

1342. CONSTANZE MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

*Vienna / To / Messrs. Breitkopf a[...]*<sup>3</sup>

Sirs,

[Vienna, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1802]

When I received your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> January, the subject matter of it, inasmuch as it referred to your negotiations with His Excellency the esteemed Privy Councillor *Baron* von Swieten,<sup>4</sup> [5] seemed entirely strange to me. Simply out of the natural interest I have in everything that concerns the name of my blessedly departed husband, I have since then made enquiries, in the course of which I have experienced new proof of the beneficent sentiments which the esteemed *Baron* has for me. I say simply out of natural interest – for my obligations towards Herr *André* [10] make it impossible for me to get involved with you or anyone except him where a composition by my blessedly departed husband is concerned.

I will always be happy to be of service to you wherever else I can. I am therefore letting you know that the Imperial and Royal Chamberlain here, Count von Dehm,<sup>5</sup> – who took the name Müller<sup>6</sup> some years ago and did all the work himself to set up an art gallery [15] – took a plaster impression of Mozart's head immediately after his death and furthermore that the court actor Lange,<sup>7</sup> a very good painter, did a large painting of him, but *en profil*, a painting which he can probably make into a perfect *en face* likeness with the help of Dehm's plaster cast, especially since he knew *M.* well. [20] Both of these gentlemen still possess their works, and will receive your letters without details of the address. At the same time, you can add the following to the Count's name on the outside:

Proprietor of the art gallery with Imperial and Royal Privilege at the Red Tower.<sup>8</sup>

Not having received a reply in writing to my letter of 16<sup>th</sup> *Jan.*, [25] I nevertheless hope for one in deeds.

I have the honour to be, with unreserved respect,  
Vienna, 17<sup>th</sup> *Febr* [...]<sup>9</sup>  
1802

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Nissen's handwriting, signature cut off. 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. note on No. 1224.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Rest cut off.

<sup>4</sup> "Sr Excellenz, dem herrn Geheimenrath Freyherrn von Swieten". BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), diplomat, civil servant. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn's "*Seven Last Words*" and "*The Seasons*". Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Introduced Mozart in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed and conducted music himself. "Negotiations": perhaps those mentioned in No. 1348a/34.

<sup>5</sup> BD: K. K. Kämmerer (Kammerherr) Graf von Dehm.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Count [Graf] Joseph (Nepomuk Franz de Paula) Deym von Stržitěz took the name Müller following a duelling incident. Müller opened a gallery in Vienna in 1790 in which various mechanical toys were also on show. In 1791 he opened a mausoleum dedicated to Field Marshal Gideon, Baron [Freiherr] von Laudon († 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1790) in which a clock/organ played a new piece of funeral music every week. The piece played during the first week is said to have been KV 594.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780 and was thus Mozart's brother-in-law; six children; they separated around 1795.

<sup>8</sup> "K. K. privilegirten Kunstgallerie am rothen Thurm".

<sup>9</sup> BD: Signature cut off.