

0171. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne Mozart / à / Salzbourg*<sup>1</sup>

*Bologna, 27<sup>th</sup> Martij, 1770.*

In *Parma* I wrote to His Excellency the Royal High Steward<sup>2</sup> and from here, dated the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., to His High Princely Grace<sup>3</sup> and also to you. [5] I await your answer as to whether all these letters have arrived safely. Yesterday there was a *concert* held by His Excellency Field Marshal Count *Pallavicini*,<sup>4</sup> to which His Eminence the *Cardinal*<sup>5</sup> and the leading nobility were invited. You know His Excellency Carl, Count von *Firmian*,<sup>6</sup> now I would wish that you could also get to know His Excellency Count *Pallavicini*. These are 2 gentlemen of the court who possess, in all details, [10] the same way of thinking, friendliness, magnanimity, composure and a special love and insight into all fields of knowledge. On Sunday I was graciously allowed to pay my respects to His Excellency Count *Pallavicini* and to hand him the letter from His Excellency Count von *Firmian*, and hardly had he heard that we should reach Rome in Holy Week than he immediately said to me that he intended to try to arrange matters [15] so that he might have the pleasure tomorrow not only of hearing this extraordinary young *virtuoso*, but also of providing the leading nobility of this place with the same pleasure. Regarding all the circumstances of how we were collected in His Excellency's coach and how we were treated, I will not however touch on everything [20] and simply relate that around 150 persons of the leading nobility were present. *Padre Martino*<sup>7</sup> was also invited, and although he otherwise never goes to a *concert*, he nevertheless came. And this *concert* started about half past seven and lasted until half past eleven because the nobility made no move to go. *Sgr. Aprile* and *Sgr. Cicognani* sang.<sup>8</sup> The day after tomorrow, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, [25] we will depart and get into Florence on Friday evening, where we stay until the 5<sup>th</sup> and then continue our journey to Rome, so we could get to Rome at midday on the 11<sup>th</sup>, if God places no hindrances in our way. What I find especially pleasing is that we are exceptionally popular here and that Wolfgang is even more admired here than in any other place in Italy, [30] because this is the seat and dwelling place of many masters, artists and scholars. Here, too, he has drawn the largest audiences, and this increases his fame throughout all Italy, because *Padre Martino* is the idol of the Italians and speaks about Wolfgang with such wonder and has tested him in every way.

[35] We have visited *Padre Martino* twice and Wolfgang has on each occasion completed a *fugue*, of which *Padre Martino* wrote out only the *duce* or *la guida* in a few notes. We have

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N<sup>o</sup>: 15 from Bologna".

<sup>2</sup> "S<sup>e</sup>: Ex: H: Obersthofmeister". 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>3</sup> "S<sup>e</sup>: Hochf: Gnaden". BD: Siegmund Christoph von Schrattenbach (1698-1771), Prince-Archbishop [Fürsterzbischof] in Salzburg from 1753 following long association with the cathedral.

<sup>4</sup> "S<sup>e</sup>: Ex: H: feld Marschallen Grafen Pallavicini". BD: Giovanni Luca, Margrave [Markgraf] Pallavicini-Centurioni (1697-1773), from 1731 in the service of Austria, from 1754 Field Marshal. The Mozarts had been recommended to him by Count [Graf] Firmian, governor general of Lombardy.

<sup>5</sup> "S<sup>e</sup>: Eminez der Cardinal".

<sup>6</sup> "S<sup>e</sup>: Ex: Graf Carl v Firmian". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706 1784), specialist in the theory and history of music. Taught Mozart during his stay in Bologna as preparation for admission to the Accademia filarmonica.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Two castratos: cf. Nos. 0158/52; 0156/16.

visited the gentleman *Don Broschi*, or the so-called *sgr. Farinelli*,<sup>9</sup> on his estate outside the town. We found *La Spagnoletta*<sup>10</sup> here because she is will be the *prima donna* in the *opera* which is performed here in May, [40] singing in fact in place of *Gabrieli*,<sup>11</sup> who is still in *Palermo* and has let the *Bolognese* down. She will probably also let the *Milanese* down.

We met *Sgr. Manfredini*<sup>12</sup> here, namely the *castrato* who visited us in Salzburg while coming from Russia with Herr Panter from Vienna etc. etc. [45]

A certain old *Sgr. Abbé Zanardi*<sup>13</sup> commends himself to Herr *Andrino*,<sup>14</sup> as do I. Some have been enquiring about Music Director *Lolli*.<sup>15</sup> Herr *Brinsichi*<sup>16</sup> and many others have asked about our Court *Sculptor*,<sup>17</sup> all commend themselves to him, as I do.

[50] We were in the *Instituto*, and saw the beautiful statue by our Court *Sculptor*. All of what I have seen here surpasses the British Museum, for here one sees not only the rarities of nature, but everything that is in any way called science, kept in cleanliness and order in beautiful rooms as if in a *lexicon*. In short! You would be astonished etc. [55] Of the churches, paintings, beautiful architecture and the furnishings of various palaces I will not say anything at all, because I can hardly write for sleepiness anyway, for it is past 1 o'clock at night, Wolfgang has been snoring for a long time now, and I am falling asleep while writing.

Regarding our little horse, you do not need to give me any information,<sup>18</sup> [60] for anyone who gives away my property without my knowledge and consent will replace it for me with something better, especially if the person is a gentleman who is not capable of anything except noble thoughts. — — — —

It is good that you have written to Leipzig.<sup>19</sup> I would ask you to write to Herr Gräffer,<sup>20</sup> or to Heufeld,<sup>21</sup> as well. Farewell! Farewell, all of you. I kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times. [65] My compliments to all Salzburg. — I am your faithful and

sleepy husband  
Mzt.

