

1325. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO JOHANN ANTON ANDRÉ,² OFFENBACH

Vienna / To / Herr André, / Music Publisher / in / Offenbach / am Mayn

My dear friend,

[Vienna, 17th January, 1801]

Since this letter does not in any way concern your interests, I beg your pardon for the trouble which I am now causing you, and will yet cause, with it.

[5] Herr Hampe³ in Wolfenbüttel sent me an Original Lottery Ticket No. 6871, in words Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One, according to which one can win an estate in Niederleiderbach or in Niedergerens if the two biggest prizes, I mean one of them, comes out on the above number in the 19th Frankfurt lottery, 6th class. [10] Nissen, who commends himself to you most heartily, wishes to keep this ticket for himself and me. But Herr Hampe is asking for 5 Imperial thalers⁴ in coins or 6 ²/₃ Imperial thalers *franco*⁵ to be sent. This presents very considerable difficulties.

If the above number has not come up by the time you receive this letter, about which I ask you to enquire, and if the esteemed Court Councillor⁶ Scherer is willing to accept our stake money, [15] I most devoutly request you to pay him the money from my credit with you, or to advance the sum for me if you have already sent money to me. On the ticket it says that it costs 12 florins on the 24 fl. standard. It would only be necessary to come to an arrangement with the Councillor or, if possible, to obtain a written assurance from him [20] that it is just as valid to pay the ticket money to him as to Herr Hampe, whom he must then immediately inform of this fact. I will then inform him on my part, but do not tell the Councillor about this, in order to make it more certain that he writes.

I would be heartily glad if, on my part, I can be of service to you. [25] I do not owe you any replies, but there are several due to me. Your letters or mine have no doubt gone missing.

Finally, I adjure you to respond to the central subject of this letter with the very first post.

Vienna, 17th Jan., 1801

Your most devoted friend

[30] As confirmation: Constance
Mozart

C. Mozart

¹ BD: 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. No. 1224 for longer note.

² BD: Johann Anton André (1775-1842), publisher. He was the third son of Johann André (1741-1799), composer, music director (from 1766), founded the music publishing business in Offenbach in 1784. It was thus in Johann Anton's first year as a publisher that the contract was concluded with Constanze (8th November, 1799) regarding the music in Mozart's estate. His full title in 1826 was "Music Director to the Grand Prince of Hessen and Court Councillor at the Princely Court in Isenburg" ["grossfürstlich hessischer Kapellmeister und fürstlich Isenburgischer Hofrath"].

³ BD: Lottery treasurer.

⁴ 5 Imperial thalers [Reichsthaler] ≈ 12 florins

⁵ BD: Money order to be converted into the local currency and sent by post without postal charges for the recipient.

⁶ "Hofrath". BD: Nothing is known about Scherer.