

1173. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN¹ BY VIENNA

*Ma très chère Epouse!*² –

[Vienna, 2nd July, 1791]

I hope that you feel very well indeed; – It went through my mind that you have seldom suffered sickness during pregnancies!³ – does bathing at the spa perhaps weaken one too much? – I am unwilling to wait for evidence, [5] it is too depressing; – my advice would always be that you should stop at once! – then I would have complete peace of mind. – today is the day for your pause, and yet I wager my little wife has been in the spa? – quite seriously – it would be better to finish it in ~~spring~~ autumn! – I hope you have already received my first little letter.⁴

[10] I would ask you to tell Süßmayer,⁵ that clumsy boy, that he should send me my score of the first *act*,⁶ from the *introduction* to the *finale*, so I can do the *instrumentation*. It would be good if he could put it together before the end of the day so that it leaves with the first coach tomorrow morning; that way I will have it right at the beginning of the afternoon. – I have just been called on by a few English people [15] who did not want to leave Vienna without having made my acquaintance – but that is not true – they wanted to make the acquaintance of Süßmayer, that Great Man, and only called on me in order to ask where he lives, because they had heard that I am fortunate enough to carry some weight with him. – I said they should go to The Hungarian Crown⁷ and wait there until he comes back from Baaden! – [20] *Snai!*⁸ – They want to *engage* him as a candle trimmer.⁹

I am waiting most longingly for news from you; now it is already half past 12, and I still have not received anything; – I will wait a little longer, then seal it. – Nothing is coming, I must close! – I wish you well, dearest, most treasured little wife! – Pay attention to your health, [25] for even if everything goes awry, I disregard it as long as you are healthy and I am well. – Take the advice which I gave you at the beginning of the letter, and farewell. – *adieu*. 1000 kisses, and to *lacci bacci*¹⁰ a thousand clips round the ear. – Eternally your

Mozart mp¹¹

Vienna, Saturday, 2nd July. 791.

¹ BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was due to bear a child soon.

² = My very dear spouse.

³ BD: Constanze had already borne five children, of whom only Carl Thomas was still alive. The sixth child was Franz Xaver Wolfgang (26th July, 1791 – 29th July, 1844).

⁴ BD: Since his return to Vienna.

⁵ BD: Franz Xaver Süßmayer (1766-1803), son of choirmaster and schoolmaster Franz Karl Süßmayer, grammar school in Kremsmünster 1779-1784, then until 1787 attended the chivalric academy there. During this time he was active as an alto, tenor, violinist and organist. Came to Vienna in 1788, worked as a private tutor and occasionally in the Royal Music. He came into contact with Mozart via his teacher Georg von Pasterwitz (1730-1803), probably by 1790. He completed Mozart's *Requiem*.

⁶ BD: Of *The Magic Flute*. Mozart had obviously finished the draft of the first act and was now busy with the instrumentation.

⁷ “Ungarische Krone”. BD: In the Himmelpfortegasse. Around 1822, Franz Schubert and friends liked to meet here.

⁸ BD: Cf. note on No. 1167/9. Almost certainly Süßmayr.

⁹ DME reproduces here a comment (by Nissen?) on the page that this statement cannot be used in “Mozart's Life”, even though it is only meant jokingly.

¹⁰ “Bacci” presumably from the Italian for “kisses”. BD: Probably Süßmayr.

¹¹ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.