That was not a bad idea at all, sending the *ball-menuet*<sup>22</sup> to us in *Bologna* to have it set for the *clavier*, because there is no-one in Salzburg who could have done it better. [70] Wolfgang, by the way, enjoyed it enormously; he thanks Herr von Schiedenhofen<sup>23</sup> and

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<sup>9</sup> BD: Carlo Broschi (1705-1782), known as Farinelli. Once internationally famous (e.g. in London in Handel's day), he now resided on his country estate near Bologna.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Clementina Spagnoli, singer, also knew Frau Mozart and Nannerl from Lyon in 1766. Cf. No. 0216/7-8.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0170/25, 28, where Leopold criticises her character.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Giuseppe Manfredini, brother of the Vincenzo Manfredini mentioned in line 39. He is known to have published *Sei Arie con Istromenti* in London in 1752.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Archivist and adviser to the Accademia Filarmonica.

<sup>14</sup> BD VII: The Andreas Unterkofler (c. 1706 – 1780) mentioned in No. 0387/93. Court soprano 1725-1780.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Giuseppe Francesco Lolli (1701-1778), from Bologna, initially employed as a tenor and mentioned as such in the *Salzburger Hofkalender* of 1741. 1752-1763 deputy music director in Salzburg; from 1763 music director. Composed some oratorios, masses and vesper psalms as well as music for a stage play. Leopold Mozart hoped to obtain Lolli's old post and approached numerous Salzburg personages to obtain their support.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Giuseppe Prinsechi, merchant.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Hagenauer (1732-1810), sculptor, a distant relative of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer already mentioned often in the correspondence. Trained in Bavaria, Vienna and Italy (1759-1765). Served the Archbishop of Salzburg until 1774.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Leopold had obviously received news from his wife: No. 0170a, lost. Leopold's indirect accusation that his wife had let the horse go for nothing was unjustified, since he suggested giving it away, cf. No. 0157/110 ff.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Continuing the correspondence with the publisher Breitkopf, cf. Nos. 0152/99-100; 0159/24; 0163/29 ff.

<sup>20</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>21</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0163/23, 24, 26. Franz Reinhard (von) Heufeld, known to the Mozarts since 1770. Imperial official and playwright.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Probably KV 122 (73t).

<sup>23</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Maria Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were

Nannerl. He will write very soon himself, for I was writing yesterday while he was already lying in bed, and today I am adding this while he is still asleep because the post is leaving immediately. Here he sends the *menuet* which Herr *Pick*<sup>24</sup> danced on stage in Milan. [75] We commend ourselves once again to all good friends, and I ask Herr von Schidenhofen, Herr von Mölk<sup>25</sup> and others who have written to me not to be in any way offended that I do not answer. I hope they will reflect and understand what a traveller has to do, especially since I am alone. *Comabit aliquando timus convenientus writendi. Nunc headus meus semper fullus est multis thoughtibus.*<sup>26</sup> [80]

Wolfgang kisses you and Nannerl 1000 times.

Always send the letters to Herr Troger<sup>27</sup> in Milan. I receive them safely and they do not cost me much. When we are in Rome, I will write more to you about this.

[85] Amongst the medical prescriptions you will find |: on a long piece of paper, I believe :| among other things the prescription for a chest electuary which I have often had made for myself, as you know. Have it copied clearly in the next letter. I need nothing, praise God, but I thought about this coltsfoot electuary because one never knows what may happen. [90] So far |: praise God :| we have opened the medicine paper only once, and the reason for that was to give Wolfgang a spoonful of tartar.<sup>28</sup>

POSTSCRIPT ON ONE OF HIS SON'S SHEETS OF MUSIC:<sup>29</sup>

*Padre Martino* has asked me for a copy of the *violin* school. You must therefore speak to Herr Hafner,<sup>30</sup> the merchant, that he might be so kind as to take one with him to Bozen<sup>31</sup> and, on any occasion on which he sends linen fleece, to pack it for Herr *Brinsechi*. [95] But before that you must have it bound, but only in an Italian binding, a very light one. But it must be bound because the Italians would not understand the instructions for the bookbinder.

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in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Carlo de Picq (also Pick, Le Picq), 1749-1806, cf. No. 0166/24. In 1772 involved in the ballet *Le gelosie del serraglio* [KV Anh. 109 (135a)], written for *Lucio Silla* (KV 135). The aria KV 584 makes a playful reference to him.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

<sup>26</sup> Linguistic Latin/German "macaroni": "There will come sometime a convenient time for writing. Now my head is full of many thoughts."

<sup>27</sup> BD: Leopold Troger, secretary to Count [Graf] Karl Firmian, governor general of Lombardy. Troger's sister lived in Salzburg, where he visited her in 1771.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0158/8. Usually administered as an emetic.

<sup>29</sup> BD: This postscript is on the back of the autograph of a menuett (without trio) for two violins, bass, two oboes and two horns, attributed to Mozart as KV 122/73t. It may however be a reconstruction from memory of a piece by Deller or Starzer, cf. No. 0168/15 ff.

<sup>30</sup> BD: Siegmund Haffner the Elder (1699-1772), Salzburg merchant and public figure. Mozart's *Haffner Symphony* KV 385 was written for his son by his second marriage, Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787).

<sup>31</sup> = Bolzano in northern Italy.