

Milan, 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>ber</sup>,<sup>1</sup> 1772

Do not be startled, Madam, to find my handwriting instead of *Papa's*. The reasons follow:

1.<sup>mo</sup> We are at Herr von *Aste's*,<sup>2</sup> and *Baron Cristani*<sup>3</sup> is here. We have so much to speak about with each other now that he could not possibly have time to write. And

2.<sup>do</sup> He is too = = = lazy. We reached here safely on the fourth at midday; we are well. Of our good friends, all are in the country and in *Mantua*, as are Herr *Taste*<sup>4</sup> and his good spouse, from whom I must send *compliments* to you and to my sister. Herr *Misliveček*<sup>5</sup> is still here. Concerning the *Italian war*,<sup>6</sup> of which there is firm talk in Germany, and the fortifications at the castle here, none of it is true. Please pardon my bad handwriting. When you write to us, write simply our name on it, for it is not the custom here to deliver the letters, as in Germany, but one must collect them at the post-office, and we go there every post-day to collect them. Here nothing new has happened, we await news from *Salzburg*. Hopefully you will have received the letter<sup>7</sup> from Botzen. Nothing else occurs to me, so I will finish. Our compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. We kiss Mama 100 000 |: I could not fit in any more nothings |: times, and I kiss Mama's hand, and I prefer to embrace my sister *in persona* rather than in the imagination.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:<sup>8</sup>

*Dearest sister,*

*I hope you have been to the lady chl hsf gfm smpltl.<sup>9</sup> I ask you, if you lm oldtl,<sup>10</sup> to give her csapefalnts dm pmrtl mfm.<sup>11</sup> I hope, and do not at all doubt, that you are in good health. I forgot to give you the news that we have met here that Sig. Bellardo<sup>12</sup> the dancer, [25] whom we knew in The Hague and in Amsterdam, the one who attacked the dancer Sig. Neri<sup>13</sup> with a sword because he believed he was the reason why he was not permitted to dance in the theatre. Addio. Do not forget me. I am ever your  
faithful brother Amadeo Wolfango*

<sup>1</sup> 9 = novem; 9ber = November.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Husband of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, daughter of Leopold Troger, cf. No. 0224/8-9. Leopold Troger was a court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

<sup>3</sup> BD: probably Carlo Andrea Cristani, cf. No. 0151/29.

<sup>4</sup> BD: d'Aste. "Taste": deliberate pun = key (in keyboard)?

<sup>5</sup> BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The young Duke and Duchess of Parma had dismissed the minister de Llano. Conflict followed with the Bourbon courts and with Austria. Spain was considering sending troops.

<sup>7</sup> BD: No. 0264.

<sup>8</sup> In Italian with some family code (also in Italian): *Carissima sorella. / Spero che voi sarete stata dalla signora chl hsf gfm smpltl. Vi prego se lm oldtl di farle un csapefalnts dm pmrtl mfm. spero, e non dubito punto che voi starete bene di salute. mi son scordato di darvi nuova, che abbiamo qui trovato quel sig: belardo ballerino, che abbiamo consciuti in Haje ed in amsterdam quello che attaccò colla spada il ballerino il sig: Neri perché credeva che lui fosse cagione che non ebbe la permission di ballar in teatro. addio. non scordarvi di me. io sono sempre il vostro / fedele fratello amadeo Wolfango / Mozart mp*

<sup>9</sup> = "that you already know of". [Family code.]

<sup>10</sup> = "see her".

<sup>11</sup> = "compliments on my behalf".

<sup>12</sup> BD: Not mentioned in any of the letters or the travel journals.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Pietro Neri, mentioned briefly in No. 0105/82.

[30]

*Mozart mp*<sup>14</sup>

POSTSCRIPT BY LEOPOLD MOZART:

We had an entertaining time celebrating Wolfgang's name-day<sup>15</sup> in *Alla*<sup>16</sup> at the home of the 2 *Pizzini*<sup>17</sup> brothers. We also stayed in *Verona*,<sup>18</sup> and for that reason were later<sup>19</sup> in reaching Milan. Here the weather is always beautiful, and on the journey we only had heavy rain in the afternoon on the day after *St. Simon* and *St. Jude's Day*.<sup>20</sup> [35] That was all. Keep well! *Addio!*

Our compliments to all friends, both gentlemen and ladies.

Here and in *Verona* we saw *opera buffa*.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>15</sup> BD: 31<sup>st</sup> October.

<sup>16</sup> Ala.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Pizzini. Two cultured, hospitable brothers in Ala, hosts to the Mozarts on previous journeys. Cf. No. 0241/12, 20.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Probably with Pietro Lugiat, who had helped the Mozarts considerably on previous journeys. Cf. No. 0152/65, 68 etc.

<sup>19</sup> BD: The stop in Verona was presumably not in the original plan.

<sup>20</sup> BD: 28<sup>th</sup> October.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Either *La locanda* by Giuseppe Gazzaniga (1743-1818) or *La sposa fidele* by Pietro Guglielmi (1728-1804), which were both performed there that autumn.