

Vienna, 24th November, 1762

I received your last letter³ safely. I would also have done everything just as you and that certain good friend advised me to if I had been able to come to an agreement⁴ with myself immediately, and finally I resolved to do it the next post-day.⁵ [5] The reasons which put me into a certain troubled state of indecision: – I will have to explain to you in person in due time. Yet will this not be in vain then? – – Enough! Even if this goes wrong, I must then come up with other ideas. Now to come to ourselves: we continue, praise God, to be in good health, [10] and have to wait patiently until we get our business here back on its good old course, for here the nobility is afraid of pox spots and any kind of rash, so the boy's illness has correspondingly set us back by 4 weeks. For although we have earned 21 ducats⁶ in the meantime, now that he is well again, this sum is in fact a trifle, since we live from exactly 1 ducat per day, [15] and every day there are other expenses besides. As things are, we are otherwise living in good spirits. Countess Theresia von *Lodron*,⁷ the unmarried lady-in-waiting, recently paid us a great honour: she provided us with a box at the theatre |: which are hard to get :| and honoured my *Wofel*⁸ with shoe buckles with gold leaf, [20] and which are taken for solid gold buckles. On Saint Elizabeth's Day⁹ we saw the *gala* banquet.¹⁰ The honours and graciousness that we received from the nobility there are exceptional, and it will suffice for me to tell you that Her Majesty the Empress¹¹ called to me from the table, asking whether the boy has now recovered properly? [25] My description of the *St. Cecilia* Festival must be saved for our meeting in person, for we shall need many sessions to paint a clear picture. At the *St. Cecilia* Festival¹² we went to dine at Imperial Music Director von Reutter's¹³ at midday. When we come home, I will recite the bill of fare to Frau Hagenauer. Yesterday we ate with Herr von Wallau,¹⁴ [30] and in the evening our esteemed *Doctor Bernhard*¹⁵ took us to a box at the *opera*. Thus, in God's name, one day after another vanishes away. We were invited to visit Herr Reutter and Herr von Wallau as often as we please, but it might be damaging for the health of my children;¹⁶ amongst other things the coaches cost me

¹ BD: Original last. Copyist C; NissenB.

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

³ BD: No. 0041a.

⁴ BD: The result was Nos. 0043, 0044, summarised in No. 0045/2 ff. Leopold appears to be considering staying in Vienna, but at the same time did not wish to miss the chance of becoming deputy music director [Vizekapellmeister] in Salzburg.

⁵ BD: 4 November 1762.

⁶ BD: = 94½ florins. The calculation here complements the estimate of losses given in No. 0036/41. The "nobility" had obviously not resumed the invitations immediately following Wolfgang's recovery. The takings must nevertheless have exceeded the family expenses.

⁷ BD: Theresia von Lodron (1733-1789), daughter of Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Lodron (1705-1775) and Maria Josepha, née Countess [Gräfin] (1698-1753); probably later spouse of Prince [Fürst] Michael Thurn und Taxis.

⁸ BD: One of the various pet-names for Wolfgang used by Leopold.

⁹ BD: 19th November. Celebrated as a day of remembrance for Maria Theresia's mother, who died in 1750.

¹⁰ BD: The Imperial family dined publicly: all respectably dressed persons were admitted. The Mozarts attended similar events Vienna (No. 0045/44), Rome (0176/31) and Versailles (0080/42 ff.). Cf. 0080/54 ff.

¹¹ BD: Maria Theresia (1717-1780), Empress 1740-1780.

¹² BD: 22nd November.

¹³ BD: Johann Adam Karl Georg von Reutter the Younger (1708-1772), court music director [Hofkapellmeister] and composer.

¹⁴ BD: Gottfried von Wallau, Imperial Court Councillor's Agent [Reichshofratsagent], in this capacity representative of the Salzburg Prince [Fürst] in Vienna between 1752 and 1770.

¹⁵ BD: Johann Baptist Anton von Bernhard (1728-1796), university professor.

¹⁶ BD: Apparently because of the copious eating.

a great deal, for 2, 3, even 4 seventeen-kreuzer coins a day is *ordinaire*,¹⁷ and if we are served by the coaches of the fine families, [35] the gratuities for coachman and lackey eat up just the same amount. So when should we come home again? – – for Christmas or for New Year? Farewell to you with your good wife and all who belong to you, and rest assured that as long as I live etc.¹⁸

¹⁷ BD: = customary, normal.

¹⁸ BD: Signature absent.