

[Coblenz, 26th September, 1763]

[...]³ — — came back to Maynz, the Elector⁴ was again afflicted anew with the very same fever which had already left him. As a result, he became so weak that he could not leave his bed. He had risked too much on the occasion of the visit by Prince Clement of Saxony,⁵ [5] who stayed in Maynz overnight, and because of this lapsed again into a new indisposition. I had to give another *concert* for the *nobility* and went to Coblenz.⁶ Now here comes a strange journey! — — — The 13th. On this date we left Maynz⁷ for Coblenz at about half past 6 in the evening by *jagd* or, as they pronounce it here, *jacht*.⁸ [10] From Maynz to Coblenz, if it goes well and one leaves really early in the morning, a day is needed. The yacht is a ship which is large, has 3 rooms and, in addition, covered areas front and rear where the merchants' goods lie. Up above on the roof there are oars, and that is also where they put the coaches. They are already small models of ships that are used at sea. [15] On the evening of the 13th we travelled on for 2 hours, as far as *Walf*.⁹ In the early morning we heard Holy Mass, which a *Dominican father* from our ship read, we did not set off until half past 6 because of a strong wind, but we had only got 2 hours further when we had to land at a very simple place called *Östrich*. [20] The wind was so strong that we had to stay the afternoon and the whole night in this miserable little market town. The next day we travelled on again, but unfortunately only a couple of hours, so that we landed 3 quarters of an hour from Bingen, just across from Rittersheim,¹⁰ and had to reach Bingen on foot. Here we first of all drank coffee, then gave ourselves hopes that the wind would calm down. [25] But we ate at midday; the evening and finally the night went past, and we were still there. On the morning of the 16th, at 5 o'clock, the wind calmed down a little, so we set off and passed the *Bingen Hole*,¹¹ and also reached *St. Gregoire*,¹² having had to pass, shortly beforehand, the so-called *Bank*. After we had dined at midday in *St. Gregoire* and had left at 2 o'clock, [30] we had again hardly proceeded for an hour before such a storm arose that we had to land, or rather drop anchor, at a place with a couple of houses which is called *Arning*. Here we and 3 other yachts that came after us, along with a further 2 large skiffs to the left and the right, dropped anchor and stopped until half past 5. At last we raised the anchors and reached, with great effort, [35] a little place with a number of houses called *Salzich*.¹³ I asked for our little skiff, which always sails firmly tied to the yacht, to go ahead of us to order the best room in the inn and the meal for me. For, as all the yachts landed, I saw in advance that things would otherwise go very badly concerning quarters and food. Correspondingly, I obtained the best room, [40] a soup, a good Rhine salmon and butter. Regarding wine, I had enough with me, otherwise we would have had to

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist C, B; NissenB.

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

³ BD: One page missing in the copy from which this letter is known, equivalent to approximately 23 lines.

⁴ BD: Elector of Mainz: cf. No. 0062/2, 24.

⁵ "Prinz Clemens von Sachsen". BD: Clemens Wenzel, Prince [Prinz] of Saxony (1730-1812), Elector of Trier 1768-1802.

⁶ Koblenz.

⁷ Mainz.

⁸ Pronounced as "yacht" with an audible "ch" sound.

⁹ BD: (Nieder-)Walluf.

¹⁰ BD: Rüdesheim.

¹¹ "Bingerloch". BD: At that time still dangerous for shipping.

¹² BD: St. Goar.

¹³ BD: Salzig.

drink bad wine. His Excellency Baron von Dalberg,¹⁴ head of a chivalric order in Maynz, with whom we dined at midday on the day of our departure, had sent 6 bottles of the best Hochheim Rhine wine on board for me, which supplied our needs wonderfully. [45]

