

1225.¹ CONSTANZE MOZART TO FRANZ XAVER NIEMETSCHKE,² PRAGUE

ONLY THE CONTENT IS KNOWN:

[Vienna, autumn, 1798]

[Mozart's widow expressed to me in a letter how appalled she was at the accusations levelled at her by the redactor of the "allgem. Literat. Anzeiger"³ on the occasion of Eberl's⁴ declaration, namely [5] that she herself was offering an open door to such fraud and thus to a denigration of the name of Mozart.]

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition *Der Bär*, Leipzig, 1928.

² BD: Franz Xaver Niemetschek (1766-1849), grammar school professor and then university professor for philosophy and pedagogics in Prague. He was later a professor in Vienna, where he died. In 1799 he wrote to B & H, saying that he had had only a little contact with Mozart during the latter's stay in Prague, but his wife had seen him everyday. In a letter of 21st March to the same addressees, he said that he could tell them "everything" about the two sons, of whom the elder had spent "more than 3" years under his supervision, while the younger had been entrusted to his wife while Constanze went on the concert tour in the north of Germany. Carl's recollection, according to a letter of 4th March, 1856, was that he had received board and tutoring from Niemetschek from 1792 until the end of 1797. Not only did he write a biography of Mozart published in Prague (Widtmann) in two impressions (1796/7 and 1808) and for which Constanze supplied a large quantity of notes and letter material, but he is also said to have played the major role in preparing Breitkopf & Härtel's complete edition of Mozart's works.

³ ≈ "General Literary Advertiser".

⁴ BD: In autumn, 1795, Constanze undertook a concert tour in Germany along with her sister Aloisia Lange and the pianist and composer Anton Franz Joseph Eberl (1765-1807). He left the tour in March, 1796. He issued a declaration warning that 3 keyboard compositions of his were being advertised as Mozart's work. These were a sonata and two sets of variations: KV App. 204 (KV⁶: App. C 25.01); KV App. 287 (KV⁶: App. C 26.04); KV App. 288 (KV⁶: App. C 26.05). The warning, repeated by Constanze, arrived too late to prevent the inclusion of KV App. 286 (KV⁶: App. C 26.04) in the complete edition. Eberl published a similar warning in 1805 for another set of variations, KV App. 290 (KV⁶: App. C 26.09).