish to buy the copper plates<sup>6</sup> for the concerto which you are selling for me on commission? [20]

Herr von Thonus,<sup>7</sup> who has them, is willing to give me 40 Rth.,<sup>8</sup> but I would wish to have 50 Rth.

I have the honour to be, with lasting respect,

my most honoured sirs,  
your most obedient servant.  
Constance Mozart

[25]  
verte<sup>9</sup>

I most obediently request you to inform me whether it is true that *Madam Duschek*<sup>10</sup> sent you 20 copies of the *concerto, opus 1*, a long time ago; she has often assured me of this, but I do not find it mentioned in your accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: cf. note No. 1224.

<sup>2</sup> BD: The firm "Breitkopf" was founded in 1719. It later became Breitkopf & Härtel: On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800. 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: First volume of the *Oeuvres complètes*, containing *VII Sonates pour le Pianoforte* [KV 330 (300h); 331 (300i); 332 (300k); 333 (315c); 284 (205b); 310 (300d); 311 (284c)]. Cf. No. 1231/74 ff.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Johann Traeg (1747-1805) started a music business in Vienna in 1782 from a series of different addresses. He had already started selling copies of Mozart's works during the composer's lifetime, and advertised a large number of these (including 15 symphonies, concertos and chamber music). He was a correspondent for Breitkopf & Härtel and for André and later became a publisher. Joseph Haydn described him in a letter of 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1799, as a "10 kreuzer shop-keeper".

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 1228.

<sup>6</sup> BD: KV 503. Acquired by the publisher "at the beginning of 1799" (cf. No. 1299/18-19).

<sup>7</sup> BD: J.P. von Thonus, publisher in Leipzig, found the copper plates for the piano concert in C KV 503 in 1798.

<sup>8</sup> BD: 40 Reichsthaler (Imperial thalers), 50 Rth.: 60 florins, 75 fl.

<sup>9</sup> BD: = "Turn" (the page).

<sup>10</sup> BD: Josepha (1753-1824), singer, wife of Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.