At last, at midday on Sunday the 17th, we arrived in Coblenz, after this journey had cost me 3 *louis d'or*¹⁵ in shipman's pay and one *louis d'or* for provisions and other necessary expenses. You will wonder why I did not prefer to go by land, which would have cost me less. [50] But you must realise that the paths are by nature most wretched because everything goes by river, but now they were completely ruined because of the constant bad weather. And this is the reason why we also have to go by river from here to Bonn and Cologne, if we do not want to be thrown into the Rhine or otherwise break our necks on the land route, [55] which often lies hard by the Rhine. We have already played for the Elector here, on the afternoon of the 18th, and were rewarded immediately after the performance with 10 *louis d'or*.¹⁶ On the 19th and 20th was the most abominable rainy weather. The 21st was the Apostle's day,¹⁷ on which I did not want to travel, but, so that we did not spend our time entirely in vain here, [60] the few nobles here organised a *concert* which was held on precisely the 21st and which did not bring in very much, yet it was indeed something, and I had no incidental expenses. One of my reasons for not leaving Coblenz right away on the 19th or 20th was that Wolfgang had a snuffle or cold in the head, but this changed into a fully-fledged catarrh on the evening of the 22nd and in the night. [65] I am thus forced to wait another couple of days, especially because the weather is so bad. We will therefore hardly get away from here before the 25th or 26th, for I have to think of the health of my children above everything else. Here I met Baron von Wallderndorf¹⁸ and the former administrator, the cleric Kopp, [70] who is now in the *consistory*. Baron von Wallderndorf and Count von Pergen,¹⁹ the Imperial Ambassador, who boarded his ship in Coblenz at the same time as us and also had to endure some of the same fatal events on the water after us, led my children by the hand to the Elector and presented us and were consequently the reason that we were heard straight away. [75] Whether we will now meet the Elector of Cologne in Bonn is very doubtful, for he is now in fact still in *Westphalia*. If he is not there, we will go to Cologne immediately; if you write to me afterwards, address the letter to Herr Franz Joseph Eschweiler in Cologne, for whom I have a letter from Frankfurt. If we are no longer in Cologne, [80] the letter will certainly be sent on. The court here is not brilliant, it mostly consists of eating and stout drinking. Now we are also simply drinking good Mosel wine, and the pale Hünigen wine is delicate. We are lodging here in the 3 Imperial Crowns, our biggest diversion here is the family of Herr von Kerpen, Privy Counsellor to the Elector and *Chef de la Noblesse*, [85] or, as they say here, Captain of the Chivalry,²⁰ and has 9 children, namely 7 young gentlemen and 2 young ladies, who all either sing or play *violin* and *violoncello* and almost all play the *clavier*. The youngest boy is 10, and all are already provided for. One is the fee tail heir,²¹ 2 are Imperial officers, the others again have 2 canonicates, partly in Speyer, partly in Würzburg and Maynz, [90] and the young ladies are already canonesses. The buildings, as in all these areas, are mostly old, the churches dirty and the streets and everything that meets the eye are not kept clean at all. If a house needs repair, they fit iron clasps on the outside. These,

¹⁴ "S.^c Exc: H: Baron v. Dalberg". BD: Cf. No. 0060/4. Friedrich Christoph Anton, Baron [Freiherr] von Dalberg, responsible for the music at court.

¹⁵ BD: 33 florins.

¹⁶ BD: 110 florins.

¹⁷ BD: St. Matthew.

¹⁸ BD: Johann Philip, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Walderdorff (1701-1768); cf. No. 0059/56.

¹⁹ "graf v Pergen, Kaiserl. Gesandter". BD: Johann Baptist Anton, Graf Pergen (1725-1814). Imperial Ambassador [Kaiserlicher Gesandter] 1753-1766.

²⁰ "H v Kerpen, der geheime Rath des Churfürsten und ... Ritter Hauptmann". BD: Lothar Franz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kerpen (1706-1788), privy councillor [Geheimrat].

²¹ "Majoratsherr".

