

1271. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Vienna / To / Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel, / Leipzig

Most highly honoured sirs,

Vienna, 14th Dec., 1799

Since I could very comfortably have had an answer to my letter of 27th Nov. today, but did not receive anything, [5] I take this as unambiguous evidence that you persist on rejecting my suggestions. At the same time, I inform you today for the last time,³ although unnecessarily – from this you can once again see the most incontrovertible expression of my consistent wish to remain in contact with you – that at the end of this year I shall most definitely sell my entire stock of my husband's works, [10] and that, as I have already informed you, you are thus placing yourself in the position of being unable to draw any more benefit from it, unless you have a change of mind, along the lines I suggested, before this happens. A fortnight today, on the 28th, I can have your answer to the present letter. If I receive no answer complying with the wish which I have now expressed to you several times, or no answer at all, [15] the present letter is the last with which I shall trouble you, with the exception of those referring to originals⁴ etc. which you are holding to my account and to money which you are holding for me to my account. The latter has grown to a definite debt of 5 fl. 52^{kr} due to my letter of 30th Nov.,⁵ which cost 12^{kr}, the undetermined debt is indicated at the end of my letter of 20th Nov.⁶ [20] I beseech you to send me the pieces in the first category as soon as possible, asking you to consult the appendix to the letter of 30th Nov. just mentioned.

I have no fears that this letter may be unwelcome or offensive to you, and am confident that you will recognise in it anew the sentiments with which [25] I commend myself to your friendly inclination and with which I have the honour to be,

most nobly born sirs,

your most obedient servant

Constance Mozart

[30] I still have not received the 5th *Cahier*!⁷

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: cf. note No. 1224.

² BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st 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.

³ BD: Now the third time (cf. No. 1283/18) that the deadline of 28th December, 1800, has been set, or fourth time counting No. 1258/27, 30-31.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1270/15 ff.

⁵ BD: No. 1270.

⁶ BD: 17th November? Cf. lines 155 ff. in No. 1267.

⁷ Volume 5 of the complete works. Yet another reminder from Constanze, cf. No. 1269/44 etc.