

0437. LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SON,¹ LEIPZIG

Messrs. Breitkopf and Son / G [. . .]² / in / Leipzig

Salzburg, 13th March, 1778

Most noble, especially honourable gentlemen,

Since I have not seen any trace of either an answer to all my reminders [5] or, even less, the instruments requested from Herr Grenser in Dressden,³ I wished to collect the money for the 25 copies of the violin school⁴ from Herr Schwarzkopf⁵ at the present market⁶, as in your previous letter, but he offered his excuses, referring to your written instructions to him, saying that he had received no order. Accordingly, I wish to request, with all courtesy, [10] that a suitable order in my favour be sent as soon as possible by you personally, or by him, Herr Breitkopf. My son has left service in Salzburg and will now, when you read this, be in Paris. Here with us things look very sad, yet where does it not look critical now? – Our mutual friend,⁷ Herr von Grimm,⁸ but now *Baron von Grimm, Ministre plenipotentiaire de Saxe=Gotha*,⁹ [15] wrote to me last week from Paris, where he has arrived back from Russia. I commended my son to him. If I find I am in a position to carry out any services for you as a favour here, I would look forward with joy to such a desired opportunity to be able to show in deeds that I am, with the most particular respect,

Your noble Worships'

Most obedient, most devoted servant,

Leopold Mozart

¹ BD: Later "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.

² BD: Illegible abbreviation.

³ BD V: Grenser, not Greuser, as in BD II, in Dresden. Cf. letters Nos. 0263, 0322 and 0324.

⁴ BD: Leopold's violin school, *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* (1756).

⁵ BD: The Nuremberg representative of the publisher Breitkopf, cf. No. 0163/31.

⁶ BD: Spring market in Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0263/36.

⁸ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

⁹ = "Plenipotentiary Minister of Saxony-Gotha".