

0108.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO LORENZ HAGENAUER,² SALZBURG

Monsieur!

Paris, 16th Maii, 1766

You will certainly be left in quite astonishing wonderment that you have not received any letter from me for such a long time.³ Nor would I have left you without some news of our circumstances [5] if I had not been assured that you will have received news at least twice via Herr Kulman⁴ from *Amsterdam*. The only reason why I have so far not written such a precise description of Holland to you and my friends as I did with France and England was the illness of my children. From *Amsterdam* we went back to *The Hague* again, [10] where there was the *Prince of Orange's* celebration⁵ |: which was on 11th March and lasted some time :|, where our little composer was requested to write 6 sonatas for the *clavier* with accompaniment for *violin*⁶ for the *Prince's* sister, namely for the *Princess of Nassau-Weilburg*,⁷ and which were engraved at once. Beyond that, he had to write something for the *Prince's concert*, [15] as well as *compose arias* for the *Princess* etc. All of this will be made manifest on our arrival. I have asked Herr Kulman to send a small box to you in Salzburg. As soon as it arrives, please open it and look there for the small, broad packet with "*Musica*" on it, which is not sealed. In it you will find 2 copies of the *sonatas* engraved in *The Hague*.⁸ Take one of these, complete with the pertinent *violin* part, and have both the *clavier* and *violin* parts specially bound and then presented most submissively to His High Princely Grace⁹ etc. etc. in the name of all of us. There are furthermore two different sets of *variations*¹⁰ in the packet in question, [25] which Wolfgang had to compose on an *aria* |: which was written for the coming of age and installation of the *prince* :| and one set written in haste on another melody, which is sung, tooted, and whistled¹¹ by everyone in Holland. – – These are trifles! If you include a copy of each, it will be for their value as rarities. [30] I will have the honour of laying before you my *violin* method in the Dutch language.¹² Before my eyes, this book was translated into Dutch, and in the same format, by esteemed Dutch gentlemen, dedicated to the Prince, and presented at his installation celebration. The edition is uncommonly beautiful, and even more beautiful than my own. [35] The publisher |: the book-printer in Haarlem :| came to me with a reverential expression on his face and handed the book over to me in the company of the

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 BD: Although it cannot be ruled out that No. 0107 represents a lost letter, it seems there had been a long break in the correspondence.

⁴ BD: The merchant Ku(h)lman mentioned in No. 0105/86.

⁵ BD: The Mozarts played a very active role in the celebrations. Leopold presented a Dutch translation of his violin school with a dedication to the Prince (William V of Orange); Wolfgang composed KV 24, KV 25 (both variations on Dutch melodies) and KV 32, the latter taking the theme of KV 25 for the final fugue; on 11th March, 1766, the children played at court.

⁶ BD: KV 26-31, published in Den Haag as Opus IV.

⁷ "Prinzessin". BD: Caroline von Nassau-Weilburg (1743-1787), daughter of Wilhelm IV. Very musical. The piano/violin sonatas KV 26-31 were dedicated to her. Mozart later visited her from Mannheim in 1778 with Fridolin and Aloisia Weber.

⁸ BD: The piano/violin sonatas KV 26-31.

⁹ "Seiner Hochfürstlichen Gnaden". 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.

¹⁰ BD: KV 24 and 25, variations on two Dutch folksongs.

¹¹ BD VII: Cf. Nos. 0381/97; 1022/20-21.

¹² BD: Published by Joannes Enschedé, 1766.

organist, who invited our Wolfgang to play on Haarlem's large and so famous *organ*, which then took place the following morning between 10 and 11 o'clock.

