

1335. MARIA ANNA,¹ IMPERIAL BARONESS² VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG, TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,³ LEIPZIG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Breitkopf / et Härtel. / à / Leipzig.

Most Noble
Most estimable sir!

St. Gilgen, 27th May
1801

I would have replied at once to your valued communications of 10th and 21st Fev.,⁴ [5] but that the demise of my most tenderly beloved husband, my own ensuing severe illness and then the inevitable, urgent domestic business had prevented me.

Now the *opera La finta Semplice* is already being copied,⁵ and since I am moving into town myself at Michaelmas,⁶ [10] I hope I can procure for you, by my presence directly there and by my efforts, more works by my brother than is presently the case. Yet until then you must certainly be patient, since my good friend⁷ in Salzburg has too much to do himself, so much so that he did not even answer to my letter of 28th March, but simply sent someone to tell me that the *opera* is already being copied. [15]

I have not yet handed in the payment order to Mayr's bookshop,⁸ since I still have almost 13 florins in guildens in my hands; if I need anything I will make use of this order.

What a joy it will be for me when you honour me with the gift of the score of the opera *Don Juan*.⁹ [20] I would only wish that I could obtain immediately and securely everything that you wish to have from my brother's works, but this is of course impossible for me; meanwhile I hope I will surely have persuaded you that I will still continue to make every effort, as I have done so far, to obtain everything little by little; I will make every effort to discover it. [25] I remain with great respect

Your

most devoted servant

M: A:, Imperial Baroness von Berchtold
zu Sonnenburg.

[30] I cannot obtain the *operas* you are asking me for, *Endimion*,¹⁰ *Lucio Sylla*,¹¹ *assanio*,¹² *mitridate*, and *Bastien et Bastienne*; his widow must have the scores of these in her possession, and I do not know the other two¹³ at all. The copies of *Lucio Sylla*, *assanio*, *mitridate*, are in Milan, where he composed them at the theatre.

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg.

² "Reichsfreiin".

³ 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.

⁴ BD: Nos. 1327a, 1330a, both lost.

⁵ BD: The publisher had finally replied to Nannerl's repeated requests.

⁶ BD: Michaelmas is 29th September. Nannerl did not move to Salzburg until 28th October, spending the rest of her life (1829) in the house of old family friends, the Barisanis.

⁷ BD: Probably Albert von Mölk, who also established the contact between Nannerl and Schlichtegroll. Cf. preliminary remark to Nos. 1208-1213.

⁸ "Mayrische Buchhandlung". BD: Bookseller in Salzburg, still exists.

⁹ = Don Giovanni.

¹⁰ BD: *Endimione*, serenata by Michael Haydn.

¹¹ BD: *Lucio Silla* KV 135, started in Salzburg, October, 1772, finished in Milan in December, 1772. *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111, composed in Milan end of August – 23rd September, 1772. *Mitridate, Rè di Ponto* KV 87 (74a), finished in Milan middle of December, 1770. *Bastien et Bastienne* KV 50 (46b).

¹² BD: Should be "Ascanio".

¹³ BD: Not identified.