

*Monsieur!*London, the 28<sup>th</sup> Junii, 1764

With the last post from Paris I received the letter of exchange<sup>3</sup> enclosed herewith; accordingly, I am not remiss about sending it to you immediately so that it can be used at once. As I do not understand very much about this business, [5] especially at a distance, I have spoken to the bankers *Loubier et Teissier* here, my very good friends, who found, after perusing the letter I received from *M<sup>srs</sup> Tourton et Baur* with the exchange difference of 179½ lb,<sup>4</sup> that the *valeur*<sup>5</sup> of 200 *louis d'or* was right. [10] They will accordingly most certainly send the same to Hamburg straightaway, and after completion of the acceptance procedure they will put the 2250 florins to my credit. Incidentally, I am pleased to tell you that I have again deposited with the first-mentioned bankers, *Loubier et Teissier*, a small sum of 100 guineas, which I could make payable to someone in Salzburg to be of service to them in these regions. [15] If you could use personally the sum in Paris, The Hague, Amsterdam, Hamburg etc. or elsewhere, it would give me the greatest pleasure; and as I see that I will perhaps repeatedly have to transfer some surplus to Salzburg, I am thus seeking to make provision and do something to help myself. If in such a case a greater sum has to be paid, [20] I can transfer 30, 40 or even 50 *guineas* without leaving myself penniless. Furthermore, I must inform you that you should in future send letters to me to the following address:

*M<sup>sr</sup> Mozart chez M<sup>srs</sup> Charles Loubier et Teissier Banquiers.*  
*Austin-Friars.* *London.*

[25] At the end of the coming week we are going to *Tunbridge*,<sup>6</sup> around 30 English miles from here, which one reaches in 3 or 4 hours with the mail coach, for an English mile is not more than a German quarter of an hour. There is a health spa there, lying in the angle between sunrise and midday,<sup>7</sup> where many of the nobility gather in *Julio* and *August*: [30] for now no-one who has time and means stays in *London*. If you write to me at the above address, I will receive your letter safely, for these gentlemen always know where I am. In the meantime, I hope you will have received 2 letters from me, namely one, as I believe, dated 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> May, and the second dated 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Junii. Now I must give you a little taste of the price of things in *London*. [35] The apartment I have taken is too small for us and consists of three small rooms, of which one and also the second are somewhat larger, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> is not even as large as the little interior room in our apartment in Salzburg. For this we pay 12 *shillings*<sup>8</sup> per week. Now, you know that 21 *shillings* make a *guinea*. [40] If we had not known that we were going out into the country anyway, we would have moved immediately: we must take an apartment for at least 18 *shillings* or a *guinea* per week, as only people of distinction come to us, because a couple of full-length *claviers* take up a large area, and we can at the moment only just fit one in, and also because the situation and size of the apartment in such a populous city, [45] where there is so much vapour, smoke, dust and fog, contributes much to maintaining the health. For a *clavier* with one manual, one pays ½ *guinea* monthly: with 2 manuals, one *guinea*. The cheapest wine is the wine from Florence at 2 *shillings* a bottle;

<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Copyist A; 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: The 200 *louis d'or* deposited by Leopold with Tourton & Baur, Paris (cf. Nos. 0083/38-40; 0089/58 ff.).

<sup>4</sup> lb = "livres" or "livres" (24 livre = 1 louis d'or = 11 florins).

<sup>5</sup> = "value".

<sup>6</sup> BD: Tunbridge Wells, a well-known health spa about 36 English miles from London.

<sup>7</sup> = "to the south-east".

