

Vienna, the 30<sup>th</sup> *Octobris*, 1762

Luck and glass, how soon a vinegar jug is broken!<sup>3</sup> I was beginning to think that we had been much too fortunate for 14 days in row. God has sent us a little cross to bear,<sup>4</sup> and we thank his unending goodness that it all went as it did. [5] On the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>, at seven o'clock, we were once again with Her Imperial Majesty.<sup>5</sup> Our Woferl<sup>6</sup> was not his usual healthy self, and before we drove there, and also before he went to bed, he complained *s.v.*<sup>7</sup> about his rear and feet. Once he was in bed, I examined the places where he claimed to feel the pains, and I found a number of spots the size of a kreuzer<sup>8</sup> [10] which were very red and somewhat protruding and which also caused him pain when touched. But there were only a very few, on both shin bones, on both elbows and a couple on his backside. He had a temperature, and we gave him *pulvis epilepticus niger* and *pulvis magnesiae cum rheo*.<sup>9</sup> He slept somewhat restlessly. On the following day, Friday, we repeated the powder morning and evening, [15] and we found that the spots had spread further. They were indeed larger, but not more numerous. We had to send messages to all the ladies and gentlemen with whom we had engagements going into the next week, and had to issue cancellations day by day. We continued to administer the *pulvis marchionis*, and on Sunday he broke out in a sweat, which we wished for, for the fevers up till then were very dry. I met the esteemed *medicus*<sup>10</sup> of Countess von Sinzendorf<sup>11</sup> |: who was not here at that time :| and described the condition to him. He came with me right away. He approved of how we had proceeded thus far, he said it was a kind of scarlet fever rash. He prescribed

this mixture<sup>12</sup> [25]

Rp. V: Scabios: ʒij

ʒ Epil: M. ʒij

Spec: Diabrag.gr.XV

P: Hb ?

Syrup . diacord ʒβ

[30] Then nothing but soups or panade,<sup>13</sup> as we had already been doing, occasionally crushed barley gruel, occasionally a coltsfoot tea and a little milk poured into it. Before going to bed, we gave him a little glass of milk of pounded melon seed and the tiniest amount of poppy seed. Praise God, he is now so well that we hope that he will leave his bed on the day after tomorrow, [35] if not tomorrow on his name-day, and get up for the first time. At the same time, a new molar came, causing a swelling in his left cheek. The ladies and gentlemen not

<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Copyist C, B; NissenB.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Playing on the proverb "Gluck und Glas, wie bald bricht das." ["Luck and glass, how soon that breaks."]

<sup>4</sup> BD: Wolfgang's illness, as described below, has been diagnosed as *erythema nodosum*. BD VII: Cf. No. 0042/11-12. The illness must at any rate have involved a rash.

<sup>5</sup> BD: With Maria Theresia in Schönbrunn.

<sup>6</sup> One of the pet-names used by Leopold for Wolfgang.

<sup>7</sup> s.v. = *salva venia* = begging your pardon.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Diameter 12.2-19.8 mm

<sup>9</sup> BD: Both induce sweating and are frequently used by Leopold as household remedies.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Anton von Bernhard (1728-1796), university professor.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Probably Eleonore Elisabeth, née Hardegg (1713-1767), widow of Count [Graf] Sigismund Rudolph Sinzendorf, the Royal High Steward ["Obersthofmeister"] to Emperor Charles VI.

<sup>12</sup> BD: It seems that Leopold had received instruction in pharmacy (where?) and had systematically copied and kept all the prescriptions he had received.

<sup>13</sup> "*Binadl*", bread soup.

only had the graciousness to send someone to enquire about the boy's circumstances every day, but they also very energetically recommended him to the *medicus*, with the effect that Doctor Bernhard |: that is his name :| [40] could not have been more attentive than he in fact is. In the meantime, the costs to me of this incident have been very modest, 50 ducats loss.<sup>14</sup> Yet I thank God endlessly that it took the course it did, for these scarlet spots are dangerous and going round the children here, and I hope Woferl has now become naturalised, for the mere change of air was the chief cause of it. [45] Please inform your good wife, with my most obedient commendation, that I must plague her again:<sup>15</sup> to wit, that she might be so gracious as to cause 3 Holy Masses to be read at Loreto, at the Holy Child, and 3 Holy Masses in Bergl, at Saint Francisco de Paula.<sup>16</sup> I will gratefully reimburse everything. [50] The news here is very sparse, and it will not be unknown you that 9 postillion coaches have set off because of the Hadik episode.<sup>17</sup> In the meantime, our people have also succeeded in taking possession of Katzenhauser and Nossen.<sup>18</sup> We have all wagered on the Vienna Lottery with 5 numbers, 20 kreuzers for all five numbers. Herr Estlinger<sup>19</sup> guessed an *ambo*<sup>20</sup> with 4 florins. You see how luck pursues us! [55] There is no playing with it. We all commend ourselves and I am especially etc.

Continuing the letter of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1762:

Please do everything to find out what His High Princely Grace<sup>21</sup> will finally do, [60] and what I can ultimately hope for regarding the post of Deputy Music Director.<sup>22</sup> I am not asking without grounds. You are my friend. Who knows what I will do; if only I knew where it is all leading. What is certain for the moment is that I find myself in circumstances which also provide bread for me here.

[65] I still prefer Salzburg to all other possibilities. But they simply must not snub me. I ask you again, for otherwise I will allow myself to be talked into heaven knows what.

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Right now they are saying something that I simply do not believe, namely that Prince Heinrich's troops have been scattered.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Leopold counts earnings lost [= 225 florins] due to cancelled concerts.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0032/37 ff.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional "factotum" to the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0035/43.

<sup>17</sup> BD VII: Andreas von Hadik (later Count [Graf]), 1710-1790, chief Austrian commander in the Silesia campaign. At the end of September, 1762, Hadik succeeded, by a combination of battles and marches, to force Prince Heinrich out of a position which he had held near Freiberg for the whole summer. Cf. lines 68-69.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Should read "Katzenhäuser". Both places are in Saxony.

<sup>19</sup> BD: The Mozart family frequently passed requests to have masses read for them to Frau Hagenauer. The churches mentioned are in or around Salzburg. The "Holy Child" was a 10-cm-high ivory figure of the Christ-child dressed in costly garments in the chapel at Loreto.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Guessing two numbers between 1 and 90. Cf. *Così fan tutte*, II, 3.

<sup>21</sup> "seiner Hoch: Gnaden". BD: Siegmund Christoph von Schrattenbach (1698-1771), Prince-Archbishop [Fürsterzbischof] in Salzburg from 1753 following long association with the cathedral. Leopold's employer until 1771.

<sup>22</sup> "vice-capellmeister". BD: Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762), had held the two posts of court music director and cathedral music director in Salzburg simultaneously. Giuseppe Francesco Lolli (1701-1778), from Bologna, initially employed as a tenor, mentioned as such in the *Salzburger Hofkalender* of 1741. 1752-1763 deputy music director in Salzburg; from 1763 music director. Composed some oratorios, masses and vesper psalms as well as music for a stage play. Leopold Mozart hoped to obtain Lolli's old post and approached numerous Salzburg personages to obtain their support.

<sup>23</sup> BD: "Prinz Heinrich": brother of Frederick II of Prussia, one of the leading Prussian commanders in the Seven Years War. Cf. note on line 50.