

0003. LEOPOLD MOZART¹ TO JOHANN JAKOB LOTTER,² AUGSBURG

Herr / Herr Johann Jakob Lotter / Book Printer / in / AugsPurg. / *Franco*³

*Monsieur mon tres cher amy!*⁴

Salzb:, 26th June, 1755

My hope is that you are not ill, for it is fully 5 weeks since I received your last letter. [5] My comfort is that in the meantime I am vividly imagining that you have set off unexpectedly to a fair. And my wish is not only that this is true, but that you have returned home with a large travelling carriage full of *louis d'or*.⁵ At least dispel for me my worries and doubts or, rather, let me rejoice over confirmation of what I have just wished you. [10] What I must tell you is that I feel extremely ill at ease regarding one matter or another in the business so far, and consequently have to consult the chapter and the § signs.⁶ For I changed the manuscript that was sent to you so much, back and fore, that yours no longer matches the one I have in my hands. [15] But I was so careless as not to record the changes in the manuscript I still have. Would you be so good as to inform me in which § of the first section of the first chapter the alphabet marked with letters and fingerings is found? It looks like this:

The lowest or deepest string the second.



[20] Open 1 2 3 Open 1 2 3 and so on.

And also if, in the same §, these or similar words are found? – – that the B, which appears in the seven notes, and is marked with the sign (h) must always, for reasons to be explained in the appropriate place, be referred to using the letter H.⁷ Or where are these words?

[25] After that, I would also ask you to send me only roughly the first quarter, thus the beginning of each line, of the table sent lately with the 4 sheets, or the table itself, for I simply wrote it on the same leaf, and now I need to know the sequence of it, how I set it out, since I do not of course have it. If you find anything requiring improvement, [30] then you are the patron,⁸ for I am far from being a hero in the art of writing, but am nevertheless

Your

Most obedient servant
Leopold Mozart

Now the papermaker will no doubt have finished the paper? [45] For it was warm enough.

¹ BD: Leopold Mozart (1719-1787), born in Augsburg as son of a bookbinder. Started studies in law and philosophy in Salzburg, but neglected these and became a professional musician. Married Maria Anna Pertl in 1747. Only two of their seven children survived infancy. From 1763 until his death, he was *Vizekapellmeister* [deputy director of music] at the Prince-Archbishop's court in Salzburg.

² BD: Johann Jakob Lotter (the Younger, 1726-1804), son of the eponymous founder of the firm (c. 1683-1738), printer and bookseller in Augsburg. Under his management, the business grew, especially the music side. He printed Leopold Mozart's *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* (1756), of which there were three impressions. He also printed Leopold's collection of keyboard music *Der Morgen und der Abend...* (1759), containing works by Leopold, Eberlin and Eberl.

³ Postage paid.

⁴ Monsieur, my very dear friend!

⁵ BD: One "louis d'or" (7.47 g of gold) = 11 guldens or florins.

⁶ Leopold used "§" to mark the sections within the chapters.

⁷ The C major scale in German is usually written c d e f g a h c. "H" is thus equivalent to the English "B".

⁸ = chief, "boss".