

Frankfurt, 20th Aug., 1763

3 days ago, a currency devaluation table was published here. It would be too involved to report it all here. Suffice it to say that all 12 kreuzer coins, with the exception of a few Electoral Bavarian coins minted after 1752,³ have been set at 10 kreuzers. [5] The *carolin* is 11 florins,⁴ the *louis d'or*⁵ 11 florins, the ducats⁶ 5 florins. All convention thalers 2 fl. 24 kr.⁷ The big thalers 2 f. 45 kr. etc. Amongst the small coins, our 2 kr. pieces have the honour of being set at 6 pence.⁸ Certain batzers⁹ have been set at 3 kr., certain 6ers have been degraded to 5 kr. A lot of kreuzers are worth 2 pence, some nothing at all.

[10] Here, three days ago, the Elector of Maynz¹⁰ was indeed given up for dead. Yesterday and today, however, I have received letters¹¹ from Herr Urspringer,¹² Gentleman of the Chamber, and Canon Starck,¹³ who write telling me the Elector's life really was in danger for 3 days, but since the 17th the illness has so abated that the Elector, praise God, is much better.

[15] 2 days ago, a Jew was the first to take a step and left the business because of the Dutch bankruptcy.¹⁴ In Berlin, 2 of the biggest houses have collapsed. In a word: no-one here will trust anyone else until the matter is better clarified.

For 4 or 5 day now, we have had such unspeakable heat here that one lies sweating *s.v.*¹⁵ [20], the whole night, even if one leaves all the windows open. But it is also much needed, for things were still looking very bad with the wine. Here people are cooling themselves with sour spa water.¹⁶ In Geislingen¹⁷ one already finds a kind of sour water, and one finds various wells as far as Stuttgart. [25] Everyone drinks this mixed into the wine because the well water is usually bad, dull, stinking or cloudy. In Mannheim, Maynz, Frankfurt etc., nothing but Schwalbach or Selzer¹⁸ water is being drunk. I usually water my wine with soda water. Dearest Herr Hagenauer! Now I see the differences among the Rhine wines. There is no wine in the world of which there are more kinds. It is also nothing less than cheap, [30] as a quart, if it is good at all, costs 40 kreuzers, and this is our table wine. And thus you obtain the quart for 1, 2, 3, 4 and even 5 florins, which is astonishing. The quart for 36 kreuzers is also an honest glass of wine. But if you have once pushed your nose into a glass with wine for only 1 florin per quart, you no longer believe the 40 kreuzer wine is a

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

³ "Churbajrische". BD: The coinage convention agreed between Austrian Bavaria in 1753 fix the standard of 1 fine mark = 20 guldens [≈ 20 florins]. This was adopted by numerous German states in the south and the west.

⁴ BD: A coin much in use in southern German states, formerly 9 florins.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0059/15, 24: 1 louis d'or ≈ 135 florins; the exchange rate varied. 1 louis d'or = 7.47 g gold.

⁶ BD: Previously 4½ florins.

⁷ BD: Previously 1 thaler = 120 kreuzers = 2 florins.

⁸ "Pfenning".

⁹ BD: "Batzen" = 4 kreuzer piece.

¹⁰ Mainz, on the river Main.

¹¹ BD: Nos. 0062a, 0062b .

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0062/21.

¹³ BD: Johann Franz Xavier Star[c]k, († 1799), cathedral canon and cathedral vicar, cathedral organist and music director. Produced a keyboard reduction of the *Abduction from the Seraglio* in 1785, causing Mozart and Torricella to abandon their own idea for a keyboard reduction, cf. No. 0375/47 ff.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0062/33-34.

¹⁵ BD: *salva venia* ≈ begging your pardon.

¹⁶ "Sauerwasser": acidic water often found in spas.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0053/56, 85.

¹⁸ BD: Schwalbach, a spa in Hessen; Selters, a village near Limburg in Hessen.

