

Milan, 26th January, 1770

I received your letter¹ of the 12th safely from Herr Troger.² On the 23rd we reached Milan,³ on the 24th your letter came, and at the same time came the first communication⁴ you had sent, for which, at my request, [5] Herr Anton von Gummer⁵ sent someone to search at the post office in Botzen⁶ and had sent it on to me. You complain that you have not received a letter from me for 3 weeks, when I had in fact written to you from *Verona* and *Mantua*. You should have received the first from *Verona* already, since I handed it in at the post office on the 7th January. The 2nd could not be in Salzburg yet, for I did not post it until the 15th, in *Mantua*. [10] On the 10th we set off from *Verona* at midday and entered *Mantua* in the evening. That, I believe, I have probably told you before. I wish you could have seen the place where the invitation concert⁷ was, namely the so-called *Teatrino della Accademia Filarmonica*. I have never seen anything more beautiful of its kind in my life, [15] and, since I hope you will diligently preserve all the letters, this will be described to you in due time. It is not a theatre, but a hall built with boxes, like the *opera* houses. Where the stage ought to be, there is a raised area for the music, and behind the music, like boxes, further galleries built for the audience. The press of the crowd, – the acclamations, clapping, noise and *bravo* after *bravo*, [20] – in short, I cannot adequately describe to you the general shouting and the admiration expressed by the audience.

I do not doubt that in the meantime some news will have come to Salzburg not only from *Roveredo*,⁸ but also from *Verona* and *Mantua*. Please inform His Excellency Count and the Countess von *Arco*,⁹ [25] with my compliments, that we were shown all graciousness and courtesy in the house of Count *Eugenio Arco* in *Mantua*¹⁰. On the other hand, we did not have the good fortune to be granted an audience with the *Prince* of *Taxis*.¹¹ That she had letters she had to write: – I have already told you that in my letter from *Mantua*.¹² The following day, we went there in the morning, but they were both at church. [30] We likewise went to the church and, when they drove home, we followed the coach at about 50 paces behind so that, when we were in the house, the coachman turned round in the courtyard. But when we had ourselves announced at that same moment, the reply was that the prince now had necessary duties – –

¹ BD: No. 0156a (lost).

² BD: Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. Father of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

³ BD: After the Sforza family died out, the Duchy of Milan passed to the Habsburgs in 1714.

⁴ BD: No. 0156c (lost).

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0151/5. Anton von Gummer: the family belonged to the financial aristocracy of the Tyrol.

⁶ Bozen, Bolzano.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0155/34.

⁸ Rovereto.

⁹ "S^r: Exc: Grafen und Gräfin v Arco". BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmarschall] from 1786.

¹⁰ BD: Francesco Eugenio (1707-1776), Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], cousin of the Salzburg Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco.

Letter of thanks from Count Arco in Salzburg to his cousin:

"Rendo poi infinite grazie per tanti incomodi presosi per il nostro Mozart, et ho molto piacere ch'il suo figlio habbe cosi bene in contrato se acquista un buon gusto in Italia non dubiterai che reuscirà a meraviglia. Il Suo sig. Conte figlio ha ben auto molta bontà, e le porto devotissimi ringraziamenti. Salisburgo il 20 gennaio 1770."

["Then I render infinite thanks for so many inconveniences accepted for our Mozart, and I feel much pleasure that his son has made such a good impression. If he acquires good taste in Italy, I do not doubt that he will succeed wondrously. Your son the Count has certainly shown much goodness, and I offer him most devoted thanks. Salzburg, 20th January, 1770."]

¹¹ "H: Fürsten v Taxis". BD: Fürst Michael II von Thurn und Taxis (1722-1789).

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0155/9 ff.

and could not speak to us, we must nevertheless come another time. [35] The face, the quivering voice of the servant and his half-broken words showed me at once that the *prince* had no wish to see us. Heaven save me from ever disturbing anyone during their business, especially if I furthermore have to walk a long way for it or have to pay for a hired coach. Luckily, neither of us has lost anything, [40] since we have not seen each at close quarters |: for we saw each other in the distance at the *opera* :| but I saved the money for driving there and saved His Excellency the *Prince*¹³ from having to fear that he might be obliged to pay any courtesies to us in acknowledgement of the honours he received at the court in Salzburg and from the Salzburg nobility. I write this to you only for your information, [45] not because I regret it, for I would not at all wish anyone in Salzburg to think that I had omitted anything regarding the proper way of paying my visit to the prince.

