

[Vienna, 10th December, 1762]

On the 4th I wrote both to His High Princely Grace³ and to the gracious Father Confessor,⁴ and formulated both missives⁵ in the form my best friends demanded. [5] I also enclosed a comprehensive apology for not being able to reach Salzburg at the appointed time; in short, I cannot reach Salzburg before Christmas or New Year. The circumstances of all this I will have to give you in person in due time. While reading this, you will be thinking of our esteemed Court Sculptor;⁶ [10] yes, perhaps you have already reflected to yourself on whether all who come to Vienna are enchanted into staying there. It is almost true; but my reasons will solve the puzzle for you.

The letter⁷ which I received from His Excellency the Royal High Steward⁸ on the 28th November is dated the 29th Octobris and thus reached my hands one month after being sent, or, more precisely, on the first Sunday in Advent,⁹ and indeed direct from the post-office. [15] But I must conclude that it was not waiting at the post-office before that date because I myself had asked about it at the post-office once, and Estlinger¹⁰ 3 times. The letter is written so politely and in a fairly friendly manner, so that one would almost not suspect anything malicious. Enough; if relevant, I will reveal the reason to that gracious patron who told you. [20]

That your son Herr Joseph¹¹ has left for Venice is delightful, but it is a pity for us that we did not have the honour of seeing him before his departure. Could he then not have travelled to Venice via Vienna and Constantinople? – – The circumstances of Herr Lorenz¹² move me, and I share in your sadness. [25] Now, this is simply how things are. God will do what advances the salvation of his soul. By all appearances there was little hope of anything good, and yet I still hope for it.

Good that we are not at home now! We are shying away from the pox; it would even like to climb up to us.¹³ – – You see, now you know the reason why we do not want to come home. [30] I hope it all passes off felicitously.

The Ironic Hare¹⁴ was very happy to have been served to you; the important thing is that it was good. I would only wish that more things of the same kind would come into your hands. The preceding was written yesterday. Now I have received today your letter¹⁵ of the 7th

¹ BD: Original lost. Schiedermaier IV.

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

³ “S: Hochf: gnaden”. Leopold’s employer, the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁴ BD: Ferdinand Joseph Mayr (1733-1792), confessor to the Archbishop until his death in 1771.

⁵ BD: Nos. 0043 and 0044.

⁶ BD: Johann Baptist Hagenauer (1732-1810), a distant relative of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer already mentioned often in the correspondence. Trained in Bavaria, Vienna and Italy (1759-1765). Served the Archbishop of Salzburg until 1774.

⁷ BD: No. 0035a, the answer to No. 0038.

⁸ “OberstHofMster”. BD: Salzburg Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786). member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8).

⁹ BD: 28 November 1762.

¹⁰ BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional “factotum” to the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0035/43.

¹¹ BD: Hagenauer’s second son, Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), cf. No. 0032.

¹² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1744-1770), third son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, currently a student but now taken ill.

¹³ BD: They were staying on the third floor; colourfully ironical explanation for staying in Vienna.

¹⁴ BD: Perhaps a roast hare. Context unknown.

¹⁵ BD: No. 44a.

inst. And I received it just as I came back home from Herr von Wallau's.¹⁶ [35] In truth, I had already decided to leave all of a sudden and arrive in Salzburg on the Feast of St. Thomas.¹⁷ But as I came to Herr von Wallau and informed him of this, yes, left it to his decision and his word, he took responsibility. Yes, he said to me, a fortnight or three weeks would not prevent His High Princely Grace¹⁸ being lenient with me for satisfying the wishes of the Hungarian nobility as well. [40] For I must tell you that for 3 weeks now we have been plagued constantly with requests to leave for Pressburg¹⁹ after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.²⁰ Now, this solicitation became more pressing when we spoke with the most important Hungarians²¹ at the public banquet²² on the Emperor's birthday.²³ [45] So tomorrow we leave for Pressburg, only I do not envisage holding out there for more than a week. Herr von Wallau himself wishes to write to our court, for he has taken the matter upon himself; otherwise I would leave immediately. For I do not in fact know if I will profit so much from Pressburg. In the meantime, say to His High Worthiness and Grace²⁴ the gracious Father Confessor, [50] with my most obedient compliments, that if I were in any way in danger of losing the favour of His High Princely Grace by this, I am ready to go to Salzburg at his first nod. Now there are still many things that would keep us here for at least another month. For, just imagine, Count Durazzo,²⁵ music director²⁶ at the court here, [55] has not yet been able arrange for us to play at his *accademie*²⁷ or public *concert*. If we were able to agree on this, we could hold out here until Lent and until Easter, and earn a pretty sum every week. You will be thinking that Vienna turns everybody insane. Yes, in truth, if I hold Salzburg and Vienna alongside each other in certain respects, I would soon end up in confusion. [60] Enough. If God grants us health, I hope to wish you a blessed New Year straight from the coach. In the meantime, I wish the maidens Ursula and Francisca²⁸ a good recovery, but to you, and in particular to your esteemed wife, I wish long endurance, and am

Your

[65]
10th Decembris, 1762

Sincere friend
Mozart

¹⁶ BD: Gottfried von Wallau, Imperial Court Councillor's Agent [Reichshofratsagent], in this capacity representative of the Salzburg Prince [Fürst] in Vienna between 1752 and 1770. Cf. No. 0042/29.

¹⁷ BD: 21 December.

¹⁸ BD: Perhaps a roast hare. Context unknown.

¹⁹ "Sr Hochf: gnaden".

²⁰ BD: 8 December.

²¹ BD: Probably primarily the Pálffy family.

²² BD: Cf. No. 0042/21.

²³ BD: 8 December (1708).

²⁴ "H: ihro Hochwürden und gnaden".

²⁵ BD: Jacobo, Conte di Durazzo (1717-1794), from 1754 General Director of Spectacles ["Generalspektakeldirektor"], from 1760 also Music Count ["Musik-Graf"] in Vienna, from 1764 Imperial Ambassador ["Kaiserlicher Gesandter"] in Venice..

²⁶ "Music-Director".

²⁷ "Academy" is often used in the correspondence for public concerts.

²⁸ BD: Two of Hagenauer's daughters, Ursula (1753-1831) and Franziska (1755-1836). Ursula remained unmarried and took over the family business from 1800. She married the lawyer and civil servant Franz Pichler (1753-1820); in 1831 she sold the family business to her accountant, Joseph Schüler.