

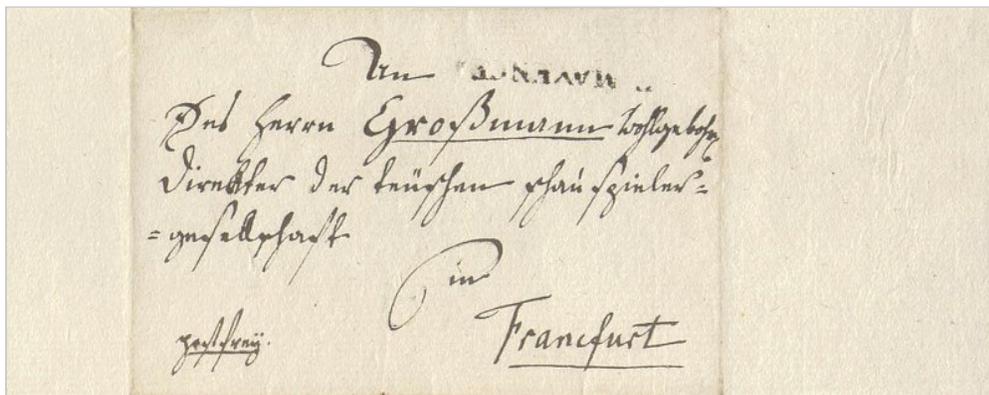
Hugo von Hatzfeld writes to Großmann regarding *Idomeneo* (23 Mar 1786)

Dexter Edge

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[address]

An
Des Herrn Großmann Wohlgebohr[ne]
Direktor der teüschén schauspieler=
=gesellschaft
in
Francfurt
postfrey



[1r]

Maÿntz d[en] 23 Mertz 1786

Euer Wohlgebohr[ne]!

Die partitur der Mozardschen ernsthaften Oper /: vermuthlich meinen sie *Idomeneo* :/ ist zwar in den händen meines brudern august, derselbe befindet sich aber in diesem augenblick in Wien, und hat, so viel ich weis, seinen gantzen Vorrath von musick von hier mit dahin genohmen. am kürztzen würde es seÿn, wenn Hoforganist Neefe sich deshalb an H:

[translation:]

Mainz, 23 March 1786

Noble Sir!

The score of Mozart's serious opera (presumably you mean *Idomeneo*) is actually in the hands of my brother August, who is, however, at this moment in Vienna, and has, so far as I know, taken his entire stockpile of music with him from here to there. It would be quickest if court organist Neefe applied to Herr *Simrock*, the music dealer in *Bonn*, as the latter is in contact with Count von *Nesselrode* in *Düsseldorf*, and I know for certain that the aforementioned Count possesses the score of said opera, so it will cost Herr *Simrock* little effort to assist court organist Neefe with his request.

I remain with particular esteem,

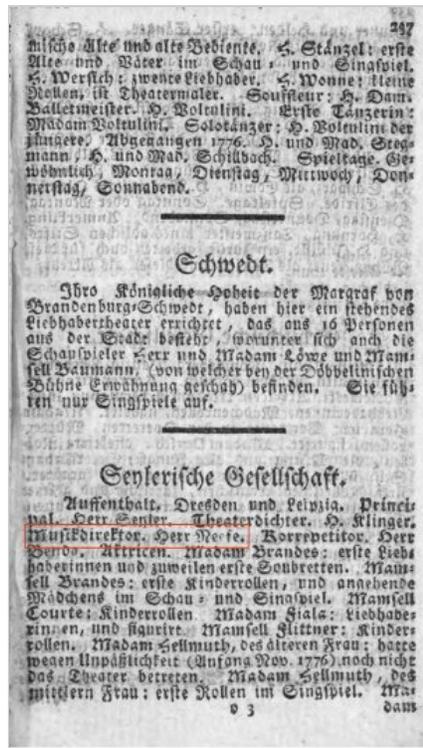
Noble Sir!

Respectfully Count *Hugo*
*von Hatzfeld*_{mpia}

Commentary

Count Hugo Franz von Hatzfeld (1755–1830) was the brother-in-law of Countess Maria Anna Hortensia von Hatzfeld, who sang *Elettra* in the production of Mozart's *Idomeneo* in the theater of Prince Auersperg in the Josephstadt suburb of Vienna in 1786. He was also the next younger brother of Count August Clemens von Hatzfeld, for whom Mozart composed the solo violin part in the *scena con rondò* "Non temer, amato bene," K. 490, for that same production (see our entries on [Auersperg's *Idomeneo*](#) and [Countess Hatzfeld](#)). Count Hugo's letter is a response to a query from [Gustav Friedrich Wilhelm Großmann](#) (1746–1796), principal of one of the most prominent German theater companies of the time. In 1786 Großmann's theatrical company was alternating between Frankfurt and Mainz, and it had just ended a week of performances in Mainz on 28 Feb before taking a break for the remainder of Lent ([Wolter 1901, Beilage 2, xxvii](#)). Hugo von Hatzfeld lived in Mainz, so Großmann might have made his query in person or in writing.

