

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzburg / par Mantua<sup>1</sup>*

Naples, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1770

Now I will no doubt be writing much too often, and you will be astounded to see a letter every post-day! This is being done as a precaution, in case any letter should not arrive. [5] We are somewhat far apart, and 14 days pass before the letters from Salzburg reach Naples. This is my fourth letter from Naples. I am still of a mind to depart from here on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the coming month<sup>2</sup> if no obstacles get in the way. Yesterday we had our *concert*,<sup>3</sup> which went very well. [10] Tomorrow, the 30<sup>th</sup>, the court comes to town to celebrate the king's name-day with *opera* and other entertainments. If we leave here on the 16<sup>th</sup>, we will go to *Marino*,<sup>4</sup> where we will alight at the *Augustinian* monastery. The *Father Prior* there pressed us to call there. He wants to travel with us to *Genazano*<sup>5</sup> and show us the miracle-working image of *Mary of Good Counsel*. [15] Since it is not a long journey, I have accepted his offer to let us see this holy image. We could thus stay on for 6 or 7 days with our friends in Rome and then continue our journey to *Loreto*.<sup>6</sup> So far, I have not paid a penny for board and lodging in Rome. Herr Meissner<sup>7</sup> will tell you how good it was for us in Rome. I was completely the master of the house, [20] and since the lady of the house<sup>8</sup> did not wish to make any pronouncement regarding payment when we departed, Herr *Marcobruni*<sup>9</sup> and I resolved to find the means of making my payment in one form or another on the return journey. If there is no other way of doing it, I will buy something and make a handsome present to her daughter. If we leave here at the said time, we will see, so to speak, all Italy. [25] For, from the regions above *Loreto*, we shall go wherever we want, to *Bologna* or also to Florence and from there to *Pisa*,<sup>10</sup> *Lucca*, *Livorno* etc., spending the 2 hot months most comfortably in these places, and probably go on via *Genoa* to Milan.<sup>11</sup> If Wolfgang had not already had the *scrittura*<sup>12</sup> for the *opera* in Milan, [30] he would have received one for *Bologna*, Rome and Naples, for he was offered one in each of these 3 places. We have so far not had to withstand any heat because it often rains. Yesterday there was dreadful wind and rain, and it is very unusual in Naples for the heat not to be more severe by now. Nevertheless, we will come back home fairly black, [35] for the air brings this with it and, if the sun shows itself, one immediately notices that one is in Naples. You know, of course, that Wolfgang always wanted to have a brown colouring.

<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N<sup>o</sup>: 24 from Naples".

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0186/22 for Leopold's planning.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0186/16 ff.: "accademia", a term frequently encountered in the correspondence.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Approximately 23 km south-east of Rome, cf. No. 0184/7.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Genazzano near Palestrina in the Sabine Hills, famous for a figure of the Madonna of Good Counsel. But the trip never took place.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Loreto, a pilgrimage destination in the province of Ancona, supposedly containing the house in which Jesus was brought up, brought to Loreto by an angel.

<sup>7</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. Mentioned frequently in the letters, e.g. No. 0112/31.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Leopold was staying in a house belonging to the papal courier Stefano Uslenghi († 1777), at that time absent in Portugal, cf. No. 0181/39 ff.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0170/57, 60.

<sup>10</sup> BD: This remained only an idea.

<sup>11</sup> BD: They reached Milan once again via Bologna, Parma and Piacenza.

<sup>12</sup> BD: "scrittura", the written contract for the composition of an opera. Cf. Nos. 0165/17, 21-24; 0193/39-42.

I must close, for at this moment a footman has arrived from the *Princess of Francavilla*.<sup>13</sup> We must drive to her, she wants to speak to us. [40] My compliments to all Salzburg. We kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times and I am as always your Mzt.

Wolfgang can hardly wait for the post-days. He asks you to write twice a week at this time, especially if there is anything new. But in Salzburg the news is soon written.

[45] *Vesuvius* did not do me the favour of showing itself burning or, rather, spitting fire. Very occasionally, one sees a little smoke. We will see it from a little closer in the coming days.

ENCLOSURE FROM MOZART FOR HIS SISTER:

<sup>14</sup>*My dearest sister,*  
~~avant~~<sup>15</sup>

[50] *The day before yesterday we were at the rehearsal of the opera by Sig. Jomela,*<sup>16</sup> *which is an opera which is well written and pleases me greatly. Sig. Jomela spoke to us, and is very civil and we were also in a church to hear some music, which was by Sig. Cicio di Maio,*<sup>17</sup> *and it was the most beautiful music. We spoke to him as well, and he, too, was very courteous. Sgna. de Amicis*<sup>18</sup> *sang marvellously. [55] We are, thanks be to God, in good health, especially me when a letter from Salzburg comes for me. I ask you to write to me every post-day, even if you have nothing to write, but I would like to have it so as to have some letter every post-day. I hope you received that letter*<sup>19</sup> *which was partly in another language, which you will already have understood or comprehended. [60] It would not be bad if you occasionally wrote a little Italian letter to me. I don't know what else I can write to you about, apart from that you should give my compliments to all my friends, both ladies and gentlemen, particularly to Herr von Schiedenhofen,*<sup>20</sup> *who will surely already have received the letter which my father wrote to him, and to sig. di Aman*<sup>21</sup> *my compliments, and ask him, and tell me in your letter, about his state of health. Addio.*

29<sup>th</sup> May, anno 1770                      Wolfgango Amadeo

[65] *Kiss my mother's hand*  
*on my behalf.*                                      Mozart mp.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Principessa di Francavilla". BD: Cf. No. 0192/17. They received "a fine present" from her, cf. No. 0189/13.

<sup>14</sup> Entirely in Italian (with the exception of the crossed-out "avant").

<sup>15</sup> Presumably initially thinking of the French "avant-hier" [= "the day before yesterday"].

<sup>16</sup> BD: The season in the *Teatro San Carlo* in Naples opened with *Armida abbandonata* by Niccolò Jommelli, text by Francesco Saverio de Rogatis. Cf. No. 0184/108. For Mozart's opinion of it cf. No. 0189/73-74.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0184/116. *Eumene* by Francesco di Majò (1732-1770), text by Apostolo Zeno. The composer died during work on the opera; it could only be performed in 1771 after Insaguine and Erricheli finished it.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis, singer, cf. No. 0184/71. The Mozarts met her entire family in Mainz.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0187, lost.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang. The letter to him was No. 0187, lost.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0162/27. Optatus Basil von Amann (1747-1785), Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrath], member of an influential Salzburg family. He and his wife bought the estate Aigen near Salzburg and furnished it luxuriously. He went mad in 1783. The occurrence referred to here may have a sign of this. Later (No. 0838/4 ff.) he took money from the Royal Brewery in Kaltenhausen; the missing amount was taken from his father's estate.

<sup>22</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.