

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantova*<sup>1</sup>

*Bologna, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1770*

My leg, praise God, is completely well.<sup>2</sup> We are still on the country estate *alla Croce del Biacco*,<sup>3</sup> which belongs to Count *Bolognetti*,<sup>4</sup> [5] and which Count *Pallavicini*<sup>5</sup> has leased for a certain number of years. On the 30<sup>th</sup> inst. there will be the great annual festival which the members of the *Bologna Philharmonic Society*<sup>6</sup> put on most splendidly every year, with Vespers and High Mass. We will hear this, then most probably leave soon after. Going where? – – That is not yet entirely fixed. In the meantime, always write to *Bologna*; [10] I will make reliable arrangements for receiving the letters safely. If I go to *Pisa, Luca, Livorno* and *Genoa*,<sup>7</sup> I will come back to Florence again. I ask you to thank *Dr. Agliardi*<sup>8</sup> for his congratulations and tell him, with my compliments, that it was only, as I hope, much noise and confusion and not to be taken seriously, for I got rid of it with hot compresses with water in which I had boiled *flores sambucci*.<sup>9</sup> [15]

The little warmth we had here disappeared after a thunderstorm with heavy rain. On the 18<sup>th</sup> just past, I could not write because I had to drive out with the Countess<sup>10</sup> and, since we came home late, the Field Marshal's letters were already in town. [20] The misfortunes caused by the big earthquake on the island of *St. Domenico*<sup>11</sup> will be known to all of you from the newspapers. Our esteemed gentlemen of the merchantry will no doubt take this opportunity to raise the sugar price because the sugar plantations there were flattened to the ground. We are in very good health, praise God, with figs, melons and other fruits, [25] which we eat with great moderation. In the evening, around 2 hours before dining, we eat a certain fruit which I have seen nowhere except in paintings and which has a taste like cucumbers. It is a large, round fruit with a green skin. When it is cut up into many pieces, it looks very good, for it is pale red, namely the inside or core. [30] They call these fruit *angurie*,<sup>12</sup> or *cuccummern*<sup>13</sup> or pumpkins, but these are the good pumpkins, and not the wild ones. They are eaten with sugar and cinnamon. I close, for I still have to write the 2 letters, to Milan and Rome. We kiss you both 1000 times and I am as always your

Mozart.

[35] Our compliments to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen, inside and beyond our house.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N°: 36 from Bologna".

<sup>2</sup> BD: The healing of his leg after the coach accident, cf. No. 0194/29 ff.

<sup>3</sup> BD: The tenant was Giovanni Luca, Margrave [Markgraf] Pallavicini-Centurioni (1697-1773), from 1731 in the service of Austria, from 1754 field marshal. The Mozarts had been recommended to him by Count [Graf] Firmian, governor general of Lombardy. Cf. Nos. 0172, 0173, 0199 etc. The owner was Conte [Count] Giacomo Bolognetti, cf. No. 0204/4. Today a hospice for children.

<sup>4</sup> "Comte". BD: Bolognetti (\* 1737), did finally sell the estate to Conte Gian Luca Pallavicini.

<sup>5</sup> "H: Gr:".

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0206/15 ff.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0182/15. This route (Pisa, Lucca, Livorno and Genoa) was not the one taken.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Peter Anton Ignaz Agliardi (1730-1773), son of the personal physician to the Archbishop. It is not clear what he is congratulating Leopold on: perhaps recovery from illness. The marriage mentioned in No. 0092/239-240 did not take place, probably because of the early death of Josepha Robinig.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Elderflowers, used to induce intense sweating.

<sup>10</sup> "Gräfin", his host's wife.

<sup>11</sup> BD: San Domingo/Haiti.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Watermelons.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Presumably "cucumis" intended.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

I, too, am still alive, and indeed in the best of spirits. Today I took the notion to ride a donkey, for it is the custom in Italy, and so I thought I must try it, too. We have the honour of going around with a certain *Dominican*<sup>14</sup> who is considered to be a saint. [40] But I am not so firmly confirmed, for he often takes a cup of chocolate for breakfast, followed immediately by a good glass of strong Spanish wine, and I personally have had the honour of dining with this saint, who did a fine job of drinking wine at table and finally took a whole glass full of strong wine, two good slices of melon, peaches, pears, 5 bowls of coffee, [45] a whole plateful of birds, two full plates of milk with lemons. Yet he could be doing this as a bet, but I do not think so, for this would be too much, and he furthermore takes a lot of things with him for the cold snack in the afternoon. *Addio*, keep well. Kiss Mama's hands for me. My *compliments* to all who know me.

Wolfgang Mozart, 1770

[50] *P.S.*

We have become acquainted with a certain German *Dominican*<sup>15</sup> who calls himself *Pater Cantor*. He said I should send compliments from himself to Herr Hagenauer the sculptor<sup>16</sup> when I write to Salzburg, for he said to me that when he was in *Bologna*, he had always confessed to him.

[55] *Addio*.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Herr *Meuricoffre*<sup>17</sup> has just written to me with compliments to both of you. He certainly showed us great courtesy in Naples, and still writes to me.

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0172/16. Father Pietro Zervonitzky, who was in charge of the orphan violinists and received a salary from Pallavicini.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0172/16; No. 0205/14-15.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Hagenauer (1732-1810), a distant relative of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer already mentioned often in the correspondence. Trained in Bavaria, Vienna and Italy (1759-1765). Served the Archbishop of Salzburg until 1774.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Jean Georges Meuricoffre (1750-1806), whom the Mozarts had met in Lyon in 1766 and again in Naples (where he was now a partner in his uncle's bank) in 1770. He helped and remained in contact with Leopold (cf. Nos. 0184/50; 0195/55 ff; 0204/56-57). He married the singer Celesta Coltellini (1764-1817), daughter of Marco Coltellini, the "theatre poet" who wrote the libretto for *La finta semplice* KV 51 (46a) in 1768.