If Großmann's query was written, it is not known to survive, but Count Hugo's reply indicates that Großmann was relaying a request from [Christian Gottlob Neefe](#) in Bonn, who had evidently heard about a serious opera by Mozart. Großmann and Neefe had known each other for ten years by that point; they had become acquainted in 1776 when both were members of the theater company of Abel Seyler, in which Großmann acted and Neefe was music director.



Theater=Kalender, auf das Jahr 1777, 237–39 (BSB)

Großmann left Seyler in 1778 to become co-director (with Karl Hellmuth) of the court theater in Bonn under Maximilian Friedrich, the Elector of Cologne (on Neefe and Großmann, see principally Leux 1925, Rüppel 2010). When Seyler’s company collapsed financially in 1779, Neefe asked Großmann for a job, and became music director of the theater in Bonn, where he was also named court organist in 1782. When the Elector died in 1784 and his successor Maximilian Franz (youngest brother of Emperor Joseph II) initially closed the court theater to cut costs, Großmann left Bonn to establish his own traveling company, while Neefe remained. But Neefe and Großmann kept in frequent touch; in fact, 45 of [Neefe’s letters to Großmann](#) survive in the library of the University of Leipzig in the Autographensammlung Kestner, the same collection that includes Hugo von Hatzfeld’s letter to Großmann. Großmann and Neefe had collaborated in the past in creating the operas *Was vermag ein Mädchen nicht* (1778) and *Adelheit von Veltheim* (1780), and they continued to work together after Großmann left Bonn. Hugo von Hatzfeld might well have known both of them: Hugo’s father Count Carl Ferdinand had been a court official in Bonn and Hugo was born there in 1755.

Neefe seems to have written to Großmann about Mozart’s serious opera with the idea that Großmann could ask Count Hugo about it, which in turn implies that Neefe had reason to think that Count Hugo knew about the opera. In his response, Hugo shows that he does; he writes that he assumes Großmann (who had not specified a title) means *Idomeneo*. The date of Hugo’s letter is 23 Mar 1786, just ten days after the documented performance of *Idomeneo* in Vienna.

Neeffe in Bonn might have learned about Mozart’s *Idomeneo* directly or indirectly from Countess Hatzfeld, whose husband (Hugo’s elder half brother) was a court official in Bonn; she almost certainly would have had at least Elettra’s portions of the opera with her in some form in Bonn at some point in order to learn the role. However, Neeffe’s query to Großmann implies that he did not have access to a complete score of the opera through her, and that he thought Count Hugo might have one or know someone who had one.

Hugo’s reply to Großmann seems to refer to a particular physical score: he writes that “the score” (“Die partitur”) of *Idomeneo* is in the hands of his brother August who has just taken it to Vienna along with the rest of his music—he means August Clemens, the violinist, rather than their half brother Clemens August Johann Nepomuk, the Countess’s husband. Although August Clemens was a canon of the cathedral in Eichstätt, a considerable distance from Mainz, he seems to have spent as much time in Mainz as possible, probably because of the superior musical life there and because of family connections; by the 1780s, three of his brothers lived in Mainz: Hugo Franz, Franz Ludwig (1756–1827), and Maximilian (1764–1824), all of whom had strong musical interests (on the brothers, see the section on August Clemens in our entry on [Auersperg’s *Idomeneo*](#)). Their elder half sister Sophia von Coudenhoven, née von Hatzfeld, was a member of the inner circle of her cousin, the Elector of Mainz, Prince Friedrich Karl Joseph von Erthal, and an important figure in theatrical and musical life at court and in the city (on Sophia, see the *Notes* to our entry on [“*Tutte nel cor vi sento*” in Bonn](#)). August Clemens became so closely associated with Mainz that Gerber wrote in the first edition of his *Lexikon*:

Hatzfeld (August Graf von) Domherr zu Eichstätt, war einer der stärksten Dilettantin auf der Violine, und hielt sich meistens am Churfürstl. Mainzischen Hofe auf [...]
[[Gerber 1790, col. 604](#)]

Hatzfeld (August Count von) Canon in Eichstätt, was one of the strongest dilettantes on the violin, and resided mainly at the Electoral court in Mainz [...]