<sup>8</sup> BD: ≈ 4 florins 48 kreuzers.

these are bottles with straw woven round them as with the *Montepulciano* bottles: [50] as a result, if I and my wife drink it and mix a little of it with the children's water because the pure water is unedifying, one easily gets through a bottle a day. That then amounts to 60 *shillings*<sup>9</sup> a month only for wine. We originally wanted to accustom ourselves to the beer, but both I and my wife soon noticed that it was extremely damaging to our health; we had to leave it alone. [55] The midday meal, which is at 3 o'clock, costs 4 *shillings*.<sup>10</sup> We believed we could find something for 3 *shillings*; we approached to the *traiteur du quartier*,<sup>11</sup> but it was not possible. In the evening we cannot find a simple soup for under 8 *pence*<sup>12</sup> or *sols*, a little preserved veal under one *shilling*. A chicken costs 2 *shillings*. [60] I have already told you that 12 pennies or sols are a shilling. Now I say nothing about sugar, tea, milk, bread etc., about coal |: they do not burn wood :| and about candles and night-light candles: for instead of oil they burn specially made candles which have a wooden wick. I furthermore say nothing about powder, *pomade* etc. and many small household expenses: [65] even less about clothes and about the weekly washerwoman's wages, which is no small item if one includes the silk hosiery. – – – If you glance over this, where in fact some things have not occurred to me, you will find an astonishing outlay. But what must still be included in this is the inevitable outlay for entertainment. For as soon as the weather is good, one must leave town or drive and draw breath deeply [70] if one at all wishes to remain healthy. There you see in *St. James's Park* or in *Green Park* or in *Hyde Park* many 100s of people strolling up and down. If you choose to walk or drive to *Chelsea*,<sup>13</sup> to *Ranelagh*,<sup>14</sup> to *Mary-le-Bone*,<sup>15</sup> to *Vauxhall*<sup>16</sup> etc., a *guinea*<sup>17</sup> departs from your purse at once; and, with the best housekeeping that can be achieved, [75] you can always calculate 3 *guineas*<sup>18</sup> per month for such outlays. Of the *fiacres* and *carrosses de remise*<sup>19</sup> I say nothing at all, because I need them more rarely than in *Paris*; for, firstly, the pavement in front of the houses is good and the road itself miserable: so one prefers to go on foot rather than putting oneself in danger of breaking a couple of the ribs in one's body. [80] Secondly, I live in the *Westminster* area: I am therefore close to the nobility. Yet we must take the coach often enough. For the *fiacre*, one pays one *shilling*<sup>20</sup> for a single journey of no distance, even 15 and 18 *pence*.<sup>21</sup> A *carrosse de remise* or hired coach, for half a day and including the tip, comes to 15 to 16 *shillings*.<sup>22</sup> What do you think, dear Frau Hagenauer, [85] are the annual wages of a serving girl here in an inn, shop, or otherwise in a house where there is plenty to do? – – 10 guineas, even 12 guineas.<sup>23</sup> *NB*: without the tips, which here are quite astonishingly in fashion. The ordinary wage in a common house is 5 and 6 *guineas*;<sup>24</sup> a domestic servant, lackey etc. does not have less than one *guinea*<sup>25</sup> per week, [90] as well as his clothing and tips. Concerning food, however, he has to get himself. All journeyman

<sup>9</sup> BD: ≈ 24 florins.

<sup>10</sup> BD: ≈ 96 kreuzers.

<sup>11</sup> = "Caterer in that quarter". Leopold actually writes "4.<sup>ten</sup> Tracteur".

<sup>12</sup> BD: ≈ 16 kreuzers.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Chelsea: at that time a village two English miles from London, noted for its healthy situation.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Ranelagh, a village near Chelsea, famous for its garden.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Marylebone, according to *The foreigners guide* of 1763 village in a friendly situation at some distance from London with public gardens, an imitation of Vauxhall.

<sup>16</sup> BD: South of Lambeth Palace on the Thames, the oldest, and at that time world-famous, pleasure resort in London.

<sup>17</sup> BD: ≈ 8 florins.

<sup>18</sup> BD: ≈ 24 florins.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Simple and finer coaches respectively for hire, the first paid per journey, the latter per half-day. Cf. No. 0073/104.

<sup>20</sup> BD: ≈ 24 kreuzers.

<sup>21</sup> BD: ≈ 30 and 36 kreuzers.

<sup>22</sup> BD: ≈ 6 florins and 6 florins 24 kreuzers.

<sup>23</sup> BD: ≈ 80 and 96 florins.

<sup>24</sup> BD: ≈ 40 and 48 florins.

