

1379. MARIA ANNA,¹ IMPERIAL BARONESS² VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG, TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,* LEIPZIG

LOST.

[Salzburg, 14th December, 1807]

Mentioned in Catalogue Charavay 1876 No. 131. Three pages. "*Elle demande certaines compositions musicales*". ["She asks for certain musical compositions".]

*BD: Breitkopf & Härtel: 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.

Christopher Gottlob Breitkopf (1750-1800). He composed and was an outstanding player of the glass harmonica. His father, Johann Gottlob Immanuel Breitkopf (1719-1794), made the acquaintance of Mozart, as well as of Haydn and Gluck, on a visit to Vienna in 1786. Constanze probably met Ch. G. Breitkopf and his wife during her stay in Leipzig (November, 1795). Leopold Mozart's correspondence with J. G. I. Breitkopf started in the year 1772 (cf. No. 0263). He repeatedly tried to interest the publisher in his son's music, but apparently without success during Mozart's lifetime. The publishing firm "Breitkopf" was founded in 1719; it later became Breitkopf & Härtel.

Gottfried Christoph Härtel (cf. note on No. 1218) had been collecting material for a complete edition of Mozart's works since the beginning of his publishing activities, initially without Constanze's cooperation. When the Brunswick publisher Johann Peter Spehr announced a "complete edition of Mozart's works" (cf. line 26) for the Easter Fair, 1798, the publishers B & H announced their intention of producing an "correct and complete collection" of the "genuine compositions" of Mozart and turned to Constanze, in their letter of 15th May, 1798, to ask for support for this project. Their primary interest was in not yet engraved, authentic compositions which the widow might still have, but also in interesting and less well-known biographical details. Constanze's answer followed on 26th May, 1798 (No. 1224).

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".