if not too many iron rods are needed, represent the year and, if necessary, entire names. [95] Would it not look very good, for example, if you had such clasps fitted on your house: H·A·G·E·N·A·U·E·R 1763. The clasps are fixed where the large dots are. Otherwise, the cable ferry over the Rhine and the stone bridge over the Mosel, then the fortress Ehrenbreitstein, the palace or residence, [100] the palace Schönborn's Delight²² etc. are worth seeing here. The only thing to regret is that the weather has been dirty the whole time, which is very depressing for the poor peasant here, who lives year after year from the wine work here, for so far they see little hope of getting any wine. Wealthy people who have their cellars full of wine laugh about it, for their wine is becoming more expensive. [105] From Augsburg onwards as far as these regions, it has become more expensive in every way and with every mile, with a pound of beef worth 6 kreuzers in Augsburg costing 8 kreuzers in Schwetzingen and 9 and 10 kreuzers in Maynz, Frankfurt and all these areas. An egg 1 kr., even in the middle of summer, a pound of butter 20 kr. and even 22 and 24 kr., a pound of carp 24 kr. etc. [110] Wood costs 7 and 8 florins per quarter cord, which is a measure that a horse pulls. The bread is a smaller by half than we know it, in many cases badly baked, the flour black; likewise, we have so far seen no pastry dishes at all in these regions, for they cannot make any. You will therefore not be surprised when you hear that we have already spent around 1068 florins since leaving Salzburg. [115] You will be all the less surprised when you hear that we had to spend 35 fl. 35 kr. in Wasserburg because of the 2 new wheels and the 4 days sojourn there, where the 4 horses had to eat more because of the longer stop; that I had to spend 47 f. 58 kr. at Störzer's in Munich, 95 f. at The 3 Moors²³ in Augspurg, coachman's costs of 16 f. as far as Ulm, [120] 5 f. 8 kr. in Ulm at the Golden Wheel,²⁴ 11f. 54 kr. in Ludwigsburg at the Golden Hunting Horn,²⁵ 6 f. 36 kr. at the Giant²⁶ in Bruchsal, 4 f. for the smashed-in large rear window in the coach, 76 f. at the Red House²⁷ in Schwetzingen, 4 f. 24 kr. in Worms at the Swan²⁸, 120 f. in Frankfurt at the Golden Lion²⁹, 87 f. for two stays in the King of England³⁰ in Maynz. On top of that, there are the daily provisions, [125] which usually amount to 2 f. and 20-something kr., the coachman's pay from Salzburg and Munich, then from Ulm the post-stages, tips, smithing and countless expenses; where the charge for laundry makes a very big difference, as one has to pay 8 kr. for a shirt; besides that, we have acquired much for ourselves, of which my Mannheim boots would please you exceptionally well, [130] but which cost 7 f.; but one will not see more beautiful leather and a more comfortable and more beautiful boot anywhere – – – In all of this, other people have paid the same prices too and, besides what we have acquired and some *galanterie* as presents, nothing could be saved because we have to travel *nobly*, or like *cavaliers*, to preserve our health and the reputation of our court. [135] On the other hand, we have no company other than the *nobility* or other distinguished persons and, although it is not my place to say so, it is indeed true that, with such behaviour, I bring great honour to our court and receive everywhere the choicest courtesies and every kind of special respect. [140]

All this gives me all the more satisfaction because the further away I travel, the less regard is paid to our court, and they think, because this is the region where the 3 ecclesiastical Electors sit together as neighbours, our Archbishop has no more significance than, at most, [145] a Bishop of Eichstädt or Augspurg;³¹ and I can assure you that they all open their eyes

²² "Schönborns-Lust".

²³ "3 Mohren".

²⁴ "beym goldenen Rad".

²⁵ "Goldenes Waldhorn".

²⁶ "Riese".

²⁷ "Rothes Haus".

²⁸ "Schwan".

²⁹ "Goldener Löwe".

³⁰ "König von England".

³¹ BD: Eichstädt, Augspurg.

wide and take heed of what I recount and of all aspects of our behaviour, and listen with astonishment to many things which I speak out simply and plainly.

