

*Monsieur!*Lyon, 16. Août³, 1766

Do not be alarmed that I am writing to you from *Lyon*. By the time you receive this letter, we will long have found out, with God's help, what Geneva and Genevan pocket-watches look like,⁴ for we depart from here in 2 or 3 days. [5] We went from *Paris* to *Dijon* in *Burgundy*, where we stayed for a fortnight.

This happened because of the *Prince of Condé*,⁵ who engaged us to come here because of the Assembly of the Estates of *Burgundy*,⁶ which only happens every three years. I wanted to write to you before we left Paris, but it was impossible. [10] It is always when you get towards the final stages before a journey that there is the most to be done. Have you received the 2 chests and the crate covered with waxed cloth, which I handed in to the bankers *Popelier* and *Eberts* in Paris? If it is not yet in your hands, it must arrive soon, for I handed it over on 9th *Julii* at 5 o'clock in the evening, [15] and we left *Paris* around 8 o'clock with 6 post horses. I have not neglected to drink to the health of you and yours from a glass – – – no, from several glasses of *Burgundy*, for you know that I am a grim boozier. Oh, how often I wished that that wine, which was served up to us in superfluity, could be wished into the cellar of a good friend in Salzburg. [20] At least I have now seen with my own eyes the very source from which the good *Burgundian* wine is drawn, and if we are taken by the desire to drink, it costs no more than a short letter, and there it is! I almost had the desire to order a small vat which holds around 240 bottles. And if you want wares from Lyon, I now also know where one must turn: [25] I have made enough acquaintances and friends in the last 3 weeks. For my wife, my daughter and *maestro* Wolfgang, I have had new clothes made, nor have I forgotten myself. The silk wares may be somewhat expensive at the moment, but one should not have visited *Lyon*⁷ for nothing. In Geneva, we will probably stay for at least a fortnight, [30] then we travel through Switzerland via *Lausanne* and Berne and beyond.⁸ But I do not know if we will leave to the right, via Zurich, or to the left, via Basel. From there we go directly via Ulm to Tisingen to His Highness Prince *Taxis*,⁹ as he arranged with *Msr. Becke*,¹⁰ whom we met in *Paris* and who will also be there. [35] Then I hope to meet His Serenity¹¹ the Bishop of Augsburg, either in Dillingen¹² or Augsburg, and after a short paying

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 = "August". BD: The Mozart family was in Lyon for four weeks from approx. 26th July. The children gave a concert on 13th August, although this is mentioned neither by Leopold (No. 0111) nor Nannerl (No. 1212). A certain Johann Rudolph Forcart, however, wrote to Isaac Iselin in Basel about it.

⁴ BD: Hübner's diary records that Leopold brought nine such watches back to Salzburg with him.

⁵ BD: Louis-Joseph de Bourbon, Prince de Condé (1736-1818), of a collateral line of the Bourbons. Highly educated and a proven military officer. Cf. No. 0074/45..

⁶ BD: The meetings of the provincial estates, like the general estates, remained relatively meaningless until the revolution.

⁷ BD VII: Lyon has been the centre of the silk industry in France since the 15th century.

⁸ BD: The journey did indeed go as planned.

⁹ "Fürst Taxis" (in Dischingen). BD: Alexander Ferdinand, Prince [Fürst] Thurn und Taxis (1704-1773), ruling prince from 1739-1773.

¹⁰ BD: Norgger Ignaz Franz von Beecke (1733-1803), keyboard player, later superintendent of music in Wallerstein, cf. No. 0111/33-34. The first publication of his compositions was in Paris. He took part in a keyboard "competition" with Mozart in Munich in winter 1774/75. Mozart played some of his compositions to him in 1777 (cf. No. 037/21). They are said to have met again in Frankfurt or Mainz in 1790 and to have played a piano concerto four hands.

¹¹ "S: Durchlaut".

¹² BD: The children played in Dillingen on 4th or 5th November, 1766.

of *compliments* to His Serenity the Elector¹³ of Bavaria and to Duke¹⁴ Clement, to congratulate Frau Hagenauer on her name-day.¹⁵ But everything with God's help! – – Now you know, by the way, when we hope to arrive. [40] For what use would it have been anyway if we had raced from *Paris* to Strasbourg one or even 2 months earlier, and had used up our money without taking any in, and then we would have reached Salzburg at a time at which His High Princely Grace¹⁶ usually leaves Salzburg and makes some journeys.

[45] They have been harrying us to persuade us to travel now to the French sea-ports *Marseilles*, *Bordeaux* etc.,¹⁷ and do you not find that is something like a heroically courageous and magnanimous decision to overcome oneself by not taking the road to *Turin*, which lies before our noses? Should we not have been seduced by the natural situation, our circumstances, [50] the general acclamation of everyone and by our own desire to travel, seduced into following our noses and going to Italy and returning back home through the Tyrol at the beginning of the year, having seen the festivities of the *Ascensa*¹⁸ in Venice? Surely this is still the time where the fact that the children are so young causes astonishment in everyone? But the decision has already been made, I have promised to travel home, [55] and I will keep my promise, too. I would ask you to have a glass cabinet¹⁹ made for me, such that it fits in the place where otherwise the large armchair stands by the stove. It must therefore not be extremely large. Otherwise it will be something like yours. Furthermore, please remember to have good locks made for the small writing desk, for there is no lock on it. [60] If you choose to reply to the present letter, please address it only to Geneva as follows: à Msr. Mozart chez Msr. Huber à Genève.²⁰ My wife requests, along with her compliments, that you might get a bedstead made, such as the one that stands in the little interior chamber. But it can be left white, because it is for my girl, and we will then first of all have curtains or covers made over it. [65] As long as it is dried, good wood. Or it can also be painted brown, it is all the same. We commend ourselves to you, sir, to your whole household, and all our good friends. I must finish, the post is leaving. I am yours as ever.

I know that you are quite content with the fact that we have congratulated you in our thoughts on your name-day. Everything is the same as always. [70]

¹³ "S: Durchlaut dem Churfürsten".

¹⁴ "Herzog".

¹⁵ BD: 15th October.

¹⁶ "seine Hochfürstliche Gnaden", the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold's employer.

¹⁷ BD: There is no indication of who was making these suggestions.

¹⁸ BD: The climax of the opera season in Venice in the days around Ascension Day and including the "marriage ceremony" of Venice and the sea.

¹⁹ BD: Presumably to display items Leopold was bringing back with him.

²⁰ = "To Msr. Mozart c/o Msr. Huber at Geneva". Jean Huber (1721-1786), painter, friend of Voltaire. It was also acquainted with Grimm, from whom Leopold presumably got the address. His interest in hot air balloons was also shared by Leopold.