

0098.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO LORENZ HAGENAUER,² SALZBURG

Monsieur!

*London the 9th of Juillet 1765.*³

Without doubt, all of you will believe that we have long since swum across the sea. – But it has not been possible, we are in fact in *London*, and, once we are gone, we could not get back to England in the next 3 days, [5] although one should never rule out anything except biting your own nose off. As a result, I cannot achieve anything by forceful efforts, and it is sufficient regret to me that I will have to spend so much time on the things that I want to send off. Meanwhile, we have seen important things during this time. – – A huge assembly of the people,⁴ [10] even though they are inclined to riot, is not seen every year. The silk-weaver journeymen had already handed in a petition to the King a couple of times this winter. They imagined that some 1000s of them had little or no work because so many silk goods had been smuggled into England from France, and they furthermore called for French silk goods [15] : on which there is heavy customs duty anyway :| to be prohibited altogether. They came once again before *parliament* was dissolved and handed in a petition. But, still on the same day, they went back and forth through the town, divided into 3 sections, and in the street where I live I saw over 4000 persons marching past my lodgings. [20] At the head, the middle and towards the end – thus in total 3 – they had black flags, or rather black rags on a long pole. All these people had green aprons on and most appeared as slovenly as if they were sitting at their work. They swarmed around the town in this manner, and on the second day over 15000 people gathered at *Charing Cross*, [25] *Whitehall* and *Parliament Street* and all the other streets in the vicinity of *Parliament House* and where the *lords* had to pass on their way to *Parliament House*. They called out with much noise to every *lord*, and they wanted to tear the *Duc de Bedford*⁵ out of his coach because they saw him as guilty in supporting the introduction of the French goods [30] and because he was the reason why *parliament* had disregarded their petition and was firmly French.

Since they did not get an immediate answer from *parliament*, they came to *Bloomsbury Square* and wanted to plunder *Duc Bedford's* palace and tear it down. And they really did tear out of the ground the stone pillars standing on the Square, [35] from which the lamps hung, and another troop swarmed around *Spitalfields* and other districts of the town and smashed windows, some belonging to their master weavers and some to silk goods merchants whom they believed to deal in French goods. No time was lost, the King's Foot Guards and Horse Guards drew up. [40] Some 100 infantrymen occupied the front courtyard and garden of the palace belonging to the *Duc de Bedford*, and they stayed there for 4 weeks, since they were replaced by others every day. Outside around the palace, on the Square, at *Spitalfields* and in other streets, there were *cavalry*, and a troop of the latter patrolled through the town day and night. [45] A representative of the King came to read out the Act, but he was hindered by the people, for everyone has to disband as soon as the Act has been read, because anyone who loiters and does not go home has *ipso facto* sentenced himself to death and is immediately hanged. So the *mob* or plebs did not want to allow it to be read. [50] On this occasion, many people were trampled by horses and wretchedly run down, shoved and miserably beaten. The *mob* threw stones at the *cavalry* and there was abominable noise. Finally, *Lord Halifax*⁶ was so bold as to make *propositions* to the people and the crowd was finally dispersed with

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

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

³ Leopold's mixture of English and French is retained here.

⁴ BD: The Spitalfield Riots.

⁵ Duke of Bedford: BD: John Russel, 4th Duke of Bedford (1750-1771), Secretary of State and responsible for imports.

⁶ BD: George Montague Dunk, 2nd Earl of Halifax (1716-1771), Secretary of State 1762-1765.

promises, [55] as they threatened to come back more forcefully the next day. But before the end of the evening and during the night, 4 regiments moved into town, and notices were published, not only in all newspapers but also on every corner of the squares and streets, that if 12 people are seen together, all twelve will be arrested and hanged. [60] Similarly, if anyone is seen with a flag and a drum, he has earned death. All *constables* in the town, who are citizens and equivalent to our district masters,⁷ were always on the streets with their men, and the soldiers likewise. This now hindered any further formation of a *mob*. They continued with these precautions for 4 weeks. [65] Meanwhile, the export of corn was prohibited, while the general import of it was allowed, causing the price of bread to fall. Then there was also a fair amount of complaining about this. It is just the same here as in Germany: the subjects of the realm have to pay stoutly, and they therefore see to it that they sell their stuff as expensively as possible. If they get a better price abroad, it leaves the country, [70] and if a fellow countryman wants to have it, he has to pay the same price, otherwise he will not get it. In addition, the gentlemen take care to prohibit all imports so that the price of domestic goods remains fine and high and does not fall, and they consequently make big returns on their goods. We have an example of this in Austria and Hungary. How happy Austria would be, [75] along with us and all neighbours, if Hungary had free exports. On the other hand, how much lower the income of the Austrian gentry and monasteries would be if the sour Austrian wine really became cheap etc. In this regard it is good that the people and so many 1000s of honest people, who earn their bread by the sweat of their brows and who really constitute the state [80] and entirely maintain the coherence of the civic world, are not forced to languish and suffer for the sake of some 100s = = = who spend their lives in overabundance = = = but have the freedom to make representations and have the means to discover the truth, and to force the change through *aut bonis aut malis*.⁸ That was much ado! ---