Rhine wine. [35] The maas¹⁹ here will amount to 5 Salzburg mässl. Now, since we are talking about wine, I must tell you a special story. Laugh, sir! Yesterday morning, a coach came to our inn. In it there sat a woman dressed as an Amazon, or in a so-called *cassack*,²⁰ and a chambermaid, and a manservant on the box. As they got out, [40] one thought *Madame* was malformed, lame or otherwise ill, but it became clear that she had had a little to drink. She dined alone in her room, and the *postillion* recounted that she, her chambermaid, the manservant and he, the *postillion*, [45] had drunk 12 quarts of wine because of the utter heat, partly in the early morning and partly on the journey, during which she had stopped very frequently, especially in the forest, and had recourse to the big bottle hamper. And indeed the bottle hamper was entirely empty. [50] *Madame* and the chambermaid had to be helped down the steps. They ate very little; *Madame* told me, with incessant garrulousness, all the circumstances of her marriage etc. etc. etc. – – And after they had again – namely she herself, the maid, the servant and the new *postillion*, who was included in the invitation – uncorked 4 and a ½ quarts of wine, and had caused the bottle hamper to be filled for the evening refreshment, they were all conducted into the coach roaring drunk, so it is a miracle if the *postillion*, who was also inebriated, does not tip them over a few times. [55] *Madame* is a young person who has much money. A man of 70 married her because of her money and her youth. She is travelling to visit her friends in Bamberg. Heaven help them! How many quarts of wine will this company gulp down by the time they reach their people? A pity, and a pity twice over, that she is not coming to Salzburg to keep the Paymaster's *Madame*²¹ company. [60] She would soon drink her way to a having the title of councillor²² hung round her husband's neck.

Among those dining with us here are the Electoral Ambassador of Trier,²³ a Hussar riding master from Brunswick, and a Prussian captain, and the familiar *Labati*,²⁴ who raised a regiment from French deserters, who in turn revolted against him, however, and all at once made off. [65]

Now you have a long letter, a letter in an orderly measure of disorder. I write as it pleases me. That is how it goes when you travel. A multitude of things happen which I would like to tell you about, but I would have to write for days on end.

[70] Our *concert*²⁵ was on the 18th.²⁶ It went well. It will be repeated on the 22nd, and also on the 25th or 26th. The Imperial Ambassador, Count von Pergen²⁷ and his lady etc. were also there. Everyone was transfixed with astonishment! God gives us the grace of being, praise God, in good health, and we are admired everywhere. Wolfgang is truly in exceptionally bright spirits, but also naughty.²⁸ [75] Nannerl now no longer suffers because of the boy, because she plays in such way that everyone speaks about her and admires her skill. From Herr Stein²⁹ in Augsburg I have bought a neat little *clavier*³⁰ which does us great service for practice while travelling. I have instructed Herr *Calligari* regarding the money for this. For

¹⁹ BD: ≈ 0.4 litres.

²⁰ BD: *Casaque*, a robe in the French style, fitting over a woman's dress.

²¹ BD: Maria Elisabeth Pichler (1713-1784), married the Salzburg Royal Paymaster [Hofzahlmeister] Johann Casper Pichler (* approx 1699, in office 1746-1771) in 1749.

²² "Rath".

²³ "Churtrierische Gesandte".

²⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0065/3-4, where he is called "Colonel [Oberst] de la batis": probably "Labadie".

²⁵ BD: 4 concerts took place in Frankfurt; cf. No. 0065/20-22; Deutsch Bild No. 104).

²⁶ Date corrected according to BD V, p. 75.

²⁷ "Kayser: Gesandte Graf von Pergen". BD: Johann Baptist Anton, Graf von Pergen (1725-1814), Imperial ambassador 1753-1766.

²⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0351/159.

²⁹ BD: The Salzburg clavier maker Johann Andreas Stein (1728-1792).