<sup>25</sup> BD: ≈ 8 florins.

craftsmen have to get their own food and lodging, and come to the master punctually early in the morning for work. A journeyman wigmaker, for example, usually earns 2 *shillings*<sup>26</sup> a day, must come to work at 6 o'clock. There are also some who earn 3 *shillings*. [95] Most good workers get a *guinea*<sup>27</sup> per week. A goldsmith does not go to work until 9 o'clock and leaves again at 6 o'clock etc. From these little things you can already gather what *London* is. – – Now something about *Ranelagh* and *Vauxhall*. – – These are two gardens with which nothing of the kind in the world can be compared: it would be impossible to describe such things comprehensively. [100] But in due time, God willing, I shall bring with me copper engravings not only of these, but also of many other things in both *Paris* and *London*. Then a fuller explanation can be given of this. I already have copper engravings worth 2 *louis d'or*<sup>28</sup> stored in *Paris*. My only regret is that I cannot tell you everything now, but this is quite simply impossible: [105] for I did not travel to England for the sake of a few thousand *gulden*s.<sup>29</sup> If almighty God preserves us in good health<sup>30</sup> and does not withdraw his divine blessing, which he has so very graciously granted to us, I hope to send some 100s of *guineas*<sup>31</sup> from here to Salzburg. And it will not be a bad thing if there is then someone at the Salzburg court who speaks English; [110] one never knows where it can be of service. The garden at *Ranelagh* is not large, but nicely done; it is illuminated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. In the same place there is an astoundingly large round hall<sup>32</sup> with an entrance at ground level, lit with an indescribable multitude of large chandeliers, lamps and wall lights. [115] On one side, the musicians are accommodated on tiers, and at the top is an *organ*. 3 hours is the duration of the music, from 7 to 10 o'clock; then, for an hour and often longer, namely from 11 to 12 o'clock, *quartets* are played by a hunting horn, *clarinets* and bassoon. In the middle there is a large fireplace where a fire is lit when it is cold, for this garden opens as early as March or April; for most of the entertainment is in the hall. [120] Around the fireplace there are many tables, and the walls of the entire hall are covered with niches, or a kind of alcove or little chapel, in each a table, and via stairs the same number again of boxes, like in a theatre, also with as many tables. On every table is placed all that is necessary for drinking coffee<sup>33</sup> and tea. [125] On entering the garden, each person pays 2½ *shillings*.<sup>34</sup> For this he receives coffee, tea, butter and bread, as much as he cares to eat and drink. Here one has space, besides the space in the middle, to go walking, so that 2 to 3 or even 4,500 people can walk around the grounds and constantly meet each other. But, partly so that it is softer to walk on, partly so that no noise is made during walking, [130] the floor is entirely covered with a mat or carpet woven finely from straw. In the garden and hall there is room for at least 6000 people. The hall alone comfortably holds 3000. Every servant or waiter has a notice on his breast, and on it the numbers of the box or chapels which he has to serve. Here every man is equal, [135] and no *lord* allows a person to stand before him with bared head; everyone is equal when it comes to money. *Vauxhall* is on every day. *Ranelagh* will soon close, inasmuch as everyone runs to *Vauxhall* as soon as the great heat begins. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, namely on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, there will a *concert* or *benefit* in favour of a newly erected *hopital de femmes en couche*.<sup>35</sup> [140] Consequently, each person must pay 5 *shillings*<sup>36</sup>

<sup>26</sup> BD: ≈ 48 kreuzers.

<sup>27</sup> BD: ≈ 8 florins.

<sup>28</sup> BD: The usual conversion is 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

<sup>29</sup> 1 gulden = 1 florin. BD: Leopold's financial expectations were obviously considerable.

<sup>30</sup> BD: This hope was not fulfilled. Apart from the mother, all members of the family fell severely ill on this journey, which would certainly have cut into any profits.

<sup>31</sup> BD: 100 guineas ≈ 800 florins.

<sup>32</sup> BD VII: The "Rotunda", cf. Deutsch Bild Nos. 130 and 133.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0088/49, 51, 54.

<sup>34</sup> BD: ≈ 1 florin.

<sup>35</sup> Maternity hospital.

