

Roma, 14<sup>th</sup> aprilis, 1770.

We arrived safely here at midday on the 11<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup> It would have been easier to convince me that I was on the way to Salzburg than to Rome, as we had to travel from Florence to Rome for 5 days in the most abhorrent rain and cold wind. [5] In Rome itself I learned that they had had constant rain for 4 months and we sampled this indeed because we went to the *Sistine* Chapel on Wednesday and Thursday in fine weather to hear the *Miserere*<sup>2</sup> in the early service and were caught in such an atrocious cloudburst on the way home [10] that our coats had never had such a baptism until this moment. I do not want to give you a long account of this abhorrent journey. Just imagine a mostly uncultivated landscape and the most abhorrent inns, refuse, nothing to eat except, luckily, here and there some eggs and *broccoli*, and sometimes they wanted to withhold eggs on the holy day, making a big fuss about conscience. [15] It was our good luck that in *Viterbo*<sup>3</sup> we nevertheless managed to eat well in the evening and sleep properly. There we saw *Saint Rosa* of *Viterbo*<sup>4</sup> who |: like *St. Catherina di Bologna* :| can be seen preserved incorrupt. From the former we took with us fever powder and relics as a keepsake, and from the latter a belt. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the day we arrived, we went to St. Peter's Church after eating and then to the early service, [20] on the 12<sup>th</sup> we saw the *Functiones*<sup>5</sup> and, when the Pope<sup>6</sup> was serving the poor at the table, we saw him so close up that we were standing next to him at the top of the table. This is all the more surprising because we had to come in through two doors watched over by Swiss guards in armour and had to force our way through many 100s of people and [25] *N.B.* furthermore had no friends there. But the good clothes, the German language, my customary freedom with which I had my servant call out to the Swiss guards to make a space for us: this soon helped us through everywhere. They thought Wolfgang was a German courtier, others even that he was a *prince*,<sup>7</sup> and the servant let them believe it was so, [30] and I was thought to be his tutor.<sup>8</sup> This was precisely how we went to the *cardinals'* table. There it happened that Wolfgang ended up standing between two of the *cardinals*, one of whom was *Cardinal Pallavicini*.<sup>9</sup>

The latter beckoned to Wolfgang and spoke to him: [35] Would you be so kind as to tell me confidentially who you are? Wolfgang told him everything. The *Cardinal* answered him with the greatest astonishment and said: Ah, are you the famous boy about whom I have heard so much in letters? Replying, Wolfgang asked: Are you not Cardinal Pallavicini? – – The *Cardinal* answered: Yes, I am, and why? – – [40] Wolfgang then said to him that we have letters to give to His Eminence and we will come to pay our respects. The *Cardinal* showed great pleasure at this, said that Wolfgang

<sup>1</sup> BD: Wednesday in Holy Week. Florence to Rome = 300 km.

<sup>2</sup> BD: The legendary *Miserere* by G. Allegri (1782-1652). The work was probably written in 1638 and from 1640 was performed on Wednesday and Friday in Holy Week. Mozart probably heard it in the version of 1731. It had in fact already been in circulation in manuscript form; copies were sent officially to Padre Martini in Bologna and at an earlier point to Emperor Leopold I (1658-1705). Charles Burney published it for the first time in 1771.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Florence to Viterbo = 270 km.

<sup>4</sup> BD: (1235-1252), a tertiary in the Franciscan order. Her mummified body is visible in the grave in the church.

<sup>5</sup> BD: The Pope washed the feet of 12 poor priests and afterwards presented them with a fine meal.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Clement XIV (Pope 1769-1774). Abolished the Jesuits in 1773.

<sup>7</sup> "Printzen". BD: One week previously, Prince [Prinz] Xaver of Saxony had in fact visited the Vatican incognito, assuming the name "Herzog [Duke] von Görzig", and was given access to the state chambers.

<sup>8</sup> "Hofmeister", a term covering possible tasks from private tutor to household manager.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Lazaro Opizio Pallavicini (1719-1785), Cardinal/Secretary of State. The Mozarts had been recommended to him by Count Gian Luca Pallavicini, a distant relative.

speaks good Italian and, among other things, he said: ik kann auck ein benig deutsch sprecken<sup>10</sup> etc. etc.

As we were going away, Wolfgang kissed his hand [45] and the *Cardinal* took the *biretta* from his head and paid him a very polite *compliment*.

You will often have heard perhaps of the famous *Miserere*<sup>11</sup> in Rome, which is so highly regarded that the chapel musicians are forbidden, under pain of *excommunication*, to take any of the parts out of the chapel or to give it to anybody. But we already have it. [50] Wolfgang has already written it down and we would have sent it to Salzburg with this letter but that our presence is necessary to perform it. Only the style of performance alone has to make a bigger contribution than the composition itself, so we will bring it home with us and, because it is one of the secrets of Rome, we do not want to entrust it to other hands [55] *ut non incurremus mediate vel immediate in Censuram Ecclesiae*.<sup>12</sup>

We have already thoroughly combed St. Peter's church, and certainly nothing of whatever is to be seen here is to be left out. Tomorrow<sup>13</sup> |: if God will |: we will see His Holiness pontificating. You cannot possibly imagine the arrogance of the *abbés* here. [60] Anyone who has even the least to do with a *cardinal* believes he is as good as the *cardinal* himself. Now, since every cardinal drives to papal activities with 3 and 4 coaches of retinue, with each coach filled with chaplains, secretaries and valets, and who all take up most of the space, I am particularly looking forward to tomorrow and walking through the middle of all these proud gentlemen [65] and leaving them in ignorance of who we are, for we have not yet presented ourselves anywhere because the *Functiones*<sup>14</sup> are on now. On Monday we will begin to deliver our 20 letters of recommendation.

