

1327. MARIA ANNA,¹ IMPERIAL BARONESS² VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG, TO
BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,³ LEIPZIG

Most nobly born
Most estimable sir!

St. Gilgen, 9th Fev:
1801.

This protracted silence on your part places me in the greatest embarrassment, since I have received no news from you of either your receipt of the *opera La Finta giardiniera*,⁴ [5] which I sent you in the month of October last year, or then of the copied pieces of music which I sent in the same month, or of my letter of 2nd 8ober.⁵ Since it does indeed seem impossible to me that they could have all been lost, since each was sent separately, I would have pursued enquiries with you on this matter a long time ago [10] if I had not always been much too busy because of the many French officers⁶ who travel to and fro every day to eat and stay with us.

Now there was also a French general⁷ here with us recently, who only travelled here in order to get to know me since he is my brother's greatest admirer, he said; [15] he himself played the *clavier* excellently, and told me that he purchases for himself all the Mozart works which are published in Leibzig, and as soon as he gets back to France he will heap particular praise on this edition, since my brother's works are particularly appreciated throughout all France. He asked me if I might perhaps have some as yet unknown compositions by him, [20] I told him I had none, but I knew for certain that there were still some in Salzburg, although they had told me that they were lost. He then said to me that if I wished, he would procure me all the pieces which I know are in Salzburg, and that even if the devil in hell had them, he would surely get them for me.

[25] Now, since I wished to obtain them only for you, I could not give him a definite answer before I had received news from you. I therefore beg you, since it is most urgent, to write to me at once saying whether you wish to have copies of the *opera La Finta Semplice*, the *Re pastore*, *il Sogno di Scipione*, the Latin play,⁸ the German funeral music,⁹ and the German *oratorio*,¹⁰ [30] or whether you already possess the scores of all of these; inform me correspondingly so that I know what answer to give the esteemed general: in the sure hope of receiving an answer as soon as possible I remain, in the greatest haste,

your devoted servant

[35] M: A:, Imperial Baroness v: Berchtold Sonnenburg

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg.

² "Reichsfreiin".

³ BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st 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.

⁴ BD: Cf. Nos. 1308/13 ff.; 1317/26-28.

⁵ = October. BD: The letter was in fact sent on 1st October

⁶ BD: The city of Salzburg fell to the French on 15th December, 1800 after 10 days of military operations.

⁷ BD: Not identifiable. There were 24 French generals in Salzburg at that time.

⁸ BD: *Apollo et Hyacinthus* KV 38.

⁹ BD: KV 42 (35a).

¹⁰ BD: *Die Schuldigkeit das ersten Gebots* KV 35.