

0252. LEOPOLD MOZART TO COUNT GIOVANNI LUCA PALLAVICINI,<sup>1</sup> BOLOGNA

<sup>2</sup>Your Excellency!

[Milan, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1771]

We, father and son, humbly render thanks to Your Excellency for the most courteous and gracious remembrance<sup>3</sup> we received, and in order to obey the desirous longing of Your Excellency, I have the honour and pleasure of giving you the good news [5] that my son's serenade<sup>4</sup> received all the response desired and universal approbation. I cannot explain this more without transgressing into propria Laus sordet,<sup>5</sup> with myself in this case being the Cicero who speaks pro domo sua.<sup>6</sup> My son wrote this in Milan in 15 days;<sup>7</sup> he could not start earlier as the poetry was in Vienna for approval, from where it was returned at the last moment.<sup>8</sup> [10] Sgr. Tibaldi,<sup>9</sup> who did my son the honour of coming every morning to see him write, will be able to give Your Excellency an authentic account.

May Your Excellency maintain his most excellent graces towards us and, submitting to Your Excellency as well as to the most Excellent Countess and your most Illustrious son<sup>10</sup> our homage and respect, I affirm myself, in unison with my son, to be, with all veneration and with all my heart,

[15]

Your Excellency's  
most devoted and most obliged  
servant  
Leopoldo Mozart mp<sup>11</sup>

Milan, 30<sup>th</sup> October  
1771

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Field marshal Conte [Count] Gian Luca Pallavicini-Centurioni; Leopold and Wolfgang were guests on his country estate near Bologna for some weeks (cf. No. 0171/6, 8, 12).

<sup>2</sup> This letter entirely in Italian.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0251a, lost.

<sup>4</sup> BD: *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 0239/15. Composed and performed for the royal wedding in Milan.

<sup>5</sup> = "self-praise is vile".

<sup>6</sup> = "for his own house".

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0245/3.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0242/11.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0117/9; 0245/25. Sang in *Ascanio*; evidently employed at the Teatro Regio Ducal in Milan.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0172/5.

<sup>11</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.