August Clemens might have acquired or borrowed a complete full score of *Idomeneo* purely out of interest in Mozart’s music; but in our entry on [Auersperg’s *Idomeneo*](#), we examine the possibility that he might have directed the orchestra for that production, in addition to playing the solo in K. 490. If so, he would have had good reason to have a complete score in order to learn the opera.

Hugo suggests that Großmann contact [Nikolaus Simrock](#), a hornist in the court orchestra in Bonn who had recently established a music dealership there. Hugo writes that he knows for certain that Count Nesselrode in Düsseldorf has a score of *Idomeneo*, that Simrock is in contact with Nesselrode, and that Simrock will consequently have little trouble acquiring a copy of the

score for Großmann. [Count Karl Franz Nesselrode](#) (1713–1798) was, as it happens, married to Hugo's younger sister, Josepha Franziska (for their marriage, see her entry among the siblings of Count Clemens Johann Nepomuk von Hatzfeld in [this genealogy](#)); so there was a direct family connection between Hugo and Nesselrode.

The score of *Idomeneo* that Hugo is referring to is almost certainly the so-called "Nesselrode score," today in the music collection of the Austrian National Library ([Mus. Hs. 4709](#)). The Nesselrode score is said to be such an accurate reproduction of Mozart's autograph that Daniel Hertz, editor of the opera for the *Neue Mozart-Ausgabe*, was able to use it as a surrogate for acts I and II of the autograph, which were still missing when Hertz edited the opera (Hertz 1972, here esp. xxiii; see also the description of the score in Brown 2005, source C, 57–59). The Nesselrode score has not previously been dated, but Hugo von Hatzfeld's letter shows that it was in existence by Mar 1786. One wonders whether it might have been produced by copyists in Simrock's shop in Bonn; as it happens, the first edition of *Idomeneo* in full score was issued by Simrock in 1805, suggesting that he may have kept a reference copy in the interim. In any case, it is evident from the staff ruling and copyists that the Nesselrode score was not copied in Vienna.

L. n. 4709 1

Idomeneo

Opera Seria

Rappresentata nel Eletto Teatro di Monaco nell'anno 1780

Musica del Sig. Wolfgang Mozart

Atto Primo

1681 Mozart (W. A.): Idomeneo. Oper in drei Akten. Vollständige zeitgenöss. Abschrift der Partitur mit ital. Text. In 3 Querfolio-Bänden mit zus. 1036 S. Kartonbde. d. Z. mit grünem Schnitt. 25.
Wortlaut des Titelsbl. in Bd. I: „Idomeneo. Opera Seria. Rappresentata nel Eletto Teatro di Monaco nell'anno 1780. Musica del Sig. Wolfgang Mozart.“ Ausgeschnitten, erhalten, für die Textkritik wichtige Partiturskopie aus der groß. Neuseitroder'schen Schloßbibl. zu Ehrenhoven.

SUPPL. MUS.
4709

511 01 (1-181, 182-314, 315-511)

Allegro *Overture*

Violini *C unis*

Viola *C col Basso*

2 Flauti *C unis*

2 Oboe *C col Flauti*

2 Clarinetti *C unis*

2 Corni in D *C unis*

2 Clarini in B *C unis*

Timpani *C unis*

Fagotti *C col Bass*

Violoncelli *C col B.*

Basso *C unis*

Violini

Viola

7

The "Nesselrode" score of *Idomeneo*
ÖNB, Musiksammlung, Mus. Hs. 4709
(Photos: Michael Lorenz)

But it seems that one of the Hatzfeld brothers already had scores of several numbers from *Idomeneo* by 1783. Robert Münster has written about a letter to Count Maximilian Clemens von Seinsheim in Munich dated 5 Nov 1783, signed simply "Hatzfeld," with no first name. The writer asks Seinsheim to procure for him all of the sections of the score of *Idomeneo* that the writer does not already have (Münster 2001, 92); he writes that he already has the overture; "Padre, germani, addio" (no. 1, Ilia) and its recitative; "Tutte nel cor vi sento" (no. 4, Elettra) and its preceding accompanied recitative; "Idol mio, se ritroso" (no. 13, Elettra) and its recitative; and "Se colà ne' fati è scritto" (no. 22, Arbace) and its recitative. Münster argues persuasively that the writer was Count Franz Ludwig von Hatzfeld, next younger brother of Hugo Franz and August Clemens (Münster 2001, 93–94). It is noteworthy that already by 1783, the writer (whichever Hatzfeld it may have been) already had both of Elettra's arias: for their sister-in-law Countess Maria Anna Hortensia von Hatzfeld not only sang Elettra in Auersperg's production of the opera in 1786, she also sang "Tutte nel cor vi sento" at a concert in Bonn at some point in the second half of the 1780s, making a profound impression on young Anton Reicha and Ludwig van Beethoven (see our entry on "[Tutte nel cor vi sento](#)" in Bonn).

