

Naples, 22nd May, 1770

You will in the meantime have received my letter¹ of the 19th safely. 2 days ago we went for a walk on the *Molo*,² and whom did we meet? – Whom do you think? – – our good friend Herr *Donker*,³ [5] the handsome, tall *Doncker* from Amsterdam, who has already been staying with the French Consul⁴ here for 3 years. This consul was present in *Amsterdam* on the evening when we dined at Herr *Donker*'s. Yesterday we ate at his house at midday, and in the afternoon we attended the wife of the Imperial Ambassador, Countess von Kaunitz, née the *Princess* of Ötting.⁵ Now we will soon be finished with our visits. [10] *Marchesa Tanucci*,⁶ wife of the Prime Minister, sent her Senior Steward⁷ to me yesterday and had him inform me that he was always at my command to take us round everywhere and show us all the special things of Naples. This is a distinction that astonishes everyone, since this minister is effectively the king, and has a very lofty demeanour. [15] Yesterday we were at the *opera buffa*,⁸ Herr *Meuricoffre*⁹ drove us there. It is very good; the old *Princess* of *Bellmonte*¹⁰ saw us immediately and paid us many compliments, although our box was far away from hers. Today we dined with a Swiss officer.¹¹

The weather is now starting to warm up a little. Tomorrow the tailor will call on *Msr. Meuricoffre*, [20] we will have a few more summer clothes made for us. Regarding the air in Naples, you need have no worries, the air here is very healthy. As long as we get past Rome again, for Rome itself is not so bad, but certain areas outside Rome are somewhat dangerous. We are well, praise God. Write diligently so that we know how things are going with you both. [25] I am only writing this letter so that you know where we are, in case the first letter from Naples should not have arrived. I am writing in haste. I kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times. Herr *Donker* commends himself heartily to you and Nannerl, and I am as always your
Mzt.

My compliments to all friends, both gentlemen and ladies.

[30] The letter¹² from Herr von Mölk¹³ and the enclosure from *Msr. Eyweck*¹⁴ have arrived. I commend myself to both of them.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

¹ BD: No. 0184.

² BD: Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

³ BD: Probably Simon Donker, merchant, mentioned previously in No. 0105/3 (travel notes Amsterdam).

⁴ BD: = Ambassador? Cf. No. 0189/34, 82. Or the Chargé d'affaires, Laurent Bérenger?

⁵ "gräfin v Kaunitz...Fürstin von Ötting". BD: Maria Leopoldine Elisabeth, née Öttingen-Spielberg.

⁶ BD: Wife of Bernardo, Marchese Tanucci (1689-1783), Neapolitan Prime Minister. Although King Ferdinand IV had reached the age of 16 in 1770, Tanucci continued to exercise power. The Queen later became influential.

⁷ "Haushofmeister". BD: Don Carloni, cf. No. 0192/47.

⁸ BD: It is not clear which of the two theatres in Naples is referred to here.

⁹ BD: Jean Georges Meuricoffre (1750-1806), whom the Mozarts had met in Lyon in 1766 and again in Naples (where he was now a partner in his uncle's bank) in 1770. He helped and remained in contact with Leopold (cf. Nos. 0184/70; 0204/56-57). He married the singer Celesta Coltellini (1764-1817), daughter of Marco Coltellini, the "theatre poet" who wrote the libretto for *La finta semplice* KV 51 (46a) in 1768.

¹⁰ "Principessa di bellmonte". BD: Principessa Belmonte-Pignatelli (cf. No. 0192/6), known because of her friendship with Metastasio. It is not known where she had previously met the Mozarts.

¹¹ BD: Perhaps the "Rudolph inderspitzten" mentioned in No. 0192/17.

¹² BD: No. 0184a, lost.

¹³ BD: Presumably Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: Joseph Eyweck (1731-1810), Secretary to the Court Council [Hofrat], cf. Nos. 0181/4; 0185/30.

I am well, praise and thanks be to God, and kiss Mama's hand and kiss both of you a thousand times.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Haven't you sold our coach¹⁵ yet? —

[35] It must be checked and cleaned, otherwise it will deteriorate.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0157/115 ff., Leopold to his wife from Milan.