A LETTER FROM THE ALLEGED COUNTESS JULIE VON ORTENBURG

A cryptogram from 1806

Tobias Schrödel
In the early 19th century, book printers often needed to print erotic novels to pay the bills. These books were sold under the counter to the mostly male readers.

One of these novels is:

„Schicksale der vermeinten Gräfin Julie von Ortenburg“
(“Destiny of the assumed countess Julie von Ortenburg”)
(Paris 1805)

The book printer was assuredly not working in Paris; his press was actually in the area of Jena, Germany. The printer did not want to be linked to the socially declined content of the book.

This procedure was common and called “camouflage”.
A young lady finds an old dress in a basement room. In one of the pockets is a letter with cipher characters.
The cipher letter was printed in the book on page 223 along with the solution on page 245.

However, that book is no longer available.

Luckily, the letter was reproduced as a challenge in a wonderful book:

„*Die Kunst, geheime Schriften zu entziffern,*
für Feldherrn, Gesandschafts-Secretäre, Beamten bey geheimen Kabinetten, Archivare, Polizeibeamten, Postofficianten, Diplomatiker, u.a.m.“

(“The art of deciphering secret writings...”)

Unfortunately, it did not include the solution.
Can you decipher the letter? (It is written in German.)

Start here with J4794?