

1227.<sup>1</sup> BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL<sup>2</sup> TO CONSTANZE MOZART, VIENNA<sup>3</sup>

ONLY A QUOTATION IS KNOWN:

[Leipzig, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1798]

[. . .] We furthermore ask you to let us know whether anyone else besides Herr Niemetschek<sup>4</sup> in Prague is currently writing the story of your esteemed husband's life<sup>5</sup> [. . .]

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

<sup>2</sup> BD: The firm "Breitkopf" was founded in 1719. It later became Breitkopf & Härtel: 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. Christopher Gottlob Breitkopf (1750-1800). He composed and was an outstanding player of the glass harmonica. His father, Johann Gottlob Immanuel Breitkopf (1719-1794), made the acquaintance of Mozart, as well as of Haydn and Gluck, on a visit to Vienna in 1786. Constanze probably met Ch. G. Breitkopf and his wife during her stay in Leipzig (November, 1795). Leopold Mozart's correspondence with J. G. I. Breitkopf started in the year 1772 (cf. No. 0263). He repeatedly tried to interest the publisher in his son's music, but apparently without success during Mozart's lifetime.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Mentioned in Nos. 1228/2, 51; 1231/18.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 1225. Franz Xaver Niemetschek (1766-1849), professor of philosophy and pedagogy in Prague, later a professor in Vienna, where he died. 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.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1223/86; No. 1228/113-116.