

0075. LEOPOLD MOZART TO LORENZ HAGENAUER,¹ SALZBURG

A Monsieur / Monsieur Lorence / Hagenauer / à Salzbourg / en Bavière

ON THE INSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE:²

[Versailles, December, 1763]

You can read the present epistle, make an extract of it, seal it, and hand it to our gracious esteemed Father Confessor along with my obedient compliments and wishes for the New Year, [5] or have him seal it himself. *Madame de Pompadour*³ is still of very beautiful appearance, has many similarities to the deceased Frau Stainer, or our Theresia Freysauf, also something of the form of the Holy Roman Empress,⁴ especially in the eyes. She is of great haughtiness, and at the moment still rules everything. – – Life in *Versailles* is expensive, [10] and it is our good luck that it is just as warm as in summer these days, otherwise things would be going very badly, since one has to pay 5 *sols*⁵ for each log of wood. Yesterday my boy received a golden snuffbox from *Madame la Comtesse de Tessé*,⁶ today my girl a small transparent snuffbox with gold inlay from *Princesse Carignan*⁷ and Wolfgang a silver sketching pen with silver pens for composing. [15] It is so small and skilfully made that it is impossible to describe it. My children are leaving almost everyone here infatuated. But everywhere one sees and notes the consequences of the last war. One cannot entrust to the pen everything that one would like to write. Wish all my good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, [20] a Happy New Year in our stead. I would like to write to everyone if I had time, and if each letter did not cost 20, 30 *sols*. If I had made the letter to His High Princely Grace⁸ bigger, I would certainly have had to pay 5 *livres* for it, for they charge according to the weight and the size or the format. Have you perhaps replied to me? – [20] – Perhaps I will find it in our townhouse on my return to Paris. Farewell. *Adieu!*

I, my wife and children commend ourselves and wish you, your good wife and all relations a Happy New Year. We are, praise God, all in good health. You should see Wolfg. in black clothes and French hat.

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

² BD: The enclosed letter to Prince Archbishop Sigismund, Graf [Count] von Schrattenbach, is lost. According to Nissen, it contained news of an audience with Louis XV.

³ BD: Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, from 1745 Marquise de Pompadour (1721-1764). Daughter of the stable master to the Duke of Orléans. Married a tax farmer in 1751, divorced soon afterwards. Gained entry to court in 1745, became mistress to Louis XV with the official title “*maitresse en titre*”. Even after giving up this role, she continued to exert significant influence on government. She was largely responsible for the alliance formed between France and Austria against Russia and England in 1756. Cf. No. 0080/134 ff.

⁴ BD: = Maria Theresia of Austria.

⁵ BD: = 5 kreuzers (60 kreuzers = 1 florin).

⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0075/12, 0076/12; 0417/161; 0420/99 ff. Adrienne-Catherine, Comtesse de Tessé (1741-1814). Lady in waiting to the Dauphine; lover of Prince Conti. Wife of the Lieutenant general au gouvernement du Maine. The sonatas for keyboard/violin op. II (KV 8 and 9) are dedicated to her.

⁷ BD: Victoire-Marie-Anne de Savoie, Princesse de Carignan († 1766), widow of the music-loving Prince Victor-Amédée Joseph de Savoie († 1741).

⁸ “S^c Hochf:Gdn.”. 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.