<sup>36</sup> BD: ≈ 2 florins.

admission. I will have Wolfgang play a *concerto* on the *organ* there<sup>37</sup> and thus take part in the project of an English patriot who seeks in every way he can to further the usefulness of this hospital erected *pro bono publico*.<sup>38</sup> You see, this is a way to win the love of this quite special nation. [145]

*Vauxhall* is something that left me amazed, and is impossible to describe. I pictured to myself the Elysian Fields. Imagine an exceptionally large garden which has all kinds of avenues, all of them illuminated as if by daylight with many 1000 lamps which are all enclosed in the most beautiful glasses. [150] In the middle is a kind of high, open summer-house in which an *organ* and the musicians with trumpets and *timpani* and all instruments are to be heard. On all sides, corners and spaces are fully-set tables, then certain *N.B.* regularly arranged constructions, like theatre boxes with tables; a large hall which is very beautiful, with an *organ* and music choir; [155] the lighting at the end of the avenues is enchantingly arranged, partly as pyramids and partly as arches, so that I did not know where I should turn my eyes. Imagine my wife, what kind of amazement came on her. We wished at the same time that, amongst our many good friends, Frau von *Robini*<sup>39</sup> and Frau Hagenauer could have been with us. [160] Which we wish on many occasions. Here I must move onto another matter altogether and speak of the lace, ribbons, *taffeta*, capes, neckerchiefs, bonnets, *Palatines*, pearls, all kinds of jewellery, and especially the Persians,<sup>40</sup> which we see daily on the English women and in the shops. More on this subject another time; [165] suffice it to say that the ribbons, *taffeta* and Persians surpass the French ones, and are never brought to our regions of Germany: it is called East Indian Persian. Now to come back to *Vauxhall*. Here each person pays only one shilling: and for this *shilling* one has the pleasure of seeing many 1000 persons, the most beautifully lit gardens and hearing beautiful music. [170] When I was there, more than 6000 persons were there. 1 shilling is not much. Only one knows clearly that one gets in for one *shilling*: but one does not know how one gets out. One may make a firm resolution not to get rid of any money: this is a fond fancy. One walks here and there, one becomes tired, one sits down; finally, one allows oneself to be served a *bouteille* of wine, perhaps some sponge with it; [175] that costs 4 to 5 *shillings*<sup>41</sup> right away; at last one sees people carrying a couple of chickens, one beckons to them; they come; you see, this is how the *guineas* are lured out of the bag. Whoever finds the illumination of many 1000 lights too much, to them I say that in a single glass, which makes up one light, there are always 2 lamps, in many of them 3 and 4 lamps. [180] This is something that could not be anywhere else in the world except here, because neither the private persons alone nor the nobility alone are capable of continuing to incur such expenses daily, and nowhere are the nobility and the common man so united as here; consequently, such an expensive enterprise cannot be sustained anywhere except in England. Now my fingers are tired. [185] I commend myself to all Salzburg: I commend my wife along with Nannerl and Wolfgang, who thinks often enough of Salzburg. I am

As Always

Is poor Herr Zugseisen<sup>42</sup> not better?

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<sup>37</sup> BD: Originally planned for the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1764, but had to be postponed to the 29<sup>th</sup> because a servant had lost a packet with 800 admission tickets. The proceeds were intended for the Lying-In Hospital. Wolfgang performed on harpsichord and organ, and otherwise works by Handel were heard.

<sup>38</sup> For the public good.

<sup>39</sup> BD: Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts'.

<sup>40</sup> BD: = "chintz".

<sup>41</sup> BD: ≈ 2 florins.

<sup>42</sup> BD VII: Joseph Zugseisen, (1728-1792), tenor and cellist in the Salzburg court music 1745-1792.

P.S. On the 18<sup>th</sup> there was at midday, i.e. in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, [190] an astonishing thunder storm which struck, amongst other things, a church tower in the part of the town not far from the Thames and threw down a whole block of stone. It was like the way the tower and the church were struck that time in Mülln.

It also ran along the clock cable. [200] 2 *Millords*<sup>43</sup> said to me recently that from each house in China there is a wire running down to the ground, and that the effect of this is always that the thunder attaches itself to the wire and passes into the earth without damaging the houses.

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<sup>43</sup> “Mi(l)lords”: Leopold’s English.