[85] The second are various conflagrations with which England has generally been much troubled this year. One of the biggest was the one which broke out in *London* on the evening of 1st *Junii* between 6 and 7 o'clock. The fire started in the workhouse where the tarry material for shipbuilding for caulking the ships is boiled. This workhouse is more like a ship's workshop close to the ships on the shore. [90] A cauldron full of such tarry material was on the fire at just the moment when some bear-tamers were displaying the skills of their bears in the next street. Not last to join the other inquisitive persons were those who were supervising this ill-fated boil-up. They all ran off; meanwhile, this burning material overflowed, [95] created a hellish fire, spread to all inflammable material and the wooden house itself, consuming it along with 2 ships which happened to be close by. And since it was unfortunately just ebb tide and the water consequently far away, and the wind was blowing towards the town, the ships, which were standing on the dry sand, could not be saved. The flames, [100] which the wind blew towards the buildings, took hold of the buildings so violently that over 140 houses lay in ashes the next morning. The total damage apparently amounts to over 150,000 pounds *sterling*.⁹ A general collection was therefore organised immediately for those affected, whose furnishings were not insured, and in a very short time so much money was collected that all these people have been fully compensated. [105] I must tell you that there are *insurance offices* here where everything that one has is guaranteed. For this, one pays a tiny annual sum à proportion to one's property, and if someone who has had his property *insured* suffers the misfortune of his property catching fire, everything is replaced in cash by the *insurance offices* down to the last penny. [110] Accordingly, all houses, not only in and around *London* but in the whole country as well, are insured. This great fire was about 2 hours away from my lodgings, viz. across the *Thames*. The street is

⁷ "Viertelmeister".

⁸ For better or for worse.

⁹ BD: ≈ 1 200 000 florins.

called *Rotherhude*.¹⁰ Many people first heard about it from the newspapers, and anyone who does not read them first learned about it 5, 6 or more days later. From this you can gather how large *London* is. — [115] The 2nd conflagration was significantly nearer. It started about 10 o'clock in the evening. It was about as far away from us as in Salzburg from Mülln to the *Theatine* gentlemen. We were just having supper with the Saxon ambassador, Count von Brühl,¹¹ at the time when the fire was most severe and a servant gave us news of it. Although only 6 houses and a few stables burned down, [120] the fire was nevertheless exceptionally terrifying, and it was the greatest good fortune that the wind was blowing towards the Thames and the place itself was close to the Thames and enough water was available. One of our acquaintances and friends, *Msr. Birch*,¹² lost 3 fine horses, 2 coaches, most of the requisites and much forage which was in the stable.

[125] By the way, some very pleasant news has reached here, namely that on the 23rd *Octob.*, 1764 the King's troops and the India *Company* gained a complete victory over the King of *Indosten*¹³ and his *vizier*¹⁴ [: which consisted of 50000 men :] – a victory for which no-one in Salzburg gives a pipe of *tobacco*, and is pleasing only to the English seafarers and merchants. [130] — — Now for something else. I ask you, immediately after receiving this letter, to have 6 Holy Masses read, 2 at the Holy Child in Loreto, 2 in the parish, and 2 at Maria Plain.¹⁵ These are to help to prepare the way across the sea for us. Then I would ask you to have a look at the heating oven in our apartment, for you know that the middle chimney¹⁶ has been much used, [135] and the heating ovens in all 3 rooms are moreover full of cracks. Now there is still time to get them into good order or, if necessary, even to get rid of them, although I do not like the new ovens at all, especially since we are now no longer accustomed to ovens at all.¹⁷ Please also have the locks on the doors of all 3 rooms seen to, [140] especially since the lock on the door of the children's room will be fairly bad, and we have had no key for the lock at the room at the front for years now. Our dear Frau Hagenauer once sent a message to us via Herr Johannes¹⁸ that she hoped we will not stay in London for ever. From my request¹⁹ she will see that I am anticipating sitting by a warm oven in Salzburg. [145] I know, of course, that you wish to see all of us again soon and in good health. I wish the same with all my heart. But nothing can happen before its time, and since I am in fact on the road and my children are still young and we will perhaps never come into these regions again in our lifetimes, one would have to take us straight to St. Sebastian Spital²⁰ [150] on our driving into in the town of Salzburg if we turned aside from good locations which are profitable for us and, *mal à propos*,²¹ sought to tear up money, entirely needlessly and with undue haste and to our greatest disadvantage. Yes, to a certain extent it would not even be possible. My request is that I should simply be left to get on with what I started with God and, with His help, bring it to an end. [155] I hope everything will turn out well when we reach the finishing touches.

