

Vienna, 14th December, 1768

Much as I wished and hoped to be in Salzburg for the *consecration* day of His High Princely Grace,³ it was however impossible, since we could not complete our business here, industrious though I had been. [5] Yet we shall be away from here before the holy days of Christmas⁴ and you should therefore neither write nor send anything more to us. But it is easy to note that we cannot possibly arrive for New Year's Day,⁵ since we do not want to travel by night, and it is not at all safe, but the days are very short and at this very cold time [10] it is necessary to make our journeys by day somewhat shorter. On top of that comes the fact that we will of course travel into the days of Christmas, of which we will spend the Holy Day, for example, in a good little place⁶ and will not go far on the other days either. I shall not fail to send my most obedient congratulations to His High Princely Grace, [15] and I ask Your Worthiness and Grace⁷ to pass on the same to our esteemed Father Confessor⁸ and to commend us all most obediently to His Grace. The Mass which was performed by Wolfgang on the 7th December at Herr Parhammer's⁹ in the presence of the Imperial Court,¹⁰ and at which he took the baton personally, [20] has made good what our enemies thought they could spoil by hindering the *opera*, and has convinced the court and the *public*, since the attendance was astonishing, of the malice of our opponents. I will relate more details in person. Not less important was the fine present given by Her Majesty the Empress.¹¹ We hope you are all in good health, as we are, praise God. That, at least, is what my tailor says, [25] who has had to let out all my leggings by 4 finger-breadths at the top and by a thumb-breadth down both sides, but has had to widen the waistcoats by more than the length of a man's hand, and I now have to wear my boots squashed down together, like the old German knights, since they can no longer be pulled up over my calves. [30] Herr von Schittenhofer,¹² who has visited us diligently, has suffered a similar fate. Here he is becoming strong and stout. The last letter informed us of a wedding no-one could have anticipated. As astonished as we all were at it, I could in fact understand it to an extent – if they do go indeed through with it, for the longer you think about it, a certain fickleness is to be feared. [35] The good bridegroom's choice¹³ of

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 "S:^r Hochfürstlichen Gnaden". BD: He was consecrated on 21st December, 1753. In 1768 the entertainments included a recitative and aria by Wolfgang: KV 36 (33i). See diary entries in the "Hofdiarium" and Hübner's diary.

⁴ BD: The exact date of departure is not known, but was probably after Christmas.

⁵ BD: They arrived on 5th January, 1769.

⁶ BD: They reached the monastery Kloster Melk on the evening of 28th December and travelled onwards early the next day.

⁷ "Ihro Hochwürden und Gnaden".

⁸ BD: Ferdinand Joseph Mayr (1733-1792), confessor to the Archbishop until his death in 1771.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0137/37. Dr. Ignaz Parhammer (1715-1786), from 1758 father confessor to Emperor Franz I, from 1757 in charge of the orphanage on the Rennweg with around 700 children. He divided them into battalions, companies etc. and conducted military exercises with them. He was also known in Salzburg from missionary activities: these resulted in satirical songs being sung in the streets about him and about the Archbishop.

¹⁰ BD: Present were Maria Theresia and four of the children, as well as the Archbishop of Vienna.

¹¹ "von S:^r Majestätt der Kayserin".

¹² BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach while Leopold and Wolfgang were travelling.

¹³ BD: Dr. jur. Johann Anton Chrysostomus von Geschwendtner (1701-1781), court councillor [Hofrat]. Married (second marriage) Maria Cäcilia Schnürer (1751-1825) in January 1769; she bore a daughter in 1795, fathered

a young girl matches his talk. He always said that if he were to undertake this terrible prank of getting married, he would, like David, get himself a young thing. Even Fate has its claws in this deed, for when *Mademoiselle* bride was born, [40] our bridegroom was exactly half a century old. What a coincidence! Was this not a portent? The 2 *Vestal* Virgins¹⁴ on the 2nd floor will no doubt be very content with it. The event flatters their greed for status and their pride, since their brother's daughter is becoming the wife of the oldest Court Counsellor.¹⁵ And she need not have anything better |: younger :, this is good enough! A mercy! She can be content! [45] Yes, yes, a mercy that she is getting what the others did not even look at 20 years ago. Those 2 have nothing at all! Our esteemed Administrator¹⁶ will probably be aiming, if not to make the bride the sole heiress of the esteemed groom, then at least to provide her with a fat morning gift and a respectable widow's residence. Then the *contract* will be satisfactory, and everyone content, [50] for *Mademoiselle Caecilia* wished to be a wife. The poor child! The man will live for a long time: he is terribly fond of dieting. He watches all details of his health precisely in order to be able to keep his golden fleece for a long time. One more thing: do you know the main reason why Herr von Geschwendtner decided to get married? [55] After 30 years, he felt obliged to get new evening attire, only he didn't know of any real reason for doing so. Accordingly, he decided to get married in order to have a reason for it. Or will he conceivably wear an old suit to the wedding? We all commend ourselves.

Our dearest Frau Hagenauer is humbly requested to supply us with firewood, [60] and we shall have to have a serving girl again, unless we want to light the fire ourselves and do *etc. etc.* everything else as entertainment. Everything that Frau Hagenauer is going to do is done well, even if she should take on a really beautiful girl, for my wife is not jealous at all.

illegitimately by Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Arco, High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister] in Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: Maria Regina von Wohlhaupt and Josepha Schnürer, cf. No. 0056/65-66.

¹⁵ "die älteste Hof Rathsfrau".

¹⁶ "Verwalter".