

*Monsieur!*The Hague, 19th *Sept.* 1765.

You receive here a letter from The Haag,³ but not from the Haag by Munich, nor from the Haag which lies near Lambach in Austria. No! – but from The Haag in Holland. This will of course seem quite odd to you, [5] all the more so because you at least wished, if you did not in fact believe, that we would now perhaps no longer be so far apart, but instead nearer. Even if not yet near you, we would nevertheless already have left Holland again, except that an indisposition, which befell first of all my Wolfgang and then myself in *Lille*, held us up for 4 weeks. [10] But now you must hear everything about the event that brought us to Holland, since I had never intended to go to Holland, but rather to Milan and back home via Venice. The Dutch ambassador in *London* urged us several times to go the Prince⁴ of *Orange* in The Hague. But I let it go in one ear and out the other. [15] We got ourselves ready for departure, and I had so little thought of going to Holland that I sent all our furs in a case, along with other things, to *Paris*. But after we really had set off and really had departed from *London* on the 24th of *July*, we stayed in *Canterbury* for a day and stayed until the end of the month on the country estate of an English court gentleman⁵ in order to see the horse-racing. [20] The Dutch ambassador drove to our quarters on the very day of our departure and learned that we had left for the horse-racing in *Canterbury* and would then leave England. He was with us in no time, and begged me at all costs to go to The Hague, as the Princess of Weilburg,⁶ the sister of the Prince of *Orange*, [25] had such an extraordinary longing to see this child, of whom she had heard and read so very much. In brief, he and everyone said so much to me, and the proposition was so good, that I had to decide all the faster because, as you know, one should not deny a pregnant woman anything.

[30] *N.B.* It was not the ambassador who was pregnant, but the Princess. Accordingly, I left England on 1st *August* and we sailed from *Dover* after 10 o'clock in the morning, had the finest weather and such a good wind that we went on land in *Calais* 3½ hours later and took our midday meal with a healthy stomach since we were not sick at all during the crossing. [35] Now our intention was to spend the month of *August* in Holland, to reach *Paris* towards the end of *August* and then to progress little by little until we had the *Untersberg*⁷ in view. In *Calais*, our company was the *Duchesse de Montmorency* and the *Prince de Croy*, and I went from there to *Dunkirk*, [40] a place I wanted to see because of the port and the endless dispute between England and France regarding the demolition of the fortifications. The square is very beautiful, the streets are on the whole large, and most of the houses are clean. A handsome exchange, a strong merchants' company and, unfortunately, the finest fortifications already torn down. I say: Unfortunately! because it is painful to see such fine works, [45] which cost so much money, being demolished. For all that, the English were not yet satisfied, and the complaint in England was always that the structures had not all been demolished as had

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Sometime landlord and friend to the Mozart family.

³ The Hague.

⁴ "Prinz". BD: Willem V of Orange.

⁵ BD: Cf. Nos. 0099/138-139; 0100/20-22.

⁶ "Prinzessin". BD: Caroline von Nassau-Weilburg (1743-1787), daughter of Wilhelm IV. Very musical, praised by Schubart (1739-1791) ["She was previously an outstanding singer, certain physical reasons letter to abandon singing and devote herself entirely to the clavier. She immediately plays difficult concertos by Schobert, Bach, Vogler, Beecké and others with ease. She is always successful in the Allegro and Presto, but never in the Adagio and Largo: for, because of the excessive irritability of her nerves, she abhors everything sad. She has good people in her orchestra."]. The piano/violin sonatas KV 26-31 were dedicated to her. Mozart visited her in 1778 with Fridolin and Aloisia Weber.

⁷ BD: Mountain on the edge of Salzburg.

