

1341. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Vienna / To / Messrs. Breitkopf and Härtel, / Leipzig

Dear Herr Härtel,

[Vienna, 16th January, 1802]

When you were so kind as to give me, besides one splendid copy,³ 5 free copies of Mozart's works, it was natural for me to turn the latter into money. [5] Now that I have been forced by the course of events to accept that I cannot expect this last favour again, I have been left in embarrassment regarding the people who had acquired the previous *copies* from me. No-one here is letting me have them at *subscription* prices, and since I am not receiving any more, I cannot supply any more either. If you would send an instruction here saying I should receive 5 copies at subscription prices from volume 9⁴ inclusive, [10] I would be most obliged to you indeed. If that cannot be, I would then ask you at least to let me have the 2nd, 5th and 6th *Cahiers*⁵ at this price and send an instruction here: otherwise I do not even have a single complete splendid copy for myself. Of the last volume mentioned, I have had to part with 3. [15] The 8th is the last that you were kind enough to send to me here; I am very well aware that, strictly, I have no rights of any kind to a continuation. But I also only wish to say that it is hard if I do not have the collection complete for my own use.

There is of course no need to explain that I have spoken of nothing except *clavier sonatas*⁶ throughout this letter. [20]

I have the honour to be, with the most utter respect,

Your
most devoted servant
Constance Mozart

Vienna, 16th Jan., 1802

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. 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. note on No. 1224.

² 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.

³ BD: Cf. No. 1245/110-112.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1337/18-19.

⁵ "Cahier" = name given to the volumes of the complete works.

⁶ BD: This is not true of *Cahier V*: 30 songs with pianoforte accompaniment.