

Rome, 27<sup>th</sup> Junii, 1770

Yesterday, at 8 o'clock in the evening, we arrived here in Rome. We have now made this journey, for which we would have taken 4 and a half days in the *vitturino*,<sup>1</sup> in 27 hours with the post. But we were truly flying. [5] The esteemed Count von Kaunitz<sup>2</sup> only arrived today; I thought it was better to travel alone because, so often, one does not find enough horses at the post stations, so that one then has the honour of being left sitting at the post station half a day, waiting for the return of the horses, all the more so because I knew that His Excellency General Koch<sup>3</sup> would go to Rome with 5 horses, and an Englishman with 7 horses. [10] So we left Naples alone and I said everywhere that I was the house administrator to the Imperial Ambassador,<sup>4</sup> because the administrators of such gentlemen are held in great respect in these parts. Not only did this make my journey safe, but I received good horses, fast service and in Rome I was not required to drive to the customs for inspection, and instead they even bowed deeply to me at the gate, [15] told me I should just drive straight on home, and I contentedly threw a few *Pauli*<sup>5</sup> in their faces. As we only slept for 2 hours during this journey of 27 hours, and ate nothing apart from 4 roast chickens with a piece of bread in the coach, you can easily imagine our hunger, thirst and sleep. [20] Our good Frau *Uslenghi*<sup>6</sup> gave us some soft-boiled rice and we took nothing more than a couple of soft-boiled eggs each etc., and when we reached our room, Wolfgang sat down in an armchair and immediately started to snore and to sleep so soundly that I fully undressed him and laid him in the bed without his giving even the least sign of waking up, [25] but he snored uninterruptedly, although I repeatedly raised him from the chair and put him down again and finally had to drag him, completely asleep, into the bed. When he awoke, after 9 o'clock in the morning, he did not know where he was and how he came to be in bed, and he lay the entire night in the same position. We are then, praise God, well. Tomorrow and the day after<sup>7</sup> we will see the fireworks, [30] the *Girandola illuminations*<sup>8</sup> etc. and all the beautiful things of that kind, then the handing over of the *Neapolitan Tribute*<sup>9</sup> and the Office and the *Vesper* in *St. Peter's*. It surprises me greatly that Herr Meissner<sup>10</sup> was not yet in Salzburg when you wrote to me, but even more that he had not written to Salzburg at all, if it is true that he had not yet arrived because of illness. I have heard nothing about him. [35] So *Mademoiselle Troger*<sup>11</sup> has not set off yet? I suspect this letter will yet arrive in time and you will be able to pass on to her my compliments. You must not answer this letter until I write to you again. In

<sup>1</sup> BD: vetturino = hired coachman. On the planning, cf. No. 0190/35 ff.

<sup>2</sup> "H. Graf v Kaunitz". BD: Ernst Christoph, Count [Graf] Kaunitz-Rietberg (1738-1797), eldest son of the State Chancellor [Staatskanzler], cf. No. 0120/9. He is now on his way from Naples, where he been Imperial Ambassador [Kaiserlicher Gesandter], to become governor in Moravia, cf. No. 0191/9-10.

<sup>3</sup> "S: Ex: H: General Koch". BD: Not identified.

<sup>4</sup> "Haushofmeister des Kays: Gesandten". BD: The ambassador is the Count [Graf] Kaunitz previously mentioned.

<sup>5</sup> BD: A silver coin in use in the Papal States: 1 paolo = 10 bajocchi = 1/10 scudo.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The Mozarts had stayed there on the way south, cf. No. 0177/17-18. They were staying in the house of Stefano Uslenghi († 1777), a papal courier currently in Portugal.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The eve and feast of Peter and Paul, the princes of the apostles.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The famous illumination of the cupola of St. Peter's.

<sup>9</sup> BD: The Kingdom of Naples was seen as being a fief of the Papal States; the tribute ("chinea") consisted of a milk-white palfrey and 7000 gold ducats [= 31,500 florins].

<sup>10</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.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0155/41, No. 0160/55. Leopold Troger was secretary to the governor general of Lombardy, his sister lived in Salzburg. She was expected to travel to Milan soon, bringing with her two pastel portraits of Mozart's mother and sister, cf. No. 0186/40.

the meantime, you must have received my letters of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June from Naples. So far, I have received all your letters. In Naples, the *impresario* Sgr. Amadori,<sup>12</sup> [40] when he saw and heard Wolfgang at Jomelli's,<sup>13</sup> proposed to him that he should write an *opera* for the *Teatro Reale*<sup>14</sup> at *San Carlo*, but we could not accept it at this time because of Milan. The *impresario* then declared that he could certainly see that it was not worth the trouble of travelling as far as Naples because of one single *opera*, [45] but he wished and hoped that Wolfgang would sooner or later write an *opera* in *Bologna* or *Rome*. He simply asked that we should inform him of it, since he would then immediately wish to send the *scrittura*<sup>15</sup> for the *teatro Reale*. Herr Hornung<sup>16</sup> has asked for *arias*.<sup>17</sup> You can give him whatever he wants, and Herr Spitzeder<sup>18</sup> as well, if he wants anything. They can just choose anything, [50] if they will only return it in the course of time.

Keep well, you and Nannerl, we kiss you both 1000 times. I am as always  
your

Mozart.

Every imaginable good wish to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen, inside and outside the house.

[55] Herr Meuricoffre<sup>19</sup> was present at our departure. He has performed the greatest acts of friendship for us. On the very last day he raised one hundred and 25 ducats<sup>20</sup> for us, partly Roman, *cigliati* and *zecchini*, so as to exchange at least most of the Neapolitan ounces or *once* of gold and get rid of them, because they are not accepted outside Naples.

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<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0192/45. Giovanni Amadori, sang at the opera in Berlin in 1745; entered service with the King of Naples and opened a school of singing there; also composed arias.

<sup>13</sup> BD: The season in the *Teatro San Carlo* in Naples opened with *Armida abbandonata* by Niccolò Jommelli (1714-1773), text by Francesco Saverio de Rogatis.

<sup>14</sup> = "Royal Theatre".

<sup>15</sup> Written contract.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Joseph von Arimathaea Hornung, bass (also tenor), involved in the court music from 1768, but was never permanently employed. Sang in the première of *La finta semplice*.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Obviously information in a letter from Maria Anna: No. 0192a, lost.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music.

<sup>19</sup> 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. 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>20</sup> BD: = 562.5 florins.