Here I again enclose some poetry which comes from a certain lady, *Sig^{ra}. Sartoretti*,¹⁴ whose guests we were in *Mantua*. [50] The next day, the servant came and brought an unusually beautiful bouquet of flowers on a beautiful tray, with red ribbons at the bottom and, woven into the middle of the ribbons, a medal of 4 ducats;¹⁵ on top was the poetry, of which a copy follows.

I can assure you that so far I have found the dearest people in every place, [55] and everywhere we found our special people, who were with us until the last moment of our departure and employed all their energy in making our stay pleasant. These were then, e.g. the house of Count *Spaur* in *Innsprugg*,¹⁶ *Baron Pizzini*,¹⁷ Count *Lodron*,¹⁸ *Cristani*,¹⁹ *Cosmi*²⁰ etc. in *Roveredo*, Count *Carlo Emilij*,²¹ *Marchese Carlotti*, Count *Giusti*, the house of *Luggiatti*,²² [60] and especially Herr *Locatelli*²³ in *Verona*. Then, in *Mantua*, the house of Count *Arco*, and especially a certain *Sigr. Bettinelli*²⁴ who, together with his brother and his brother's wife, were entirely at our service. His wife was truly like a mother providing for Wolfgangerl, and we parted from each other with tears in our eyes. Herewith I also include the newspaper article from *Mantua*, [65] which we only received once we were here in Milan. You will also find the printed programme of the music performed during the invitation *concert*.²⁵ But you should be aware that neither this invitation concert in *Mantua* nor that in *Verona* were performed for money, but everyone had free admission. In *Verona* only the nobility, since it is maintained by them alone. In *Mantua*, however, nobility, military and respectable citizenry, [70] because there is a foundation set up by Her Majesty the Empress.²⁶ But you will easily conclude from this that we will not become rich in Italy, and you know that one has done enough if one covers the travel expenses. This has also been done at all times, and you can be sure that, although we are only 2 persons, the travel expenses are not small, [75] for we have already spent over 70 ducats.²⁷ But at the time of writing 6 weeks have already past since we

¹³ "S: E. H: Fürst".

¹⁴ BD: Perhaps Margherita, widow of Tomaso Santoretti. Cf. No. 0156/13.

¹⁵ BD: = 14 florins.

¹⁶ "das Grafl: Spaurische Haus" (in Innsbruck). BD: Johann Nepomuk, Graf Spaur (1724-1793), military commander [Burggraf] of Tyrol.

¹⁷ BD: Gian Giulio Pizzini (1719-1779), "barone" from 1754.

¹⁸ "Graf Lodron". BD: Max Septimus, Count [Graf] Lodron (1727-1796), cathedral canon, dean of Villa Lagarina.

¹⁹ BD: Cristani: members of this family are mentioned in Nos. 0149/12; 0151/6, 28-30; 0152/14 ff.

²⁰ BD: Giovanni Battista de Cosmi, Rovereto. Cf. No. 0152/33-34.

²¹ BD: Conte Giovanni Carlo Emilei (1705-after 1772).

²² BD: Pietro Lugiati (1724-1788), provincial tax official, cf. No. 0152/65-77.

²³ BD: Michelangelo Locatelli, merchant, (* 1715), cf. No. 0154/9.

²⁴ BD: Gaetano Bettinelli (1729-1794), mathematician, first director of the mathematics class in the Royal Academy in Mantua.

²⁵ BD: On 16th January, cf. No. 0155/34.

²⁶ "S: Mayst. der Kayserin". BD: Maria Theresia.

