

*Monsieur.**London, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1764*

Do not be alarmed! But by all means prepare your heart to hear of one of the saddest of occurrences. Perhaps you can already recognise in my handwriting the circumstances in which I find myself. [5] Almighty God has laid upon me a sudden and severe illness which I am too weak to describe. Enough! They have *clystered, purged*, and also let blood because of a severe inflammation in the neck. Now that it is all over, and I am, according to the utterance of the esteemed *medici*, without fever, the advice is that I should eat, but I am as weak as a child. My stomach has no inclination to take anything, [10] and I am so weak that I can hardly think straight. This has gone on for some days now, so that I<sup>3</sup>

The 9<sup>th</sup> Augusti.

I congratulate you on your name-day! I thought I would reply immediately after the receipt of your most esteemed letter, but I was far too weak. [15] My current location is now an hour outside the town,<sup>4</sup> where I was brought in a sedan chair so that I could gain new appetite and new strength from the air. It is one of the most beautiful views in the world. Wherever I look, I see nothing but gardens and, in the distance, the most beautiful palaces, while I have a fine garden beside the house itself. [20] It depends on the grace of God if he wishes to preserve me or not: His most holy will be done. I have been here since the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>. The delight one has in the open and fresh air is undeniably most pleasant; on the other hand, one does not know how one should deal with eating. At the moment I have little hope of attaining better strength so soon. [25] The illnesses come by express-post, health with the snail-post. – – As long as it does not result in emaciation. I will certainly not be remiss about informing my friends promptly of the circumstances of my health. The most essential request I have now is that the following Holy Masses should be read as soon as possible.<sup>5</sup> [30] 7 Holy Masses at Maria Plain;<sup>6</sup> 7 at Loreto at the Holy Child;<sup>7</sup> 2 at Saint Walpurgis,<sup>8</sup> because nowhere is there an image such as the one in the church in Nonnberg;<sup>9</sup> 2 Holy Masses in the St. Wolfgang Chapel at St. Peter's,<sup>10</sup> and please have the reading of 4 Holy Masses arranged by a friend on the Mariahilfberg in Passau. I beg the pardon of the eminent Herr Weiser<sup>11</sup> for failing to answer his letter,<sup>12</sup> [35] and will be happy to get this one finished. For the moment, he will easily be able to see that I must keep everything in my own hands<sup>13</sup> because I do not

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

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

<sup>3</sup> BD: The unfinished sentence is no doubt a result of the illness.

<sup>4</sup> BD: On the 6<sup>th</sup> August the Mozart family had moved to Chelsea, noted for its healthy situation, about two English miles outside London.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0088/136 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: A pilgrimage church not far from Salzburg.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Church in Salzburg with a famous figure of the Christ child dressed in splendid clothes.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Walpurgis (Walpurgis, Walburga) was one of the middle names of Mozart's mother, of Nannerl, and of one of his sisters who died young.

<sup>9</sup> BD: A Benedictine nunnery in Salzburg.

<sup>10</sup> BD: The oldest church in Salzburg. As with Nannerl, Wolfgang's patron saint was to be invoked.

<sup>11</sup> "T: Herrn Weiser". BD: Ignaz Anton ("von" after 1747) Weiser (1701-1785), Salzburg merchant, later mayor of the town. Related to the families Hagenauer and Duschek frequently mentioned in the correspondence. Cf. No. 0053/8.

<sup>12</sup> BD: 0090b (lost).

<sup>13</sup> BD VII: Probably linked to the offer in No. 0090/11 ff., to which Ignaz Anton Weiser had apparently replied. The offer no longer applied, however, because of Leopold's illness and the consequent expenses.

know myself what I may need. As soon as anything can be done, I will inform him. I commend myself to him and his whole household. It will be a matter of a couple of months, and everything will revive. [40] If it were not for my illness, I would be in the country.

The terrible fire in the High Princely<sup>14</sup> priests' house brought tears to the eyes of all of us. Dearest Herr Hagenauer! It is not enough simply to have the chimneys swept frequently. They should also be inspected often to look for any cracks in the chimney. [45] The constant intense fires, and then the frequent sweeping, scratching and beating of the chimney-sweeps finally make the brickwork crumbly. I am tired. As soon as my condition improves, I will write more. God keep Salzburg – but me too! – whatever His pleasure is. I am your most obedient

My address stays the same as ever, namely via the bankers *Charles Loubier et Teissier*. [50]

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<sup>14</sup> “hochfürstlichen”.