

Madame

Naples, 16th June, 1770

You should not, and need not, be surprised when the letters sometimes take a long time to reach you, since you already know from experience that one cannot always write, and that the letters need a fortnight to go from Salzburg to Naples. [5] In the meantime you must have received 6 letters¹ from Naples, this is the seventh. You must not answer this letter at all until I write to say where to send the letters. Our idea was to set off on the 20th, but it will probably be the 23rd or 24th, because His Excellency Count Kaunitz will not be ready before that. [10] He will be made Governor² in Moravia instead of His Excellency von Schrattenbach.³ Now we are busy seeing everything. On the 13th, *St. Anthony's Day*, you would not have expected to see a see us at sea. We drove off to *Pozzolo*⁴ in a coach at 5 in the morning and reached it at 7 o'clock, boarded a ship and sailed to *Baja* to see *Nero's* baths there, the underground *grottos* of the *Sybilla Cumana*,⁵ [15] *il Lago d'averno, il tempio di Venere, il tempio di Diana, il Sepolchro d'Agripina*,⁶ the Elysian Fields, or *Campi Elisi*, the Dead Sea, where *Charon* was the boatsman, the *Piscina Mirabilis*, the *Cento Camarelle*⁷ etc. On the way back we saw many old baths, *il monte nuovo, il monte gauro, il Molo di Pozzoli*,⁸ *il Colisseo*,⁹ *la Solfatara, l'Astroni*, [20] *la grotto del Cane and il Lago di Agnano* etc., but, above all, *la Grotta di Pozzuoli*¹⁰ and *Virgil's* grave. The *Grotta di Pozzuoli* is like our New Gate,¹¹ only we needed 8 minutes to drive through it, since it is 344 canes¹² long. Today we went to eat at the *Carthusians'* on the heights at *San Martino*,¹³ and after the meal we saw all the unusual sights and treasures of this place [25] and admired the view. On Monday and Tuesday etc. we will look at Vesuvius from slightly nearer, *Pompea* and *Herculaneum*,¹⁴ the places where they are excavating, and admire the rare finds already made, look at *Caserta*¹⁵ etc. and *Capo di Monte*¹⁶ etc., all of which will cost money. Now it is time, the post leaves soon, [30] and I must still write a few words to Herr *Marcobruni*.¹⁷

My compliments to all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen etc. We kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times and I am as always your
Mozart.

¹ BD: Nos. 0184, 0185, 0186, 0188, 0189, 0190.

² "S: Ex: der Graf Kaunitz". BD: Cf. plans mentioned in No. 0184/81-82. Ernst Christoph, Count [Graf] Kaunitz-Rietberg (1738-1797), eldest son of the State Chancellor [Staatskanzler], cf. No. 0120/9. Now appointed governor in Moravia, "Lands Hauptmann".

³ "S: Ex: Gr: v Schrattenbach". BD: Franz Anton, Graf von Schrattenbach, brother of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. The Mozarts met him in Olmütz in 1767, cf. No. 0121/38-40.

⁴ BD: Pozzuoli, the Puteoli of antiquity.

⁵ BD: The prophetess described in Canto 6 of Virgil's Aeneid.

⁶ Lake Avernus, the Temple of Venus, the Temple of Diana, the Tomb of Agrippina.

⁷ BD: Two huge freshwater reservoirs created for the Roman fleet.

⁸ BD: The remains of the old Roman harbour breakwater.

⁹ BD: A coliseum built for 25,000 spectators.

¹⁰ BD: Various natural phenomena, caves, lakes associated with the volcanic landscape.

¹¹ BD: The "Neutor" which had just been constructed in Salzburg (1764/65). Leopold had carefully followed the work, which involved tunnelling through the castle rock.

¹² BD: Roughly 2.8 m.

¹³ BD: The monastery of San Martino is considered one of the finest examples of Neapolitan Baroque architecture.

¹⁴ BD: Pompeii, Herculaneum.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ BD: Probably not the advantage point near Sorrento, but the part of Naples known as Capodimonte. The Regio Palazzo started there in 1738 housed an important art collection; outstanding porcelain was manufactured there.

¹⁷ BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

To see all the special sites, one must always have a *flambo*,¹⁸ since much lies under the earth. I and Wolfgang were completely alone with our servant, [35] we had 6 sailors and the *cicerone*,¹⁹ none of whom could conceal their astonishment at seeing Wolfgang, since the 2 grey-bearded sailors declared that they had never seen such a young boy who had come to see the antiquities in these places.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[40] I too am still alive, and am in constant high spirits as always, and am enjoying travelling. Now I have also sailed out onto the Merditerranish²⁰ Sea. I kiss Mama's hand, and I kiss Nannerl 1000 times, and am
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your son little Stevie and your brother Hans

¹⁸ BD: French "flambeau" = torch.

¹⁹ = guide. BD: It is not known whether they had the Prime Minister's steward with them as a guide (cf. No. 0185/10 ff.), but Leopold would certainly have had Johann Georg Keyssler, *Neueste Reisen durch Deutschland*, ..., Hannover, 1751 and 1752 (notes on travels in Germany and beyond) with him. Cf. No. 0152/61-62.

²⁰ BD: A typical intentional misspelling by Mozart: "merde" (French) or "merda" (Italian) = "shit".