

0461. LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SON,<sup>1</sup> LEIPZIG

Herr Breitkopf and Son / in / Leipzig

[Salzburg, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1778]

Most Noble, especially highly Honourable Sirs!

May your Most Noble persons not take it unkindly if I inconvenience you with the present letter. [5] Since the Dresden instrument-maker Herr Graeser<sup>2</sup> had already promised me, dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 1776, the delivery of the instruments requested and, despite all the frequent reminders by your most Noble selves as well as myself and especially despite your most kindly often repeated urging, and had neither sent the instruments nor any reply, I was therefore quite naturally, [10] after the lapse of two years, forced to give up all hope of receiving the same. Now, these instruments arrived a few days ago, when I no longer expected them at all, when the Prince<sup>3</sup> in the meantime had invited tenders for the same from Vienna |: without my knowing anything about it :, which at the same time causes me consternation in that, although I had presented the letters, [15] some distrust may yet have arisen towards the earnestness of my efforts. Nevertheless, I insisted that the instruments be accepted, although they were delivered only after 2 years had passed and although in the meantime Herr Graeser not even sent me a letter which might, albeit with a certain kind of unbecoming disdain, have declared the whole matter closed. [20] That, however, is not the end of it. I would have settled everything, but this man is causing me a new round of consternation because, although the 2 oboes are good, the 2 cors anglais are off tune. Now, since he sent the instruments straight to me, while your Most Noble selves will not have received them from him, I presume that you will have taken the precaution of not paying him [25] without having confirmation from me regarding the delivery and also the amount. – His whole bill comes to a total of 50 florins 8 ½ kreuzers<sup>4</sup> in Convention coinage.<sup>5</sup> The cors anglais come to 30 florins. Now, since I am writing to him today regarding these badly finished cors anglais and since they are not usable, I cannot therefore at the moment pay him, Herr Graeser, [30] more than 20 florins 8 ½ kreuzers until he supplies me with others and makes a suggestion as to what is to be done with these. May your Most Noble persons forgive me the inconvenience caused to you; one is obliged by unpleasant commissions of this kind to burden oneself with consternation and furthermore at the same time to be an encumbrance to friends. – My son, who had already resigned [35] from his services as concertmaster here in September last year, has since 23<sup>rd</sup> March been enjoying a good living in Paris. Should you find that I am in a position to do any favours in your service here, please reckon with my readiness to serve you in every detail, since I am, with the greatest respect,

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Later “Breitkopf & Härtel”. Founded as “Breitkopf” in 1719. On 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0263/5, 11. One of the most famous instrument makers in Europe. The founder, Karl Augustin Grenser (I), 1820-1708, was a good wind player himself, came to Dresden in 1739 and set up a workshop in 1744. His flutes were particularly praised for excellent craftsmanship, pure intonation and beautiful sound.

<sup>3</sup> “Fürst”. BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

<sup>4</sup> BD: After a communication of 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1776 (No. 0321a, lost), cf. Nos. 0324/8-9; 0327/15-16, Leopold reduces the sum due to 47 florins 15 kreuzers.

<sup>5</sup> BD: A monetary convention was agreed between Bavaria and Austria in 1753 with 1 Mark Fine = 20 guldens [florins]. Cf. No. 0063/4.

[40]  
Salzb., the 6<sup>th</sup> *Julii*  
1778.

Your Worthiest Sirs'

Most humble servant  
Leopold Mozart