¹⁰ BD: Rotherhithe Street, south of the Thames.

¹¹ "grafen v Brühl": BD: Hans Moritz, Graf Brühl zu Martinskirch (1736-1809), diplomat and astronomer (cf. No. 0099/135). After marrying Lady Egremont in 1767, he settled in London for the rest of his life.

¹² BD: Thomas Birch (1705-1766), personal chaplain to Princess Amalia and one of the first curators of the British Museum in London.

¹³ BD: Hindustan.

¹⁴ BD: The Battle of Buxar, in which the power of the Moguls was decisively broken.

¹⁵ A recurrent theme in many of Leopold's letters, most recently at the end of No. 0096.

¹⁶ BD: For the middle room.

¹⁷ BD: In France and England the heating is usually with open fires.

¹⁸ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 that his aged mother then took over the business.

¹⁹ BD: The request to check the state of the ovens.

²⁰ BD: Those treated there included the mentally ill.

²¹ = "quite inappropriately".

God does not abandon an honest German. — I believe that after leaving Paris I asked my friend *Msr. Grimm*²² to send a quantity of the copper engravings of the portraits²³ to you in Salzburg. But, since I heard nothing more about it, I finally enquired of him again²⁴ and he answered²⁵ me that I had never said anything about it. [160] I therefore wrote²⁶ to him that he should send you a great quantity, so you now know what it is if something arrives. You will no doubt present one of them to our Most Gracious Lord²⁷ etc. — These engravings were painted when the boy was 7 and the girl 12 years old, immediately after our arrival in Paris. [165] *Msr. Grimm* was the instigator of this, and each copy cost 24 *sols*, or more than 30 kreuzers,²⁸ in Paris. I imagine one will not get more than 15 kreuzers per copy in Germany. Once you receive them, you might at your convenience send 30 copies to Herr Lotter,²⁹ book printer and music dealer in Augsburg, and 30 copies to Frau or Herr Haffner,³⁰ lutenist in Nuremberg, [170] and tell them that they should sell each copy for 15 kreuzers and send you a receipt.

N.B. When Herr Wallner³¹ travels from Berchtesgarden to Frankfurt, I would ask you to tell him he should call on Herr Otto,³² organist at the church of Discalced Carmelites, regarding money. Or Herr Polis³³ can also collect the money via a certain Herr Pfeil,³⁴ [175] language teacher in Frankfurt. Herr Otto is an honest man, but already old and ill. One must therefore collect the money wherever one can. I ask you this most urgently. My wife and children, along with myself, commend ourselves from the heart and wish you good health at all times and well-being in every way. I am as always³⁵

[180] N.B. Anyone wishing to buy beautiful men's or women's watch-chains, shoe-buckles etc. [: of steel and *tombac* :], wick-trimmers etc. should wait until I arrive, and other things.

P.S. I ask you, if you please, to reply, for I suspect you should have one thing or another to tell me. Address the letter to *Calais* as follows, [185] and then I will get it safely via my friend, whether I am on the left or the right.

À Monsieur

*Monsieur Mozart chez Msr. Carpentier à Calais
Procureur du Roy et de l'Admirauté en France*³⁶

²² BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Graf Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0083/154; the portrait done in Paris.

²⁴ BD: No. 0097a (lost).

²⁵ BD: No. 0097b (lost).

²⁶ BD: No. 0097c (lost).

²⁷ "unserm gnädigsten Herren". BD: The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

²⁸ BD: In No. 0073/78-79, Leopold deemed sols and kreuzers equivalent.

²⁹ BD: To Johann Jacob Lotter, cf. No. 0001.

³⁰ BD: The Nuremberg publisher Johann Ulrich Haffner (1711-1767). He had probably been a music dealer in Nuremberg before 1742, when he opened his publishing business.

³¹ BD: Probably Andreas Wallner († 1797), spice merchant. Married a sister of Siegmund Haffner jr. Was involved in selling Leopold's violin method.

³² BD: Cf. No. 0065/12.

³³ BD: Lorenz Joseph Polis von Moulin (c. 1720-1794). Merchant, later agent for the Archbishop of Salzburg. Related by his two marriages to the Salzburg families Agliardi(s) and Robing von Rottenfeld, by his daughters' marriages to the families Zezi, von Amann, and Berchtold zu Sonnenburg.

³⁴ BD: French teacher, cf. No. 0065/15.

³⁵ BD: Left unsigned.

³⁶ = "To Monsieur Mozart, c/o Msr. Carpentier [cf. No. 0086/10-11], procurer to the King and to the Admiralty at Calais in France".