Letter from Ferdinand Wolanek, with Remarks Addressed to the Writer by Beethoven

Author(s): Ludwig van Beethoven and Ferdinand Wolanek

Source: *The Musical Times and Singing Class Circular*, Vol. 33, Beethoven Supplement (Dec. 15, 1892), pp. 18-19

Published by: [Musical Times Publications Ltd.](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3362718>

Accessed: 22-12-2015 09:09 UTC

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BEETHOVEN'S FINAL RESTING-PLACE (p. 37).—Since the remains of the great composer were

I.—MASK OF BEETHOVEN.

Taken during life, 1812. By the sculptor, Franz Klein.

deposited in the cemetery at Währing (then a suburban village) they have been twice disturbed. The grave having been neglected, the Gesellschaft der Musik-freunde, in 1863, undertook to re-inter the bodies of Beethoven and Schubert, his near neighbour in death. In 1888, the bones of these masters were again exhumed and placed in the Central Cemetery, where they now rest, in close proximity to those of Haydn and near the Mozart monument, transferred from the cemetery of St. Marx. For a more detailed account, *vide* an article, "Certain Graves Revisited," in the THE MUSICAL TIMES of July last.

THERESE. COUNTESS OF BRUNSWICK (separate sheet).—This lady is now generally regarded as the "Immortal Beloved" to whom Beethoven addressed his well-known and passionate love-letters. The evidence leading to this conclusion cannot, of course, be examined here, but the conclusion itself invests the portrait with great interest. Our illustration is from the etching by William Unger, after the picture by J. B. Ritter von Lampi, now at the Beethoven House.

FAC-SIMILE OF LETTER FROM THE COPYIST, WOLANEK, TO BEETHOVEN, WITH COMMENTS BY THE MASTER (separate sheet).—This letter and

its remarkable annotations, are now for the first time published. A literal translation is given in the following pages. It may be stated that this is by no means the only case in which Beethoven annotated his correspondence in a vigorous and out-spoken mood.

FAC-SIMILES OF PAGES FROM BEETHOVEN'S SCORES (separate sheets).—These examples of the composer's musical hieroglyphics, with Vincent Novello's notes upon one of them, will be examined with much interest. The passage from the A minor Quartet represents a completed score; the Novello example appears to be hastily written memoranda, "which nobody could understand but himself."

LETTER FROM FERDINAND WOLANEK, WITH REMARKS ADDRESSED TO THE WRITER BY BEETHOVEN.

(See fac-simile.)

HERRN HERRN LUDWIG V. BEETHOVEN!

As I cannot be ready with putting the finale into full score till Easter, and as you will not be able to make use of the same at that time, I send you the whole of the parts, together with as much as I have begun at your disposal.

I remain thankfully indebted for the honour you have done me in employing me; as

II.—MASK OF BEETHOVEN.

Taken during life, 1812. By the sculptor, Franz Klein.

regards the disagreeable conduct towards me I can smilingly look upon the same as only an

Herrn Herrn Ludwig, Beethoven!

Ja ich weiß nicht, was ich Ihnen zu schreiben habe, und Sie selbst sind es, die ich schreiben soll. Ich weiß nicht, was ich Ihnen zu schreiben habe, und Sie selbst sind es, die ich schreiben soll.

Disposition:

Ich habe Ihnen zu schreiben, was ich Ihnen zu schreiben habe, und Sie selbst sind es, die ich schreiben soll. Ich weiß nicht, was ich Ihnen zu schreiben habe, und Sie selbst sind es, die ich schreiben soll.

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assumed ebullition of temper. Since so many dissonances prevail in the ideal world of tones, may they not do the same also in the real?

My only consolation is the firm conviction that Mozart and Haydn, those honoured artists, would, in the capacity of copyists, have met at your hands with treatment similar to mine.

I only request you not to confuse me with those common copying creatures who, even though treated like slaves, consider themselves happy to be able to exist.

For the rest, accept my assurance that, even in the very smallest degree, I have no cause to have to blush before you on account of my conduct.

With high esteem,

Obediently,

FERD. WOLANEK.

Beethoven has crossed this letter from corner to corner and has scrawled across it—

Dummer Eingebildeter Eselhafter Kerl.

Stupid, conceited, asinine fellow.

Below, in the margin, he writes—

Mit einem solchen Lumpen-Kerl, der einem da Geld abstiehlt, wird man noch Komplimente machen, statt dessen zieht man ihn bey seinen Eselhaften Ohren.

Is one to exchange compliments with such a ragamuffin who steals one's money; instead, one pulls him by his donkey's ears.

On the back we read—

Schreib-Sudler!

Dummer Kerl!

Korrigiren sie ihre durch Unwissenheit, Uebermuth, Eigendünkel u. Dummheit gemachten Fehler, dies schickt sich besser, als mich belehren zu wollen denn das ist gerade, als wenn die SAU die Minerva lehren wollte.

Dirty dauber!

Stupid fellow!

Correct the mistakes made through ignorance, arrogance, conceit, and stupidity; this suits you better than to try and teach me, for that is exactly as if a sow wished to teach Minerva.

In the right-hand margin he writes—

Mozart u. Haidn ERZEIGEN SIE DIE EHRE, ihrer nicht zu erwähnen.

Do YOU do Mozart and Haidn THE HONOUR not to mention them.

BEETHOVEN IN HIS 42ND YEAR.

From the Bust by Franz Klein.

In the left-hand margin—

Es war schon gestern und noch früher beschlossen, SIE NICHT MEHR für mich schreiben zu machen:

It was settled yesterday, and even before, NOT to let YOU write for me ANY MORE.