

1092. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, VIENNA

at 7 in the morning

Dearest, most treasured wife!

Dresden, 13th *April*
1789.

We thought we would be in Dresden after midday on Saturday, but did not arrive until yesterday, Sunday,¹ at 6 o'clock in the evening; – that is how bad the roads are. –

[5] I furthermore got to the Neumans² yesterday, where *Mad:^{me} Duscheck³* is staying, to hand her the letter from her husband. – They are on the third floor, on the corridor, and from the room one sees everyone who comes; – as I came to the door, Herr Neumann was already there and asked me with whom he had the honour of speaking; – I answered: I will say who I am at once, [10] only be so kind as to have *Mad:^{me} Duscheck's* name called out so that my fun is not spoiled; but at this moment *Mad: Duscheck* was already standing in front of me, for she had recognised me from the window, and had immediately said, Somebody who looks like Mozart is coming – now there was joy on every face; – there was a large company there, consisting mostly of ugly women, [15] but they made up for their lack of beauty by their comportment; – today the Prince⁴ and I are going there for breakfast, then to the *Naumanns*,⁵ then to the chapel.⁶ – We will leave here for *Leipzig* tomorrow or the day after; –

After receiving this letter, you must be sure to write to *Berlin post restante*,⁷ I hope you will have received my letter from Prague safely.

[20] All the *Neumanns* send compliments to you and at the same time to *Duscheck*, as well as to Herr and Frau Lange, my esteemed sister-in-law;⁸ –

My dearest little wife, if only I already had a letter from you! – If I were to tell you everything that I end up doing with your *portrait*, you would no doubt often laugh. – For example: [25] when I take it out of its *holder*, I say: May God greet you,⁹ little Stanzer! – may God greet you, may God greet you; – little rogue; – knallerballer;¹⁰ – Pointynose – little *bagatelle* – schluck und druck!¹¹ – and when I replace it again, I slip it in very gradually, and repeatedly say, *Stu!* – *Stu!* – *Stu!* – but with that certain emphasis which such a significant word requires; [30] and, at the last push, Good night, little mouse, sleep well; – Now I believe

¹ BD: Easter Sunday, 12th April, 1789.

² BD: The family of the secretary to the Privy War Advisory Committee [Geheimes Kriegsratskollegium], Johann Leopold Neumann (* 1748), lived near the “Hotel de Pologne”, where Mozart was staying.

³ BD: The singer Josepha Duscek (1753-1824), wife of Franz Xaver Duscek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

⁴ “Fürst”. BD: He set off for Berlin on 8th April, 1789, with Prince [Fürst] Karl Lichnowsky, who was later, from about 1795-1806, a patron of Beethoven. In 1789 he married the daughter of Countess [Gräfin] Wilhelmine Thun, who was also closely associated with Mozart.

⁵ BD: Johann Gottlieb Naumann (1741-1801), from 1786 Senior music director [Oberkapellmeister], important in the time between Hasse and Paër/Weber. Member of a Dresden Masonic lodge.

⁶ BD: To the Catholic “*Hofkirche*” in Dresden.

⁷ = “To be collected from the post office”.

⁸ BD: Aloisia Lange, née Weber, an outstanding soprano whom Mozart met in Mannheim. His first love, who, as he admitted on 25th Dec., 1780 (No. 0596/27), was “not yet a matter of indifference” to him. From August, 1782, Mozart’s sister-in-law.

⁹ “*Grüss dich Gott*”, still a standard everyday greeting in southern Germany and Austria.

¹⁰ “*Banging, shooting*”. BD: Applied by Fontane (*Irrungen, Wirrungen*) to pipe tobacco so strong that not everyone could take it.

¹¹ BD: Cf. the fragmentary, playful quartet “*Caro mio Druck und Schluck*” (KV Appendix 5/571a), supposedly written at the beginning of 1789 and (as in No. 1088) the result of Mozart's into Christoph Martin Wieland's humorous verse epics. In a later letter by Constance outlining the chaotic economic conditions in Vienna in 1809, she writes that the loaves previously costing 3 kreuzers went up to 12 kreuzers, but are no longer available, and those now costing 3 kreuzers are “*truck und schluck*”, i.e. presumably having no real value.

I have written something stupid |: in the world's eyes, at least :| – but for us, who love each other so intimately, it certainly is not stupid; – today is the 6th day away from you, and, by God, it already seems like a year to me. –

[35] You will no doubt often have trouble reading my letter, because I am writing in a hurry and therefore somewhat badly; – *adieu* my dear, my one and only! – The coach is here – but that does not mean *bravo* and the coach is already here – but – *Male*;¹² – I wish you well, and love me eternally as I love you; I kiss you most tenderly a million times
[40] and am eternally

your tenderly loving spouse
W: A: Mozart mp¹³

P.S. How is our *Carl*¹⁴ behaving? –
Well, I hope; – kiss him for me.

[45] I wish Herr and Frau von Puchberg¹⁵ everything that is agreeable.

N.B. You do not need to match the size of your letters to mine. Mine only turn out somewhat short because I am under pressure, otherwise I would cover a whole sheet. – But you have more time for your thoughts. – *adieu*.

¹² Italian = “*bad*”; contrast to the preceding Italian “*bravo*”.

¹³ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁴ BD: Born 21st September, 1786, thus 4 years old.

¹⁵ BD: Currently helping Mozart financially. Cf. note on No. 1067/5; he was not ennobled until 6th November, 1792.