Yes, I must say that I was indeed very surprised at the tepidness and the dirty, [150] negligent and utterly peasant-like manner in which the church ceremonies in Maynz and Coblenz are held. It is no wonder if this serves more as an offence than as edification to the Lutherans, Calvinists and Jews with whom these regions are filled. In Maynz and Coblenz themselves there may be no Lutherans or Calvinists, but then all the more Jews.³² [155] But they come here in good numbers to do their tasks, and it is purely by chance that they are not resident here, because most places in these regions consist of people from 4 or 5 religions. In a word!: Our court is truly a second Roman court, and our most gracious Archbishop a second Pope. Recently, before I had yet departed from Maynz, [160] I had to stop in my tracks and laugh as I entered St. Peter's Church. It was Sunday, the 11th 7ber,³³ and it was all decked in black. A bier was set up in the middle, there was an assembly of mourners present, and the Office for the Dead was sung. And this is generally what they do in these regions; that is the least of it. [165] Now for something else – – – The esteemed Count Siegmund von Kuenburg,³⁴ the little Count of Langenhof,³⁵ received a canonicate in Maynz while I was still there. Perhaps you know of this anyway. That His Princely Grace³⁶ of Seckau has now become Bishop of Passau pleases me infinitely; the gentlemen of Passau have once again had the good fortune to be given an edifying bishop. [170] Who, then, finally became bishop in Trent? – – – In our neighbourhood, when I was in Maynz, the esteemed Count Spaur,³⁷ brother of the esteemed titled Count Ignatz³⁸ etc., to whom I commend myself most humbly, became Chamber Justice³⁹ in Wezlar, and it is believed that the Senior Stablemaster⁴⁰ in Maynz, the esteemed Count von Bassenheim,⁴¹ is to become President. [175] We all commend ourselves to *Mademoiselle Joli*.⁴² We will not come to Paris before All Saints' Day,⁴³ yes, perhaps later, for I must first of all organise the journey accordingly. Secondly, it is of no use to us to be in Paris earlier, as everyone is in the country and they only come back to town gradually during November. Countess van Eyck⁴⁴ can easily give us a room in her house if her husband agrees, [180] for I have heard that they have spacious lodgings. I would at least be in a safe and presentable place. She will no doubt dine at court. A

³² BD: Mainz had one of the oldest Jewish communities in Germany.

³³ September.

³⁴ "Graf Siegmund". BD: Presumably a relative of Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], Privy Councillor [Geheimer Rat], from 1764 Chief Stablemaster [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

³⁵ BD: The family palace in Salzburg.

³⁶ "Tit: Se: Fürstl: Gnaden v Seckau". BD: Leopold III Ernst, Graf Firmian (1708-1783), a member of the influential Firmian family mentioned so often in the letters and prominent at the Salzburg court.

³⁷ BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Spaur, brother of Ignaz Joseph.

³⁸ "H: Grafens Ignati etc." BD: Ignaz Joseph, Graf Spaur (1727-1779), cathedral canon in Salzburg from 1755 to 1776, 1778-1779 Bishop of Brixen/Bressanone.

³⁹ "Kammer Richter".

⁴⁰ "Oberst-Stallmeister".

⁴¹ "Graf Bassenheim". BD: Cf. Nos. 0059/55, 0060/8-9. Johann Maria Rudolph, Count Waldbott zu Bassenheim (1731-1805). Hereditary official [Erbschenk] in the cathedral and privy councillor [Geheimer Rat].

⁴² BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as "Saller", was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially of Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [Konfektmeister] Mathias Joly and his spouse Maria Anna Therese de Butelli (referred to as "the old madame Joly" in No. 0109/88); she was an aunt of the physician Dr. Johann Prex, whom Mozart met in Paris in 1766 (cf. Nos. 0109/89; 0110/4). She was certainly related to the chaplain Leopold Joly who married Leopold and Maria Anna Pertl in 1741. She worked as a chambermaid for Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (cf. No. 0157/24 f.); one of the daughters of this Count Arco was married to the Bavarian ambassador in Paris and Rosalia was thus able to arrange accommodation for the Mozarts in Paris (see lines 42-43).

⁴³ BD VII: 1st November; the actual day of arrival was the 18th November, 1763.

⁴⁴ "Gräfin van Eyck". BD: Cf. No. 0062/42.

word from His High Princely Grace⁴⁵, our most gracious lord, would and could quickly settle the matter. We would not cause the least inconvenience to her household, but certainly some diversion.

[185] Please send the enclosure to Miss⁴⁶ *Rosalie*.

I must end. Excuse the confused style of writing. I have to write things down as they occur to me, and how often indeed have I been hindered by the arrival of, at one moment, Count von Walderndorff,⁴⁷ at another Count von Hohenfeld,⁴⁸ Baron von Kerpen⁴⁹ etc. and others. [190] We all commend ourselves *in genere et specie*⁵⁰ to all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen. I am

The 26th September, 1763.

⁴⁵ "S Hochf. gnaden". BD: Referring to the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁴⁶ "Jungf." = spinster.

⁴⁷ "G: v: Walderndorff" [Waldendorff].

⁴⁸ "G: v: Hohenfeld".

⁴⁹ "b: v: Kerpen".

⁵⁰ Generally and specifically.