It is a splendidly beautiful construction of 68 registers. N.B. all in tin, for wood does not last long in this damp country.¹³ [40]

It would be too much of a digression to describe our journey from Holland by way of *Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam*, over the *Maas*, then over an arm of the sea by *Mordyk*¹⁴ to *Antwerp*. It would be even more impossible to describe the present depressed state of the once very major trading town *Antwerp* and to go into the reasons for this. [45] We shall speak of this when we meet. We went via *Mechel[e]n*, where we visited our old acquaintance, the eminent Archbishop there, and on to *Brussels*, where we rested for only one day, leaving there with the post at 9 o'clock in the morning and reaching *Valenciennes* at half past 7 in the evening. [50] In *Brussels* we took a little lace for our needs, and in *Valenciennes* we took some *batiste* or *cambric* linen cloth with us for our use, namely one piece plain and one piece flowered. In *Valenciennes* I saw the ornately-worked clock at the town hall, and in *Cambrai* I looked at the tomb of the great *Fénélon*¹⁵ and the column with the marble bust. [55] He made himself immortal with his *Télémaque*, his book on the Education of Daughters, his Dialogues of the Dead, his Fables and other spiritual and secular writings. Then we proceeded without stopping to *Paris*, where we have taken the accommodation reserved for us by our friend *Msr. Grimm*.¹⁶ How our lodgings are, and what it costs, [60] I will save for a verbal account. — — —

I would ask you to reply to me immediately upon receipt of this letter, so that I still get your letter before our departure. Please address it:

À Msr. Mozart, chez Msr: Grimm Secrétaire des commandements de Msgr. le Duc d'Orleans, Rue Neuve de Luxembourg. [65]

à

Paris

We found our baggage here in good condition, God be praised, and, since we once again have to go dressed in black here,¹⁷ one sees how much my children have grown.¹⁸ [70] We are all well, unending thanks be to God, and commend ourselves from the heart to your dear wife and all who belong to you and to all our good friends. No-one in Salzburg will recognise Wolfgangerl at first glance anymore. We have been away for a good stretch of time now, and he has meanwhile seen and got to know many 1000s of people. [75] From here I will send a large chest and then a somewhat smaller one and, almost certainly, a small box as well. Beside my daily tasks, getting all these things in order is yet another burden. Only those who has gone through it can know this. We are taking with us, in addition to all this, our large chest, a small one as well, [80] then a large coat-bag and 2 seat trunks, besides having the boot full of baggage. We reached here one day after the beheading of *Msr. de Lally*, former *viceroi* in *Pondichéry*.¹⁹ You will probably have read about the whole matter in the

¹³ BD: Not accurate, for the organ builder Friederichs later replaced some tin pipes by wooden ones.

¹⁴ BD: Moerdijk, cf. No. 0102/82.

¹⁵ BD: De la Mothe-Fénélon (1651-1715), Archbishop of Cambrai and tutor to the grandchildren of Louis XIV.

¹⁶ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), who had accommodated them at the end of their first stay in Paris. 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.

¹⁷ Presumably there had been a death in the Royal family. Leopold had already had to have black clothes made during the first stay in Paris; now they no longer fit well.

¹⁸ BD: Grimm and Beda write that Mozart had hardly grown during the journey.

¹⁹ BD: French possessions in India. Thomas-Arthur, Comte de Lally (1702-1766) was declared a traitor after a military defeat there.