As happy as I am that you did not travel with us, I also regret that you are not seeing all the towns of Italy, but especially Rome. [70] It is unnecessary, yes, impossible, to give a short description. I advise you to read Kaysler's<sup>15</sup> Travels again. I wrote to you from *Bologna* and *Florence*. We were in the German *College*,<sup>16</sup> in passing, 2 hours after our arrival and found Herr Mölk<sup>17</sup> in the best of health there, along with other acquaintances. [75] Out of respect for Herr Mölk I will have Wolfgang perform at the *College*<sup>18</sup> because they are keen to hear him. We immediately alighted, thanks to *Abbé Marcobruni*,<sup>19</sup> at a private house, but, because there is only one room here and we must have 2 in order to receive people who visit us, we will move to more presentable quarters<sup>20</sup> this evening. Today and yesterday I have been something of a patient, [80] for I have taken 3 digestive powders, but find myself well |: praise God |:; Wolfgang is likewise well and sends you herewith a *contradance*.<sup>21</sup> His wish is that Herr *Cirillus*<sup>22</sup> should compose steps for it, and in such a way that when the 2 *violins*

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<sup>10</sup> = "I can also speak a little German", but with all "ch" sounds [as in "loch"] replaced by "k" or "ck", "w[v]" by "b".

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. line 8 and No. 1212/260 ff.

<sup>12</sup> = so that we do not incur indirectly or directly the censure of the church.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Easter Sunday.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Cf. line 20.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Johann Georg Keyssler, *Neueste Reisen durch Deutschland*, ..., Hannover, 1751 and 1752. (Traveller's notes for Germany).

<sup>16</sup> BD: = Collegium Germanicum, cf. No. 0182/30. Albert von Mölk, Dr. jur. (1749-1799), studied in Rome, where he met Leopold and Wolfgang in 1770 (cf. No. 0176/72 ff.). From 1770 various ecclesiastical and civic offices; cf. note on No. 0158/5.

<sup>17</sup> BD: = Albert von Mölk, later Dr. jur. (1749-1799), studied in Rome. From 1770 various ecclesiastical and civic offices; cf. note on No. 0158/5. Son of Privy Councillor and Court Chancellor [Geheimrat & Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776) in Salzburg.

<sup>18</sup> BD: This took place on second May, 1770, cf. No. 0182/30.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0170/57, 60. Director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0177/17-18.

<sup>21</sup> BD: KV 123 (73g).

<sup>22</sup> BD: Cyrill Hofmann, from 1767 dancing master at the Salzburg court.

play, like precentors, likewise only 2 persons should dance, and then, whenever the whole group comes in with all *instruments*, [85] the whole company should dance together. It would look best if danced by 5 couples. The first couple begins the first *solo*, the 2<sup>nd</sup> dances the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and so on, as there are 5 *solos* and 5 *tutti*.

Now the season which worries me is coming, because the heat is coming, [90] but everyone tells me that Naples has incomparably more air and is much healthier than Rome. I will therefore take all possible precautions, especially regarding the bad air or *malaria*, so that we undertake our return journey without risk to life. Now, since everything depends on the weather conditions, especially on heavy rain and wind, I cannot decide or write anything. [95] Herr Meisner<sup>23</sup> is in Naples, we hope to see him there in 3 or 4 weeks. Pray diligently to our loving God for our health. No effort will be lacking on our part, for I can assure you that we are taking all possible care and Wolfgang is paying as much attention to his health as if he were the most grown-up of persons. May God likewise keep you in good health. [100] Give my compliments to all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen, and I am as always your  
Mzt.

I and Wolfgang kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I am well, praise and thanks to God, along with with my miserable pen, and kiss *Mama* and Nannerl thousand or 1000 times. *N.B.* I would only wish my sister were in Rome, [105] for this town would certainly please her thoroughly, since St. Peter's church is *Regulaire* and many other things in Rome are *Regulaire*.<sup>24</sup> The most beautiful flowers are now being carried past, as *Papa* has told me just this moment. I am a clown, as is known. Oh, I am in distress, in our quarters there is only one bed. As *Mama* can easily imagine, I have no peace beside *Papa*. [110] I am looking forward to our new accommodation. I have just now drawn St. Peter entrusted with the keys, St. Paul with the sword, and with them St. Luke with my sister<sup>25</sup> etc. etc. I had the honour of kissing St. Peter's foot<sup>26</sup> in St. *Pietro* and, since I have the misfortune of being so small, I was lifted up as the same old buffoon [115]

Wolfgang Mozart.

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<sup>23</sup> 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. He actually arrived back in Rome on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1770 (cf. No. 0182/3) and thus before the Mozarts' departure for Naples.

<sup>24</sup> = regular. BD VIII: Satirising Leopold's frequent use of this French word.

<sup>25</sup> BD: The symbol usually associated with Luke is the ox.

<sup>26</sup> BD: The 18th century bronze statue of Peter and are thrown, attributed to Arnolfo di Cambio († 1302).