

1087. MOZART'S PROMISSORY NOTE FOR FRANZ HOFDEMEL,¹ VIENNA

*A / Monsieur / Monsieur de Hofdēml / Chez Lui*²

Vienna, 2nd April, 1789

100 florins Vienna *Courant in coin*.

4 months after the *date*³ hereof I the undersigned will pay the *sum* of 100 fl., in words [5] One Hundred guldens⁴ to Herr von Hofdeml or as he *orders*; I have received the *currency* in coin; I will fulfil correct payment at the due time, and declare myself subject to an Imperial and Royal Lower Austrian Mercantile and Contractual Court.⁵

Valid only for my person.

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart mp⁶
Music Director in Actual Imperial and Royal Service.⁷

IN HOFDEMEL'S HAND:⁸

For me
to the *order* of Herr
Mathias Anzenberger with
my continuing *obligo*: the value received in coin. Vienna, 2nd July, 1789.
Franz Hofdeml

¹ BD: Franz Hofdemel (c. 1755-1791) was a clerk at the High Court [Oberste Justizstelle]. He was about to become a member of Mozart's Masonic lodge (cf. No. 1086/12-13). His wife, Maria Magdalena, née Pokorný, (* 1766) is said to have been a pupil of Mozart's. Her father was the travelling virtuoso Gotthard Pokorný (1733-1802), who allegedly received a gold watch from Mozart in 1790 as security for a loan, but the watch was never redeemed. On 6th December, 1791, Hofdemel attempted to take his wife's life and then, "more out of cowardice than jealousy", committed suicide.

² = "To Monsieur de Hofdemel at his home".

³ BD: Hofdemel made the debt over to Matthias Anzenberger, proprietor of a fashion shop, on 2nd July, 1789. It is not clear whether the debt to a "*galanterie* merchant" mentioned in No. 1123/17 (months later!) refers to this, nor whether Mozart settled the debt on time. His financial situation in August was very precarious.

⁴ 1 gulden effectively = 1 florin.

⁵ "k: k: N: Oe: Merkantil und WechselGericht".

⁶ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

⁷ "kapellmeister in wirklichen k: k: Diensten".

⁸ BD: Debt made over to Matthias Anzenberger.