apparently been agreed in the terms of the peace treaty. Accordingly, a commission was formed, where the *Duc de Choiseul*⁸ from France and the *Duc de Bedford*⁹ were to meet together in *Dunkirk* and look into the matter. [50] We drove to *Lille*, a destination which *Chevalier de Mezières*, commandant in *Dunkirk*, had persuaded us to visit. There, too, we found an attractive and well-built town, a large population and a fair amount of commerce, and we had the opportunity to see the *Duc de Choiseul's* 5 regiments training under fire and performing the finest military exercises. To me, it is something especially noteworthy that the Frenchmen are now better in their military exercises than they used to be. [55] But they were not better than the 2 German regiments: the Swiss and the Nassau. Otherwise the daily parade was one of the finest that I have yet seen. Now comes another proof that our human plans are absolutely vacuous. [60] In *Lille* a very severe catarrh befell Wolfgang, and while he was improving somewhat after a couple of weeks, it was my turn. I was taken with a dizziness which was quite exceptional. When I lay stretched out in bed, everything was in order around me. As soon as I got myself upright, everything went topsy-turvy, and I could not take 3 steps across the room alone. [65] The effect was that if I attempted to force myself to stay upright, I had to vomit. Since I did not know whether it had its origin in the stomach or the head, I took a *laxative*, then took a foot bath and, in short, defended myself against two enemies at once. But this put us back by 4 weeks, [70] and I left *Lille* half-well and half-ill and arrived at *Ghent* not yet much better, staying there only one day. *Ghent* is a large but not heavily populated place. In the afternoon, Wolfg. played on the large *organ* at the *Bernardine* Fathers etc. We stayed in *Antwerp* for two days because of the Sunday. Wolfgang played on the large organ in the cathedral church. *N.B.* One finds thoroughly well-built *organs* in *Flanders* and *Brabant*. [75] The main thing to mention specially, however, would be the choicest paintings here. *Antwerp* in particular is the place for this. We traipsed round all the churches. I have never seen more black and white marble and an abundance of splendid paintings, especially by *Rubens*, than I have here and in *Brussels*. [80] Above all, the Deposition of Christ from the Cross in the big church in *Antwerp* is a piece by *Rubens* which surpasses all imagination. In *Antwerp*, I left my coach and took a coach from the postmaster as far as beyond *Mordyk*,¹⁰ where we drove across a small arm of the sea, and on the other side coaches to *Rotterdam* are already prepared. In *Rotterdam* one takes a seat in a little boat and is taken as far as or, rather, to the inn. [85] Now, that was a fine day's journey from *Antwerp* to *Rotterdam*, viz. from half past 6 in the morning to 8 o'clock in the evening. We were only half a day in *Rotterdam*, then sailed in a *trek schuyt*¹¹ to *The Hague*, and we were already there by 8 o'clock in the evening. Now I have to confess to you that I would be sorry if I had not seen Holland, for, [90] from what I have seen of all the towns of Europe, most resemble each other. But both the villages and towns in Holland are entirely different from all the other towns of Europe. It would take too long to describe them. Suffice to say that their cleanliness |: which seems too exaggerated to many of us :| pleases me very much indeed, [95] and I only wish to remark that I beheld the statue of the famous *Erasmus* in the square in *Rotterdam* with pleasure. We have been at *The Hague* for 8 days now, we were with the Princess twice and once with the Prince of *Orange*, who sent his equipage both to collect us and take us home. But my daughter was not with us, [100] for now it was her turn, and she had a very severe chest catarrh which she is now beginning to get rid of. As soon as she is better, we must go to the Prince of *Orange* again and to the Princess of *Weilburg* and to the Duke¹² of *Wolfenbüttel*. -- The journey is paid for. -- But we have to wait and see who is going to pay for the return journey, for I would prefer not to touch the money I have in *Amsterdam*. [105] -- From the whole course of developments,

⁸ BD: The leading minister in France

⁹ BD: John Russel, 4th Duke of Bedford (1710-1771), Secretary of State.

¹⁰ BD: Moerdijk; on the following events cf. No. 1212/130 ff.

¹¹ BD: *Trekshuit*, Dutch boat.

¹² "Herzog".

you will now see that the 2 letters from *Msr. Joseph*¹³ and yourself only reached *London* after our departure. Your 3rd letter |: undated :| was received in *Lille*, to where *Msr. Carpentier* had forwarded it. Since you informed me in the 3rd letter about 2 others, [110] I immediately suspected that *Msr. Teissier*¹⁴ will have sent these to *Amsterdam*. As soon as I reached *The Hague*, I wrote to my banker in *Amsterdam* and received both letters, along with a note from *Msr. Teissier*, the following day. The information from the newspaper communicated to me by a page is the truth. I thank Herr Joseph for his polite lines to me and am glad about his successful return home. [115]

