

Milan, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1770

It was no doubt only in my imagination that you were receiving my letters one by one. I hope that now the letter from Mantua and one from Milan<sup>1</sup> will also be in your hands, and this is thus the eighth letter. [5] I have nothing to say, other than that we are well, praise God, that our hands, especially those of Wolfgang,<sup>2</sup> are completely well again; that the administrator's wife<sup>3</sup> made a good job of a hand poultice<sup>4</sup> according to your instructions; that yesterday we were in the *orchestra* staging rehearsal of the new *opera* *Cesare in Egitto*;<sup>5</sup> that the *opera* is good indeed,<sup>6</sup> and we saw *Maestro Piccini* and spoke with him as well as with *Mad<sup>me</sup>: Piccinelli*;<sup>7</sup> [10] that we have had the most beautiful weather here for 14 days; that Wolfgang enjoys his pre-warmed bed of mattresses<sup>8</sup> here every day; that he cannot write, because he is writing 2 *Latin motteti*<sup>9</sup> for 2 young *castrati*, one of whom is 15 years old and the other 16, and who asked him to do it, and he cannot refuse them anything because they are comrades and sing finely; [15] that it is a great vexation to me to see and hear such boys while at the same time knowing that I cannot take them with me to Salzburg; that I can already see that we will stay in Milan longer than I thought; that His Excellency Count *Firmian*<sup>1011</sup> is not yet fully recovered from his *catarrh*; that I found something in the newspaper in the last few days on how they have been lying in wait for us in *Bozolo*,<sup>12</sup> [20] and also how something of the adroitness of the eminent Count von *Arco*<sup>13</sup> can be found in the article *Mantua*, which you should show, with my compliments, to His Excellency Count von *Arco*;<sup>14</sup> that Wolfgang sends thanks for the good wishes; that you should have patience for a few more post-days [25] regarding the answer from *Gräffer*<sup>15</sup> in Vienna and from *Breitkopf*<sup>16</sup> in Leipzig; that I, together with Wolfgang, kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times, and that I am always your

sincere husband

Mozart *mp*<sup>17</sup>

Give to the whole alphabet and to all Salzburg, fittingly for the rank of each, my *compliments* in return. [30]

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<sup>1</sup> BD: From Mantua: No. 0155; from Milan: No. 0157.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0152/104 ff.; 0157/99 ff.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0158/59.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0152/108-109.

<sup>5</sup> BD: By Piccini; text by Bussani, revised by Goldoni. Cf. No. 0158/58.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0158/22 ff.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0158/53 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0157/90-92.

<sup>9</sup> BD: One could be KV 143 (73a); the other was either unfinished or lost (KV<sup>6</sup>: note on KV 143/73a).

<sup>10</sup> "S<sup>c</sup>: Ex: Graf Firmian". BD: Cf. No. 0155/41-42. 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 intellect.

<sup>11</sup> "S<sup>c</sup>: Ex: Graf Firmian".

<sup>12</sup> BD: Correctly "Bozzolo", where the Mozart stopped overnight on their way to Cremona.

<sup>13</sup> "T: des H: Gr: v Arco". BD: Cf. No. 0155/15. Francesco Eugenio (1707-1776), Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], cousin of the Salzburg Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco.

<sup>14</sup> "S<sup>r</sup>: E: Gr: von Arco". BD: Cf. No. 0157/24-25. BD: Georg Anton Felix Graf Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward (Obersthofmeister).

<sup>15</sup> BD: Rudolph Gräffer published two songs by Mozart (KV 52/46c and 53/47e) in Stephanie's *Neue Sammlung zum Vergnügen und Unterricht* in 1768.

<sup>16</sup> BD: The well-known publisher; cf. No. 0152/99 f.

<sup>17</sup> "manu propria" = "in his own hand".

Have the 2 *flutes* been cleaned yet? --

Is Nannerl diligently playing the *clavier*? --

Has the ring with the sealing wax left sticking to it been put right again?