

Milan, 20th
Feb., 1773.

Still in Milan, I am afraid! Today I wrote to His *Excellency* the eminent Royal High Steward,¹ and it was a struggle for me to form legible handwriting; my *rheumatism* is now making me impatient, and I am in a state of fear about being buried under an avalanche in the Tyrol with the approaching mild weather, as I hear that a mass of snow is lying there. So you can easily imagine how I will set off as soon as my health permits. Today, around 12 noon, Herr Leutgeb² |: whom I had not seen for some days :| came to my bedside, for I am still lying in bed in order to perspire, and he showed me in a letter the news that his wife has given birth to a son.³ He immediately gave me 5 whole *souverains d'or*⁴ in order to have the same sum paid to his wife. I accordingly ask Herr Hagenauer⁵ to have these 15 ducats,⁶ or 5 whole *souverains d'or*, delivered to Frau Leutgeb,⁷ or their equivalent value, for which I will reimburse him on my return – that being, more precisely, in kind. I cannot tell you anything beyond that Wolfgang, praise God, is in good health. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, within and outside the house, and I am as always your
Mzt mp⁸

We kiss you both many 100000 times.

¹ “S^c: Ex: t: H: Obersthofmeister”. BD: “wrote”: No. 0285, to Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

² BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart (KV 371, KV 412 + 514 (386b), 407 (386c), 417, 447, 495) speak for his musical abilities. After much uncertainty in recent letters about his plans to visit Italy, he reached Milan on 6th February, 1773 (cf. No. 0284/35).

³ BD: Friedrich, later a ribbon maker in Vienna.

⁴ Gold sovereigns. BD: 5 sovereigns = 67.5 florins.

⁵ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

⁶ BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

⁷ BD: Leutgeb's first wife, Barbara.

⁸ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.