

1430. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO DR. JOHANN HEINRICH FEUERSTEIN,<sup>2</sup> PIRNA

Most highly honoured *Doctor!*

[Lemberg,<sup>3</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1828]

It is a pleasant duty for me to thank you for the great kindness which you have shown to my good mother and, by that, to me at the same time. Accept therefore, my esteemed doctor, [5] my most heartfelt and warmest thanks for the animated participation and active assistance with which you so diligently and auspiciously supported my dear mother in such an extremely difficult project | the publication of the biography of my unforgettable father |. I am completely convinced that our thanks for the success of such a burdensome undertaking must go entirely to your energetic activity, your insightful supervision and finally [10] to your generous sacrificing of time reserved for other weighty business.

The finest reward for your trouble is surely to know that you have dealt nobly with a widow bowed down by years and manifold griefs, and at the same time, being knowledgeable and appreciative of the art which speaks most deeply to the heart, to have established a worthy memorial [15] to the *Manes* of Mozart.

Complete your fine work by kindly accepting my deeply felt thanks, and moreover by continuing to be the friend of my mother and the patron of her sons.

Permit me furthermore, Most Honoured Gentleman, to add expressions of the most profound veneration and respect, [20] with which I have the honour to call myself, Highborn Sir,<sup>4</sup>

your most obedient W. A. Mozart

Lemberg, Austrian Galicia,  
on the 25<sup>th</sup> X<sup>th</sup>,<sup>5</sup> 1828

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang (1791-1844), Mozart's younger and second surviving son, virtuoso and composer. 1808-1811 private music teacher in Podkama, Galicia. He adopted the practice of calling himself Wolfgang Amadeus.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Heinrich Feuerstein († 1850), physician in Pirna and then in other towns in Saxony. Published a book on mental illness (Leipzig, 1826). Reputed to be talented but eccentric. Died in the poorhouse in Dresden after suffering under alcohol and madness and receiving punishments for begging and fraud. His relationship to the Mozart family is unclear; he described himself as Mozart's friend. After Nissen's death in 1826, Constanze entrusted the final redaction of Nissen's Mozart biography, as well as numerous manuscripts and also the business side of the publication, to Feuerstein. He kept the money paid by subscribers, despite numerous demands and a court action by Constanze.

<sup>3</sup> = Lviv, Ukraine.

<sup>4</sup> "Euer Wohlgeboren".

<sup>5</sup> = December.