³⁰ BD: Probably Hagenauer's fourth and fifth sons, Kajetan Rupert (1746-1811), later Father Dominikus, and Ignaz Joachim (1749-1824). Nissen's manuscript of the Mozart biography equates "Nazerl" with the organist Ignaz Lipp.

Herr Stein took it away from a good friend in Augsburg who was not in Augsburg at that time. [80] And he himself could not tell me how much the friend had paid him for it. At one point since we have been on the journey, I believe it was in Augsburg, Wolfgang started to weep as he woke up one morning. I asked why: he said he regretted that he no longer saw Herr Hagenauer,³¹ Herr Wenzl,³² Spizeder,³³ Deibl,³⁴ Leitgeb,³⁵ Vogt,³⁶ Kajetan,³⁷ Nazerl³⁸ etc. and other good friends. [85] We all commend ourselves accordingly to you, to all who are yours, to all members of your household, and to so many of my good friends that it would not be possible to name them separately. Keep well. And when you write, write to Maynz, at the King of England inn,³⁹ or to Coblenz. To be collected at the post office. [90] *Addio*.

P.S. Nannerl wears an English hat⁴⁰ when she goes walking, as is in fashion with the women in these regions. If we went through the streets of Salzburg this way, everyone would gather as if a rhinoceros were coming. She got it in Maynz, along with a *galanterie* vial box, as a present. [95] The hat cost 1 ducat, the *eau-sans-pareille* perfume vial box 3 ducats.⁴¹

Would you like to know something about a new fashion? 3 Englishmen dine with us *en compagnie*. The cut of their clothing is so high, up to under the armpits, and then the coats hanging half-way down their calves, and in addition to that still the old, narrow boot-sleeves, [100] such that it is abominable to look at.⁴² And this really is their latest fashion. One of them goes outside the town at least every second day before the meal and bathes in the Mayn,⁴³ and then comes back to dine looking like a christened mouse. Oh, how much I could write about! – – – Wolfgang also received a porcelain snuffbox as a present. [105] Nannerl received one of *Lac Martin*⁴⁴ and a set of *Palatine* fur trimmings etc.

³¹ BD: A portable clavichord, cf. No. 0494/59.

³² BD: Probably Wenzel Hebelt, violinist in the Salzburg court music 1757-1770; he occasionally substituted for Leopold as a teacher at the Kapellhaus. Could possibly be Wenzel Sadlo, violinist and player in the Salzburg court music from 1745.

³³ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

³⁴ BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (? 1698-1783), oboist, also violinist.

³⁵ BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart (KV 371, KV 412 + 514 (386b), 407 (386c), 417, 447, 495) speak for his musical abilities. Mozart made contact with him in 1781, shortly after arriving in Vienna. Leutgeb lived in a large house outside town; Mozart stayed there occasionally when his wife was taking spa treatment in Baden in 1791. In 1773 his wife borrowed a sum from Leopold Mozart (cf. No. 0293/31-32; No. 0297/30); this was still outstanding in 1782 (cf. No. 0673/56 ff.).

³⁶ BD VII: Johann Sebastian Vogt (c. 1719-1807), court violinist 1752-1802 (?), in charge of city musicians 1752-1808.

³⁷ BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (1698 [?] – 1783), oboist, also violinist.

³⁸ BD VII: Probably the Hagenauer sons Kajetan Rupert (1749-1824), later Father Dominikus, and Ignaz Joachim (1749-1824). According to Nissen, “Nazerl” was the organist Ignaz Lipp.

³⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0060/3.

⁴⁰ BD: With a broad brim of soft material: considered a sensation on the continent, where only bonnets had been worn previously.

⁴¹ BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 to 5 florins, 2 ducats = 13.5 to 15 florins.

⁴² BD: These fashions can be seen in pictures of the time.

⁴³ The river Main.

⁴⁴ BD: Properly *Laque Martin*, a high-gloss varnish applied to chairs, tables, fans, boxes etc.