For their part, Neefe and Großmann may have wanted to investigate whether *Idomeneo* would be suitable for adaptation into a German version for use by Großmann's company. By 1786, Großmann and Neefe were well acquainted with Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*: they had given the Bonn premiere of the opera in 1783 (see our entry for [22 Jun 1783](#)) and Großmann's company had performed *Entführung* at least 10 times by the end of 1785, mostly in Frankfurt and Mainz. Großmann's success with *Entführung* would likely have made him keen to learn of other operas by Mozart. But no other operas by Mozart were in circulation at that time: *Figaro* was not yet completed and remained a rumor; and in the 1780s, *La finta giardiniera*, adapted as a singspiel, had been given just a few times by the company of Johann Böhm, who seems not to have let the score out of his hands (see our entries for [1 May 1780](#) and [2 Apr 1782](#)).

As far as we know, Großmann did not end up acquiring a score of *Idomeneo*, and his company is not known to have performed it. But his query to Hugo von Hatzfeld suggests that Großmann's success with Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* had prompted both Großmann and Neefe to keep an eye out for other operas by that promising young composer. This in turn suggests that *Entführung* was proving effective in establishing Mozart's reputation in German-speaking lands as a young opera composer to watch.

Hugo von Hatzfeld was himself a good amateur tenor and even composed a little. In 1792, in an installment of a series on corrections and additions to Gerber's *Historisch-Biographisches Lexicon*

der Tonkünstler, Johann Friedrich Reichardt proposes a new entry on Hugo to follow Gerber's entry for [August Clemens von Hatzfeld](#):

Hatzfeld (Hugo Graf v.) jetziger Mainzischer Gesandter in Berlin, und Bruder des vorigen, der wegen seiner schönen Tenorstimme und seines angenehmen geschmackvollen Vortrages als ein vorzüglicher Musikdilettant genannt zu werden verdient.

[*Musikalische Monatschrift* 4, Oct 1792, 93]

Hatzfeld (Hugo, Count von) currently Mainz ambassador in Berlin and brother of the foregoing, merits mention as an excellent musical dilettante, on account of his beautiful tenor voice and his pleasant and tasteful delivery.

Reichardt later writes of meeting Count Hugo again in Dresden in 1808:

[71]

Sechster Brief.

Dresden, den 15. Nov. [1808]

[...]

[79]

Sehr erwünscht war es mir auch in dem

[80]

fürstlich primatischen Gesandten, dem Grafen Hugo von Hatzfeld, einen alten Bekannten und Kunstverwandten wieder zu finden, mit dem ich mich auf Reisen schon so verschiedentlich traf, und in Berlin so oft die Annehmlichkeit der Gesellschaft und der musikalischen Unterhaltung genoß, die nur echte Bildung und feiner Geschmack in der Kunst gewähren kann. Mehrere seiner ausdrucksvollen Liederkompositionen gehören schon längst zu meinen Lieblingsliedern; besonders gern hörte ich immer von seiner angenehmen Tenorstimme und seinem schönen rührenden Vortrage den Klag-

gesang der Maria Stuart. Jetzt lernte
ich auch eine neue gestochene Liedersammlung
von ihm kennen, die ganz allerliebste Melo=
deen enthält.

[Reichardt 1810, 71, 79–80]

Sixth Letter.

Dresden, 15 Nov [1808]

[...]

It was also very gratifying to find again an old acquaintance and artistic kinsman, Count Hugo von Hatzfeld (ambassador of the Prince Primate), whom I met already so frequently on my travels, and whose pleasant company and musical conversation (of the sort that only true culture and taste can bring) I so often enjoyed in Berlin. Several of his expressive song compositions have long been among my favorites; I am especially happy to hear the *Klaggesang* der Maria Stuart sung by his pleasant tenor voice with his beautiful and moving delivery. Now I also learned of a newly engraved song collection by him that contains the loveliest melodies.

The newly engraved collection of songs is probably Hugo von Hatzfeld's *Six romances avec accompagnement de piano-forte* (RISM A/I, HH 2349 I,1), published by Rudolph Werckmeister in Berlin around 1807. We have not yet been able to see a copy of this set, but according to Gottron (1959, 199), it contains a "Complainte de la Reine Maria Stuart," which would be the "Klaggesang" that Reichardt refers to. Count Hugo also published a work for SATB and piano entitled *Die Rheinfahrt*, on a text by David Gottlieb Niemeyer (2nd ed, RISM A/I, HH 2349 I, 2). A copy of *Die Rheinfahrt* survives in the library of the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin with Hatzfeld's autograph dedication to Carl Friedrich Zelter (D-Bsa, SA 900).

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