

Napoli, 26 Maggio, 1770

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> letter I have written to you from Naples. The situation of this town pleases me more every day, and the town itself is altogether not bad. If only the population were not so godless and also certain people not so stupid,<sup>1</sup> [5] those who would otherwise never realise that they are stupid, and the superstition! – – this is so deep-rooted here that I can safely say that here there prevails complete heresy, which is looked on with an indifferent eye. In due time I will explain it to you. I hope to bring you the views and unusual sights of Naples as engravings, as I have already done with Rome. We are both well, praise God. [10] The tailor is working on 2 suits which I selected in the company of *Msr. Meuricoffre*.<sup>2</sup> Mine is almost *pampadour*,<sup>3</sup> but more dark cherry red, watered *moar*,<sup>4</sup> lined with sky-blue *taffeta* and silver buttons.

Wolfgang's is apple-green watered *moar*, with silver buttons and lined with rose-coloured taffeta. [15]

There will be a *concert*<sup>5</sup> on Monday,<sup>6</sup> put on by the Imperial Ambassador's wife, Countess von Kaunitz,<sup>7</sup> *Lady Hamilton*,<sup>8</sup> *Princess Bellmonte*,<sup>9</sup> *Princess Francavilla*, *Duchess Callabritta*,<sup>10</sup> and which will probably bring in around 150 *zecchini*<sup>11</sup> for us. But we also need money, for if we leave, we have a long journey without any takings; [20] if we stay here, we must hold out for 5 months. Here, of course, we would always earn enough for the essentials, but at the moment I am still resolved to leave in 3 weeks. In the coming week we hope to be presented to the King and Queen.<sup>12</sup>

[25] That nothing detailed was written to you from Rome: – there are reasons for that, you will be told everything in full. I have not had time yet, I am writing in haste anyway.

Hasn't Nannerl received the enclosure for Herr von Schiedenhofen<sup>13</sup> sent on the 25<sup>th</sup> April? – –

<sup>1</sup> BD: Leopold could have the king in mind here, cf. No. 0194/18-19.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. No. 018/50 and elsewhere. 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. 0184/70; 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: *pompadour* = dark red.

<sup>4</sup> BD: "moar" = *moiré*, a cloth with a bright sheen.

<sup>5</sup> "Accademia", a term frequently encountered in the correspondence.

<sup>6</sup> BD: It took place in the home of Ernst Christoph, Count [Graf] Kaunitz-Rietberg (1738-1797), eldest son of the Austrian State Chancellor [Staatskanzler], cf. No. 0120/9. He soon became governor in Moravia, cf. No. 0191/9-10.

<sup>7</sup> "kays: gesantin gräfin v Kaunitz".

<sup>8</sup> BD: Probably "Mrs.", not "Lady". Hamilton did not receive a title until 1772. (William Hamilton, 1730-1803, foster-brother of George III, British ambassador in Naples 1764-1800. Cf. No. 0099/70, Leopold's travel notes for London).

<sup>9</sup> "Principessa di bellmonte". BD: Principessa Belmonte-Pignatelli (cf. No. 0192/6), known because of her friendship with Metastasio. It is not known where she had previously met the Mozarts.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Francavilla and Callabritta are mentioned again in No. 0192/7-8.

<sup>11</sup> BD: ≈ 675 florins. The zecchino being minted in Venice since 1284 and was equivalent to the ducat.

<sup>12</sup> "dem König und der Königin". BD: Cf. No. 0184/108, 109, 114. The hoped-for audience never took place.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach while Leopold and Wolfgang were travelling.

[30] Who else do you think we have met here? – – the esteemed *Baron* Bender,<sup>14</sup> who was at His Excellency Count Pergen's<sup>15</sup> in Frankfurt. He is staying with Count Kaunitz. He commends himself to both of you.

What you discussed with Herr Hagenauer<sup>16</sup> and his wife is, as far as I am concerned, all quite right. I commend myself to both of them. [35] Frau Hagenauer will no doubt pray an Our Father for us at this time. This is truly necessary, for we are not praying much at all.

So honest Urban<sup>17</sup> is dead too? – – May God comfort him.

The letters take 14 days to Naples.

Simply always write to Rome.

[40] Has *Mademoiselle Troger*<sup>18</sup> left? – – Did she take anything with her? – –

Has Herr Meissner<sup>19</sup> arrived? My compliments, for he will be there by the time you receive this letter.

Keep well, together with Nannerl. We kiss both of you, and I am as always your

Mzt.

[45] My compliments to all Salzburg.

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<sup>14</sup> “H: Baron Bender”. BD: = the “Baron Binder” of No. 0065/11.

<sup>15</sup> “S: E: gr: Pergen”. BD: Johann Baptist Anton, Graf von Pergen (1725-1814), Imperial ambassador 1753-1766. Cf. No. 0063/71.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Leopold must have heard of this in No. 0185a (lost); it possibly concerned the change of apartment which finally took place in 1773.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Urban Deniffl, employed by the merchant Hagenauer. Bachelor, from Tyrol, died 9<sup>th</sup> May.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Leopold Troger was secretary to Count Karl Firmian in Milan. Troger's sister lived in Salzburg, where he visited her in 1771, married to Michael Gruber since 1749. He was to bring the pastel portraits of Maria Anna and Nannerl to Milan, cf. No. 0200/51 ff.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg. Mentioned frequently in the letters, e.g. No. 0112/31.