To all good friends I return the *compliments* 1000 times. – – That my letter reached you having been opened and then closed again is more than odd to me. I handed it into the post in *London* myself: *London* is one place where it did not happen. – – The most essential thing I have to say to you now, sir, is that, via *Msr. Teissier*, I have had a very large box or crate sent to you by way of Hamburg. [120] Sig: *L. M.* I do not know when it will now arrive |: if it has not arrived already :|. *Msr. Teissier* informs me that the same has left for Hamburg on the ship *Wilhelmus* with *Captain Adrian Janssen*. I would have found it better if his letter had told me to whom he had addressed it in Hamburg. [125] There are all kinds of things in it: just leave it unopened until we get there, and likewise see to it that it does not end up anywhere which is simply too damp, although whatever polished steel there is in it is well packed. – – Now, it is also necessary for you to buy a good bureau for me. [130] I mean like yours, with good, large drawers. In short, a fine and good desk, even if it is expensive. Where else am I to put all the plunder? – – Once you have received this letter, I ask you to reply to *Amsterdam* and to add: “*Chez M^{srs}. Jean Néel et Fils à Amsterdam*”.¹⁵ If I am no longer there, he will send the letter on to me. [135] The word *Neel* above has run together, so I write it out here again. I commend myself to you and to all Salzburg and am, sir, yours as always.

P.S. My wife would have me ask you to arrange for 6 Holy Masses to be read, namely 3 at Saint Johann of Nepomuk in the parish, then 1 at Maria Plain, 1 at Loreto at the Holy Child, and 1 in honour of Saint Walburga,¹⁶ wherever you want to have it read. [140]

News of the death of the *Emperor*¹⁷ reached us in *Lille* on 26th August. Before we left *London*, I learned that General Platz¹⁸ had died. But I find nothing about it in the *lista* by Herr Johannes.

Our esteemed *novellista* Johannes¹⁹ furthermore says, in his 2nd chapter, that Herr Franz Gschwendner,²⁰ [145] Herr Joseph Hagenauer had arrived from Italy. But he gives no news of *Mad.^{me} Fesemayr*.²¹ Is she still in Venice? – – – *tanto meglio!*²² – –

Make sure to give the best compliments and congratulations to esteemed Court Counsellor Gilowsky²³ from us all. It will be an infinite pleasure to see him well again. [150]

¹³ BD: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792). The latter was friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

¹⁴ BD: London banker and friend, frequently mentioned in the correspondence.

¹⁵ “*c/o M^{srs}. Jean Néel and son in Amsterdam*”

¹⁶ BD: Leopold has sent more or less identical instructions on several occasions in the past, e.g. Nos. 0088/137 ff., 0091/29 ff.

¹⁷ BD: Kaiser Franz I, husband of Maria Theresia, died suddenly on 18th August, 1765.

¹⁸ BD: Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Plaz (1677-1767), Imperial master of the field armaments.

¹⁹ 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. As a “novelist” he obviously supplied Leopold with local news. Leopold's formulation sounds liturgical, as in “In the gospel of St. John in the 2nd chapter”.

²⁰ BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner (1740-1800), city councillor and merchant in Salzburg. Married (second marriage) Maria Cäcilia Schnürer (1751-1825) in January 1769; she bore a daughter in 1795, fathered illegitimately by Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Arco, High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister].

²¹ BD: Actually “Mdlle.”. One of the various musicians sent to Italy by the Salzburg court for further training, cf. No. 0082/14.

²² = “All the better!”

It is very good that we are not yet near Salzburg, because there are so many packs of thieves in the country. Just make sure that it becomes safe, otherwise we will stay away even longer. – and how are things with the new gate?²⁴ – – I always thought I would drive in by the new gate.

[155] Why did Herr Estlinger²⁵ not simply wait until we came so that we could dance at his wedding? – – We congratulate him. Old love does not rust! He still treasured an old bass fiddle, although he had a newer one. Oh, how often he patched it up! – – – – If my old, honest travelling coach gets me back home happily, it will have played its part. [160] It makes me a little wistful when I look back at our journey. *Ma foi*,²⁶ it is quite an ambulation.

²³ “Herrn Hofrath”. BD: Joseph Anton Ernst Gilowsky von Urazowa (1739-1789), engineer, cousin of the “Katherl” mentioned frequently in the correspondence.

²⁴ BD: The “Neutor” city gate in Salzburg was opened by Archbishop Siegmund Christoph on 26th June, 1766, but not made available to the general public until 1774.

²⁵ BD VII: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional “factotum” to the Mozarts. He married the 51-year-old miller's daughter Elisabeth Sutor († 1770), cf. No. 0035/43.

²⁶ = “Upon my faith!”