

1247. GEORG NIKOLAUS NISSEN¹ (AS AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE) TO
BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Most highly honoured sirs,

[Vienna, 22nd July, 1799]

I consider it a pleasure to inform you that Herr Amenda,³ to whom Frau Mozart entrusted a letter⁴ for you and to whom I ask you to commend me, knows the beautiful *canon* Im Grab ists finster.⁵

[5] I inform you of this in case you do not have it yourselves. Actually, it is apparently an old French theme which Mozart adapted as a four-voice *canon*. Herr Amenda will surely be happy to share it with you.

The authorised representative.⁶
Vienna, 22nd July, 1799.

[10]

N.B. We do not yet have it.

¹ BD: Georg Nikolaus Nissen (1761-1826), secretary to the Holstein Legation in Regensburg and then to the Danish Legation in Vienna. Met Constanze at the end of 1797, was either her landlord or cohabitant. Nissen advised Constanze in all business matters from 1798 onwards, especially with the publishers Breitkopf & Härtel and André. The letters, often formulated by him and signed by Constanze, reveal an experienced, if cautious, businessman. Cf. No. 1224 for longer note.

² BD: 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.

³ BD: Probably the violinist Karl Amenda (1772-1836), who came to Vienna in 1798 and was initially reader to Prince [Fürst] Lobkowitz. A friend of Beethoven. In his memoirs he describes giving Mozart’s widow music lessons.

⁴BD: No. 1246b, lost.

⁵ = “In the grave it is dark”. BD: Original text: “Beym Arsch ists finster” [“It is dark around the arse”], KV App. 6 (441b; KV⁶: App. C 9.03). Cf. Nos. 1236/74; 1246/53-55.

⁶ BD: Nissen is still protecting his anonymity.