

VERDI GIUSEPPE

Autograph letter signed, to his agent Mauro Corticelli, February 1875

reminding him to have the stove adjusted as he had ordered earlier, ready for when he and Giuseppina return home and expressing the hope that he will find the coachman helping in the kitchen ("...Non ricordo se t'ho scritto altra volta di non mancare fare aggiustare la cucina economica come io aveva ordinato. Spero però che in ogni modo la cosa sarà fatta al nostro arrivo...")

1 page, 8vo, autograph envelope, postmarked: [Parma], middle of February 1875

± £1,500-2,000 €1,650-2,200

VERDI GIUSEPPE

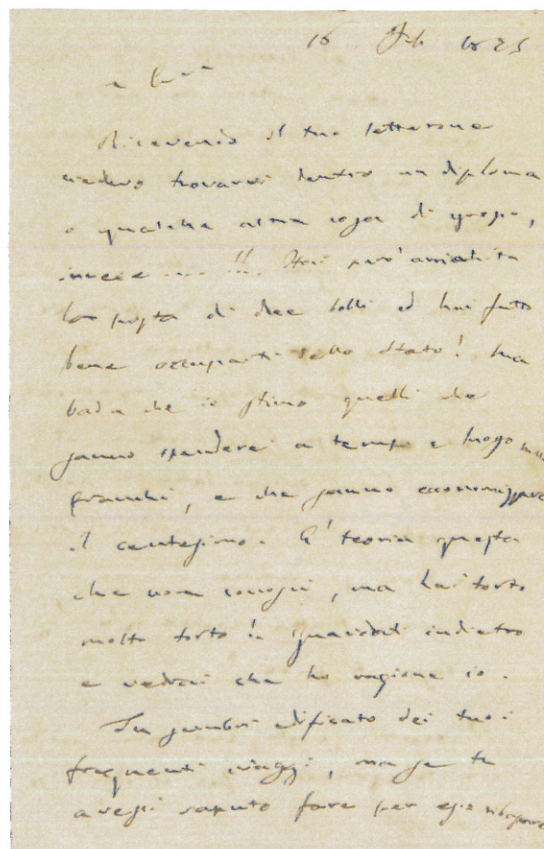
Autograph letter, probably to his agent Mauro Corticelli, 16 February 1875

written in a characteristically sarcastic manner, remarking on the quite unnecessarily voluminous packet he had received, making him expect to find inside it a diploma or something equally grand, rather than such a useless letter, commending him on enriching the Italian Post Office by putting ten stamps in it, wishing rather that he employed his much-vaunted skills as a man of affairs in securing better deals with the doctor, local traders, the house staff, stable-boys etc, to all of whom he allows far too much leeway, so that they look quizzically at him asking "why do you let your manager act like this?"; Verdi asks him to reply by simply sending a telegram, informing him whether the works are suspended and if the weather is still cold, which would be more helpful than his last telegram saying "Letter received and understood" ("...tu sembri edificato dei tuoi frequenti viaggi, ma se tu avessi saputo fare per esso ribassare il prezzo al Cremonese, o le idee a Barattieri, allora ne vedrei anch'io l'utilità...perchè questa gente non può a meno di dire "Infine il uomo d'affari tratta come Lui?!"...Cosa it pare? Di questo riparleremo!...")

3 pages, 8vo, no place, 16 February 1875

Mauro Corticelli was a theatrical agent, working for Adelaide Ristori, who became very friendly with Giuseppina Strepponi. She hired him as estate manager at Sant' Agata during 1867-1879, but the composer never respected or trusted him, and with good reason as it transpired. See F. Walker, *The Man Verdi* (1962), pp.273, 444 & *passim*

± £2,000-3,000 €2,200-3,300



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VERDI GIUSEPPE —GIUSEPPINA VERDI

Important autograph letter by Verdi's wife signed ("Giuseppina Verdi") to the impresario [Antonio] Gallo, about Verdi and the Requiem, 12 June 1875

describing the health of her husband and reporting the forthcoming performance of his Requiem in Venice, using the same musicians as today's triumphant account in Vienna, expressing the hope that it will be successful both musically and financially and regretting that Verdi will be unable to come to Venice and see the "magical Lido", ("...So che la Messa di Verdi, si darà in Venezia nel venturo mese, sotto la direzione del Maestro Faccio e colla stessa compagnia, che l'eseguisce ora trionfalmente in Vienna...")

2 pages, 8vo, watermark ("Joyson 1874"), Vienna, 12 June 1875

Verdi directed the successful Vienna première of the Requiem on the day of Giuseppina's letter. He subsequently spent a couple of days in Venice, but did not stay for Gallo's theatrical staging with scenery of the Requiem at the Teatro Malibran. All five performances under Franco Faccio were sold out, the receipts totalling over 82,000 lire, although Verdi expressed concerns about the extravagance of the Byzantine staging: see M. J. Phillips-Matz, *Verdi* (1993), pp.614-615. Abbiati refers this letter, but does not publish it (F. Abbiati, *Giuseppe Verdi*, iii, p.753).

± £1,500-2,000 €1,650-2,200