

1211.¹ FRIEDRICH SCHLICHTEGROLL'S² QUESTIONS FOR MARIA ANNA,³ IMPERIAL BARONESS
VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG, (VIA ALBERT VON MÖLK⁴), ST. GILGEN

[Gotha, around April, 1792]

Data needed for the biography of Wolfgang Mozart of blessed memory.

1. In what year, month and day was this gentleman born?
2. When and where were his father and mother born? [5] When and where did they both die? When and how did his father come to Salzburg? What, in brief, was the course of the latter's life before he was accepted as Vice-Director of Music to the High Prince?⁵ What was his mother's name, and who were her parents?
3. In what year did Wolfgang Mozart first appear to the world as an instrumental virtuoso, and as a composer himself?
- [10] 4. What kinds of journey did he go on? In which years? What were the destinations? And accompanied by whom?
5. How and why did he leave service in Salzburg? In which year? And what was the further course of his life from that point on?
6. When and whom did he marry?
- [15] 6. On what day and in whose service did he die? From what kind of illness? And how many children did he leave, along with his widow?
7. What are the names of the most excellent pieces which have secured him, in the eyes of musical world, the reputation of being such a great and unsurpassable master?
8. Was his perfection in this field due only to his own [20] distinguishing genius and to the early instruction from his father?

¹ BD VI, p. 432: A change in the order, and in some cases of the titles, of Nos. 1208-1213 is necessary: the sequence is 1208 (from Mölk, not Breitkopf & Härtel) – 1211 – 1212 – 1212a – 1209 – 1210 – 1213 (not to B & H, but to Mölk). It turns out that Schlichtegroll (Nos. 1211 and 1212) did not approach Nannerl via B & H, but via Albert von Mölk. He was the "friend of our family" mentioned in No. 1268/3-6. The sequence was therefore that Schlichtegroll first sent his questions on Mozart's life (No. 1211) via Mölk (No. 1208, lost). Nannerl then prepared the answers (No. 1212) and sent them to Mölk along with various other writings (cf. No. 1250/30-31). Schlichtegroll then sent more questions to Nannerl via Mölk (No. 1212a, lost). Nannerl's response was to ask Schachtner, an old friend of the family, to supply information, which Schachtner did in No. 1210. Nannerl then sent No. 1210 to Mölk along with her letter No. 1213 (cf. No. 1213/11), who passed it, or a copy of it, to Schlichtegroll.

² BD: Friedrich Schlichtegroll (1765-1822), pedagogue in Gotha, professor, court councillor [Hofrat]. Member of the Munich Academy of the Sciences. Published necrologies for the years 1791-1806. His mention of Mozart in the "Nekrologe" for 1791, largely based on Schlichtegroll, was reprinted in 1794 as *Mozarts Leben*. Constanze bought all 600 copies to prevent their circulation.

³ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829), Wolfgang's sister. After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. From July 1792 Imperial Baroness [Reichsfreiin].

⁴ BD VI: Albert von Mölk and not Breitkopf & Härtel as given in BD IV (cf. note on No. 1208).

⁵ "Hochfürstl: Vize=Kapellmeister"

9. Did Mozart's parents ever have other children besides this one son and the still living daughter?

10. Did Wolfgang Mozart never receive an official call to serve at some [25] other great court?

11. Were all his talents limited to music alone? Or did he display aptitude, joy and activity in anything else besides?