newspapers. My dearest Herr Hagenauer! We met a Salzburg man²⁰ in *Amsterdam* who became a *Calvinist* due to certain circumstances. [85] I wished for nothing more dearly than to bring him back onto a better path. I spared myself no pains. That took me back to *Amsterdam* again. That kept me in Holland longer. And perhaps I would have achieved my goal, only there was one thing standing in the way. Do not bother thinking about it: you could not guess who it is, [90] even though you knew him during his time there and still know all his relatives. It is too long ago! I will not name him as long as I still have a some spark of hope. Great God! What confusion he was in when he left us! The most bitter tears prevented him from speaking. How many restless hours burdened with thought this person has caused me! [95] These are the fruits when they persuade young people to choose an estate which is contrary to their calling. Sorry consequences! – – By so many examples which I have encountered on my travels I have been confirmed in my steadfastly-held opinion that it is very noxious, indeed a business of pure soul-selling, to make young people take vows in an order before their 25th birthday. [100] If the highest church leader and all prelates of the church |: I do not mean the prelates of the monasteries :| wandered through England, Holland and Switzerland etc. and were informed in detail about everything, they would not lose a day in postponing the taking of vows in orders to the 25th year of age. England, and Holland in particular, [105] are teeming with unhappy people of this kind. I will count out a crowd of them to you on my fingers, and you should not imagine that they are all dissolute fellows. Oh, I know many who are unmarried, who have not even changed their religion, and who lead a most edifying life in every way. It is impossible to write of the matter exactly as it is. [110] I will have to save it for our personal conversing. My heart bleeds every time I think about things like this. Why not, then, fix it at 25 years of age?: because a number of rich candidates or a many a good person would in the meantime examine their calling better and recognise that they, one with his money and the other with his clever head, are of more use not to a [115] dead body but to a living, general state, and would fulfil their callings better. Do not take my fervour the wrong way. I love people and their peace, and my heart is oppressed when I see a person who is to spend his whole lifetime miserable and burdened and, in addition, even has to expect an unhappy eternity. Let us speak of something else! [120]

Did Herr Otto²¹ in Frankfurt never pay anything via Herr Waller?²² I must now seek to collect everything bit by bit, from Frankfurt, from Nuremberg, from Augsburg, *London*, *Paris* etc., so that I get everything into order. *À propos*, has esteemed godfather P.²³ in the meantime already sent in the half-dozen silver knives, spoons and forks? [125] No! No! But he will no doubt have it all ready so as to greet us with it on our arrival. He cannot be anything other than very touched to have held such children, who are causing such a stir in the world, at Holy Baptism. I have bought various things for our use, but as far as what is mentioned above is concerned, [130] I was relying entirely on the promise of our godfather. Give him our *compliments*! You are completely amazed at this utterance of mine, so absolutely contrary to my usual character, aren't you? But just reflect: I am coming back direct from Holland! Everyone takes something with him from each country, and one learns nothing better in Holland than serving one's own interests. [135] Now, you might also like to know when we intend to reach Salzburg? If it had gone according to our ideas, we would have been home long ago. And now that we are in *Paris* it seems to us, measured by the proportions of our previous journeys, as if we are already half-way home. You are right that we are staying here

²⁰ BD: Father Vincenzo Castiglione, cf. No. 0105/75. Cf. Leopold's attempts to convert Sipurtino in No. 0092/107 ff.

²¹ BD: David Otto, organist of the Church of the Discalced Carmelites in Frankfurt. Cf. No. 0065/15 and the sale of copies of Leopold's violin school.

²² BD: Probably Andreas Waller († 1797), spice merchant, married into the Haffner family.

²³ BD: Johann Gottlieb Pergmayr (1709-1787), merchant and city councillor in Salzburg. Godfather of Wolfgang and of the elder, deceased brothers Johann Leopold Joachim and Johann Karl Amadeus.

a short time, [140] so I ask you to write to me soon so that the letter still reaches me here. But, if it happens that I am gone, our friend *Msr. Grimm* will certainly send the letter on to me. It will be readily appreciated that we will not be able to mount the coach immediately and drive to Salzburg as the crow flies. It would be too onerous for my children and my purse. [145] There are some who are going to pay something towards this journey²⁴ who do not yet know anything about it. Enough! We will do what we can to get back home soon. In the meantime, lay us before the feet of His High Princely Grace²⁵ etc. etc. Commend us to our friends, and be assured that we are looking forward impatiently to the moment when I can tell you in person, sir, that I am unchangeably yours.

[150] In haste I tell you that Herr Kulman is a well-situated man; everything else in person. We simply wish to see how it turns out for us in Salzburg.²⁶
I will give you some more news when we get closer.

²⁴ Concerts must be arranged at stops along the way.

²⁵ “Seiner Hochfürstlichen Gnaden”.

²⁶ BD: Leopold was no doubt hoping for promotion on his return to Salzburg.