

ALEXANDER W. TAYER AN JOSEF J. MICKLEY IN PHILADELPHIA  
TRIEST, 4. MÄRZ 1873

CONSULATE  
of the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Trieste March 4. 1873

5 My Dear Mr. Mickley –

Before turning to any other business I must relieve my mind by saying you are a phenomenon of a Man! – why? you ask. – For this reason: You visited me, made me a promise in relation to Beethoven and have Kept that promise. This morning came the facsimile of your B. Autograph. Need I say that I am delighted? – Delighted both with the Autograph and with the  
10 sender for not proving anew the proverb, „out of sight, out of mind.“

And now, I am to show you that having once taken me on your shoulders, I shall stick there, like Sindbad's old man of the sea. – You have sent me the facsimile, and I demand in addition another letter from you, containing answers to a thousand and one questions – perhaps-less. – But, seriously:

15 The piece of music sent has a very special interest as being a composition of Beethoven before he left Bonn. This being the case, I am exceedingly interested to know, if the Album in which it was written is still in existence, or whether you have only a leaf cut out. If in existence to whom did it belong – what other names are in it – what dates – and the like. One old Album came to light two or three years since and proved to be of much importance in the addition it  
20 made to one previous knowledge of B's social life in Bonn.

As to the letter – you think its contents of little importance – and the man he in themselves considered – yet some of the merest notes on insignificant matters have Allen found of great value in the determination of dates and facts – so by all means, my dear Sir, send me a copy of it. Don't pay postage but send it to Mr. Hunter of the state department to be forwarded.

25 You think my Book may now be finished – ah, if it only was! – From about Sept. 20 to middle of February I had no time even to study upon it. – My official duties during the winter months take up all my time.

I am now again at work and am writing out the Second Chapter of Vol. III. So I have a long job of it still.

30 Please give my truly affectionate, loving regards to my dear friends Prof. Allen and his amiable family. I must use very strong expressions if I will convey the half of what I feel towards them all. –

With sincere, hearty thanks to you for the facsimile, I am, dear Sir,

very truly yours  
Alexander W. Thayer.

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