

*Monsieur mon très cher ami!*Wasserburg,² 11th June, 1763

This is called travelling with the Snail Post! – – but it is not our fault. 2 hours from Wasserburg a rear wheel broke in pieces. There we sat. Luckily, it was bright and fine and, even more luckily, there was a mill close by. [5] Someone came to our aid with a wheel which was too small and yet too long in the hub. We had to be glad that we even had this, and nevertheless we had to cut down a little tree to tie in front of the wheel so that it could not run off. We even smashed the broken wheel to pieces so that we could take the ironwork with us. [10] The tyre had to be bound under the coach body so that we could transport it. These are only the main circumstances which held us up on the open road for over one hour. The rest of the way, I and Sebastian,³ in God's name, proceeded by *pedes apostolorum*⁴ in order not to bring any further misfortunes upon the damaged coach with our heavy bodies. [15] So while we could have reached Wasserburg by 10 o'clock, we had to be satisfied with arriving there at quarter past twelve. Now the wainwright and smith were brought to make a new wheel. It was also necessary to feel the pulse of the other wheel. And the *vota unanimita* des *Consilii*⁵ was that this wheel too was in the greatest danger, if touched by a sudden blow, of falling apart. [20] I was all the more obliged to believe this in that the esteemed coach doctors, yes, none less than *Doctor Niderl*⁶ himself, prophesied as much to me one day before our departure.

We were told the coach would be ready by this morning and consequently reconstructed by day and night. – – but yes! A fleeting *chimera* – – We hoped to move on after eating. – – In vain! [25] The wainwright chopped and cut, the smith scorched and burned, and hammered valiantly. The latter would have been quicker to get the patient back on his feet and moving if the former had first been able to release the patient from his hands sooner. What should be done now? – – Patience with indignation is the only response! [30] And that is still the response at this moment, as I write this, for the treatment will not be finished before nightfall. The only response is therefore: Sit up, and stay here tonight again. The most considerable aspect of the matter are the costs,⁷ for I do at least have the honour of providing for the horses and coachman. In God's name: ten wheels are better than a foot or a couple of fingers. We are, thanks be to God, well, [35] which is also what we hope for you, Right Highborn Sir,⁸ and your whole house, yes, for all my good friends, to whom I commend myself. To your good wife we send our particular compliments. And she might take the trouble and search in the middle and upper parts of the chest in the little chamber,⁹ where she will find a little sugar confectionary in a box and a piece of gingerbread in a piece of paper. [40] Whatever stuff of the kind may come into your hands, I ask you to make sure it is eaten; otherwise it will go off. You will also find in the middle chamber, in the old high chest which stands behind the door, two old moth-eaten coats in black material, and a *contouche*¹⁰ of canvas with English [wool¹¹], well sewn, [45] may it please your good wife to give the same

¹ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

² BD: Approximately 85 km north-west of Salzburg. Cf. No. 0048.

³ BD VII: Sebastian Winter (1744-1815), who accompanied the Mozart family on the great journey starting 1762 and left them in Paris (1764) to enter service with the Prince [Fürst] von Fürstenberg. He was later instrumental in ordering music from Mozart for the Prince. Cf. Nos. 0082/35-38, 0782, 0785, 0974, 0988.

⁴ = the feet of the apostles.

⁵ = unanimous vote of the council.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0034/94.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0064/115-118.

⁸ "Euer Wohlgeboren".

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0090/37.

¹⁰ = sack-backed gown.

¹¹ BD: Noun missing in letter.

to some poor, needy person, and likewise if she finds anything else old which could serve as nutrition for the moths.

The horse hirer asks that you might send a message to his house saying he hopes to come home in the evening of the coming Tuesday, for tomorrow evening, if God will, we shall hopefully be in Munich. [50] He will consequently probably ride home with the unloaded horses in 2 days. The latest is that, for purposes of entertainment, we went up to the organ, and I explained the pedals to Wolferl.¹² Then, *stante pedes*,¹³ he immediately carried out a test, pushed the organ bench back, and played a prelude while standing and accompanied with the pedals, and all just as if he had already have been practising for months. [55] Everyone was overcome with amazement, and it is a new grace of God which some only achieve with much trouble. We commend ourselves, I am with all devotion your

Obedient servant

Mozart

P.S. Today, at midday, someone from Braunau¹⁴ was in the inn, [60] and I listened with amazement as he told our innkeeper the size of the debts which Herr Falser¹⁵ left behind. The matter is quite horrendous, especially concerning the ward's money¹⁶ etc.

¹² One of the various pet-names used by Leopold for Wolfgang.

¹³ = "On his feet".

¹⁴ Approximately 60 km north of Salzburg.

¹⁵ BD: No details of this affair are known.

¹⁶ BD: He had most likely been pocketing some of the money being kept for his ward.