²⁷ BD: = 315 florins.

left Salzburg and, even if one is living from standard menus,²⁸ and furthermore often, yes, usually not eating at home, it is nevertheless so expensive for evening meal, room, wood etc. that one does not get away from any inn where one has spent 9 to 11 days for less than 6 ducats.²⁹ [80] I repeatedly thank my God that I left you both at home. Firstly, you would not have been able to stand the cold; secondly, it would have cost astonishing amounts of money, and we would not have had the freedom of the accommodation that we now have, since we are now staying at the Monastery of the Augustinians of San Marco in Milan. Not that we are absolutely free here, no!, [85] but we are comfortable here, safe, and can live close to His Excellency Count *Firmian*.³⁰ We occupy 3 large guest rooms; in the first room, we have a fire burning, eat and receive guests, in the second I sleep and the chest is kept, in the third Wolfgang sleeps and has the other small pieces of luggage.

[90] Each of us sleeps on 4 good mattresses, and every night a bed-warmer is used, so Wolfgang always feels pleasure in going to bed. We have our own *Brother Alphonso* at our service, and it is good for us here. But I cannot say how long we will stay here. His Excellency the Count³¹ is ill with a *catarrh*, [95] and very much wanted to give an invitation concert at his home and invite the Duke of *Modena*.³² I therefore could not yet distribute the other letters, as this must be arranged first. The invitation concert will probably take place on the coming Tuesday or Wednesday, as His Excellency is already feeling a little better. I wrote³³ to you that Wolfgang has red hands and a red face from the cold and the fire. [100] Everything is back in order again. *Madame Sartoretti*³⁴ in *Mantua* gave him a pomade to smear on his hands in the evening, and in 3 days it was better. Now he looks as he used to. We were otherwise, praise God, always in good health, and the change of air caused Wolfgang only a runny nose, which was over a long time ago. [105] We will hardly be able to see Herr Meissner³⁵ sing in Florence, not only because our stay here will be somewhat long, but also because we absolutely must make a trip to *Torino*,³⁶ since it is so near. We will also stop briefly in *Parma* and *Bologna* and will therefore probably only reach Florence at the beginning of Lent.³⁷

[110] As far as the horse is concerned, just sell it as you see fit, or raffle it, or even give it away. I want it out of His High Princely Grace's³⁸ stable. The old saddle etc. is in the stable, the royal stable attendant³⁹ must know.

If you can sell it together with the new saddle and harness, it can perhaps be sold at a better price. [115] You can also put my coach⁴⁰ up for sale. It is not improving, and we will

²⁸ “à pasto”.

²⁹ BD: 27 florins.

³⁰ “Sr: Ex. Graf Firmian”. BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and insight.

³¹ BD: Graf Firmian.

³² “Herzog v Modena”. BD: Probably not Hercole III Rainoldo d’Este (1727-1803), but his father, Francesco III (1698-1780). Nothing is known about the concert on 18th February, 1770. In the light of this concert, the Duke and his granddaughter probably suggested to Maria Theresia that Mozart write *Ascanio in Alba* for the wedding of Ferdinand of Austria and Maria Beatrice Ricciarda, cf. No. 0236/47.

³³ BD VII: Cf. No. 0155/4 ff.

³⁴ BD: Perhaps Margherita, widow of Tomaso Santoretti. She had the Mozarts as her guests on 17th January sent them presents on the 18th. Cf. No. 0156/13.

³⁵ BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner.

Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart’s judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0111/48.

³⁷ BD: They reached Florence on 30th March.

³⁸ “Sr: Hochf: Gnaden”. BD: Siegmund Christoph von Schrattenbach (1698-1771), Prince-Archbishop [Fürsterzbischof] in Salzburg from 1753 following long association with the cathedral.

³⁹ “Hofstaller”.

⁴⁰ BD: The coach Leopold bought in Bratislava (Pressburg), cf. No. 0046/25, with which the family undertook the grand journey 1763-1766.

not be making any more big journeys. Sell it as well as you can, it has done its service. The leather straps are still good. It initially cost me only 23 ducats.⁴¹ Speak to people who understand the matter. I will go along with anything, but before it is offered for sale, it must be cleaned. [120] Address all letters you write in future to Herr Troger, just as you did the last time.

My compliments to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen, within and beyond the house.

I am as always your honest

L Mzt

We kiss you both 1000 times.

⁴¹ BD: 103 florins 30 kreuzers.