

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

Naples, 9<sup>th</sup> Junii, 1770

Now the heat is beginning to build up, and yet I still put on a woollen suit<sup>2</sup> today, only I had nothing but a shirt next to my body. [5] Thus we will gradually make ourselves lighter. We are well, praise God. Two days ago we dined at the home of *Msr. Meuricoffre*,<sup>3</sup> who commends himself to both of you, and yesterday as well as today, because of the sad Ember Days, we took our midday meal at *Baron Tschudi*'s,<sup>4</sup> who likewise commends himself to both of you. My letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.,<sup>5</sup> [10] as well as the others of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, will all have reached you safely. We will hardly receive any letters here other than your answer to my first letter from Naples, since the plan to leave, either on the 16<sup>th</sup> with the *procaccio*<sup>6</sup> or on the 20<sup>th</sup> with the post,<sup>7</sup> is still firm. I will therefore find your letters in Rome. If you answer immediately on receipt of this letter, [15] I will still be able to get your answer in Rome, or Herr Marcobruni<sup>8</sup> will send it on to me. Before leaving here I will still write to you once or twice and inform you of where to send the letters. It is in a certain way a pity that we cannot stay here longer, since there are various nice little things to be seen here throughout the summer, [20] and a constant changing of the fruit, herbs and flowers from week to week. The situation of the place, the fertility, liveliness, unusual sights etc., a hundred beautiful things make me sad to leave Naples. The lewdness, the crowds of beggars, the abhorrent people, yes, the godless people, the bad upbringing of the children, the unbelievable lack of decorum, [25] even in the churches, enables one to leave even the good with a calmer mind. Not only will I bring all the unusual sights of Naples with me in many beautiful engravings, but I have also received from *Msr. Meuricoffre* a beautiful collection of *lava* from *Vesuvius*. Not from the *lava* that everyone can easily find, but examined pieces with a description of the minerals contained in them, [30] rare pieces which are not easy to obtain. You will, if God lets us come back safely, see beautiful things. Give our compliments to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen, inside the house and beyond it. Keep well, both of you. We kiss you both 1000 times and I am as always your

Mozart

At this moment our servant brings me news that the hoped-for *sedia*<sup>9</sup> is at my service. [35] I will therefore leave on the 20<sup>th</sup> with the post and be in Rome in 26 hours,<sup>10</sup> whereas I would otherwise have to spend 4 and ½ days with the *procaccio* on this road which, although very beautiful, is provided with the most abhorrent inns. Our compliments to Herr Meissner;<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "Nº: 26 from Naples".

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0184/32-33.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0184/50. 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. 0195/55 ff; 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.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Mentioned in No. 0113/46.

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 0189, which was preceded by Nos. 0184, 0185, 0186, 0188.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Large coach, often used as a post-coach, cf. No. 0189/36.

<sup>7</sup> i.e. *sedia* plus post horses, No. 0189/37-38.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Small two-seater carriage, cf. No. 0189/36-37; No. 0163/21.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0193/4.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0176/95-96. 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 can describe these inns to you. The *sedia* belongs to the *Prior General*<sup>12</sup> of the *Augustinian Fathers*. [40] Tomorrow we dine in the convent of the *Augustinian Fathers* at *S. Giovanni à Carbonaro*<sup>13</sup> because they have an important celebration.

Today we saw the Swiss regiment, of which *Madame Tschudi's*<sup>14</sup> father is the colonel, training under fire. The regiment did great honour to its name, and the Italian regiments are not very much better at all than our 2 citizens' companies. [45] In the week just starting we will look at *Vesuvius*, the 2 buried towns<sup>15</sup> where they dig out entire rooms of antiquities, then *Casserta*<sup>16</sup> etc., in short, all the special sights, the engravings of which are already in my hands.

The terrible superstition and the amount of godless idolatry [50] which the people have here – I could not describe it briefly here. In the meantime, just let Herr Meissner tell you something about it. But you should not understand “people” as meaning only the *Lazaroni*;<sup>17</sup> no! even people of distinction are full of superstition.

I will have plenty to tell you, and it is no trivial thing at all [55] when you hear someone calling out to God, May God ask *Saint Januarius*<sup>18</sup> to help a person in this or that circumstance.

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<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0183/30. Leopold and Wolfgang stayed in an Augustinian monastery in Milan, presumably with the help of recommendation from Salzburg, and frequently stopped at Augustinian monasteries during the rest of the journey.

<sup>13</sup> BD: The monastery of San Giovanni a Carbonara was in the centre of the town. Its church still stands.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Probably the wife of the Tschudi mentioned above.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Pompeii, Herculaneum.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Caserta, about 27 km north of Naples. Construction of a royal palace in the Versailles style had started there in 1752 and was still continuing.

<sup>17</sup> BD: “Lazzaroni”, the general population of Naples.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Januarius [Gennaro], patron saint of Naples, martyred in 305 in Puteoli [Pozzuoli]. The miraculous liquefaction of Januarius' blood has taken place in the cathedral every year since at least 1389.