

0123.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO LORENZ HAGENAUER,² SALZBURGVienna, 12th January, 1768

A blessedly happy New Year!

For this is, with God, the first letter in this year! I do not doubt that you and yours are all in the best of health; at least, I hope and wish it from my heart, just as we all find ourselves very well. [5] That we stayed a fortnight in Brno³ |: where we arrived on Holy Christmas Eve :| will assuredly be known in Salzburg from the letters of Her Titled Excellency Countess von Herberstein.⁴ The acts of graciousness which we received in the house of Count Schrattenbach⁵ and the particular respect in which both His Excellency⁶ and the entire higher nobility in Brno held us is something which, in due time, [10] I shall not fail to extoll before His High Princely Grace, our gracious lord⁷ etc. We departed from Brno on the 9th. Although the exceptionally frequent falls of snow, coming on the back of the cruelly early arrival of the cold weather, covered the roads so much and the wind blew it man-high over the highways and covered them with snow, so the post sometimes failed to get through, sometimes arrived late, [15] with the post coach remaining stuck in one place for 9 hours, we nevertheless arrived happily in Poysdorff⁸ at 6 o'clock that same evening with 4 post horses. There, however, we took 6 horses and, on Sunday the 10th, left at 8 o'clock and, at 5 o'clock, were already on the *Tabor*⁹ in the hands of the inspectors, [20] who were soon finished with us. We cut through the astonishingly frequent snow so felicitously that we were never turned over, although we came very close to it a couple of times. What journeys of this kind cost can be easily imagined. Was there a cruel cold like this in Salzburg as well? And did as much snow fall? Since early today, warmer weather has come upon us, [25] and it is horrifying to see how much dirt and water there is here lying in every street, despite the fact that many 100s of carts were busy carrying the snow out of the town.

The great sleigh ride,¹⁰ which should taken place at 12 o'clock midday, was therefore cancelled. Perhaps the weather will change, [30] and I would heartily wish to see such a fine sleigh ride. There had already been two before our arrival.

That Archduchess *Carolina*¹¹ has been pronounced the Neapolitan Bride will be old news to you. As soon as there is anything new, and how my second stay here actually starts, and how long it may last, all will be reported to you as soon as possible. [35] My wife and children commend themselves and I am, sir, yours as always.

The letter¹² in which you informed us of the so unexpected death of our dear Miss Josepha¹³ was the last letter that we received from you. I did not answer it because I wrote¹⁴

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: Cf. Nos. 0122; 0123. On 30th December the children gave a concert also involving musicians from Brno.

⁴ "Tit: S:^f Excellenz Gräfin von Herberstein". BD: Maria Augusta, Countess [Gräfin] Herberstein. Her father: Franz Anton, Count [Graf] Schrattenbach (1712-1783). The Mozart did in fact travel to Brno to call on her (cf. No. 0121/39-40).

⁵ "in dem hochgräflich...". BD: Cf. No. 0121/39-40.

⁶ BD: S:^e Excellenz". BD: The Schrattenbach just mentioned.

⁷ "S:^r hochfürst: Gnaden unsern gnädigsten Herrn etc." BD: The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold's employer.

⁸ BD: Poysdorf, near Mistelbach.

⁹ BD: Originally a fortification in Vienna, became name of a customs house and then of a quarter.

¹⁰ BD: Organised by the court.

¹¹ "Erzherzogin". BD: Cf. No. 0120/33 f. Following the death of her sister.

¹² BD: No. 0121d (lost).

to the eminent Frau von *Robini*¹⁵ myself, [40] and because it was too painful for me to describe to you our feelings and the unbelievable sadness which this news caused us. *Requiescat in pace!*¹⁶

¹³ = “Miss”. BD: Robinig’s daughter Maria Josepha (1743-1767), in protracted poor health. Died 21st November. Cf. line 39.

¹⁴ BD: No. 0121e (lost).

¹⁵ “Tit: Frau von Robini”. BD: Wife of factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). Georg was a member of the air-rifle club and they were frequent guests at the Mozarts. Mozart probably wrote the Divertimento KV 334 (320b) to mark his son’s completion of studies in 1780.

¹⁶ May she rest in peace!