

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

Rome, 30<sup>th</sup> June,<sup>2</sup> 1770

You will have received my letter<sup>3</sup> of the 27<sup>th</sup> from Rome. I forgot to write to you that old *Baron Tschudi*<sup>4</sup> died [5] and we saw his burial a few days before our departure from Naples. We passed on the compliments from His Excellency Count *Spaur*<sup>5</sup> to *Baron Fridolin Tschudi*; he asked me to do the same in return. So please pass on the same from us as well at a convenient opportunity. You ask<sup>6</sup> if Wolfgang has already started the *opera*.<sup>7</sup> So far there are not even any thoughts about it. You must ask us about it in Milan on the first of November. [10] So far, neither the company nor the libretto are known. We now know the leading man and the *tenor*, namely the leading man is *Herr Sartorini*, who sang in Torino last Carnival, and the *tenor* is *Sgr. Ettore*.<sup>8</sup> We came across *Herr Sartorini* here in Rome; he came to visit us yesterday. He said he believed *Nitteti*<sup>9</sup> would be the first *opera*. [15] Enough! It will all take a good path. – – Did we play before the King?<sup>10</sup> – – nothing farther from the truth! It did not get beyond the mere *compliments* that the Queen paid us wherever she saw us. The Queen can do nothing, and the kind of person the King<sup>11</sup> is can be better told than written. [20] You can easily imagine how this court is run. The young *violinist La motte*,<sup>12</sup> who is in the service of the Empress<sup>13</sup> and travelled to Italy at her command and expense, was in Naples for a long time and stayed 3 weeks longer because they gave him some story that the King and Queen would hear him, and yet it did not happen. I will relate, in due time, an abundance of comical things about this court. [25] You will also see the King's portrait. I hope I will soon be able to write to you about what is to take place here.<sup>14</sup> I was forced for a time to stay at home or only to limp very slowly and have therefore not been able to pay my respects to princes and cardinals yet. I kept silent on the reason for this in my first letter, but now, [30] since it is looking better, I must tell you of the malign occurrence. You know that 2 horses and one *postillion* make 3 beasts. At the last post station before Rome, the *postillion* whipped the horse which runs between the shafts and consequently carries the *sedia*<sup>15</sup> on its back. The horse reared up, got stuck in the more than one-span-deep sand and dust and fell sideways to the ground with great force, [35] consequently pulling the front part of the *sedia* down with it because the *sedia* only has two wheels. I held Wolfgang back with one hand so that he did not tumble out, but the force of it threw my right leg onto the central iron of the leather mudguard

<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nanner!?) beside the address: "N<sup>o</sup>: 29 from Rome".

<sup>2</sup> BD: Date corrected by Nissen from "July" to "Juny".

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0193.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Presumably the father of the Fridolin Tschudi mentioned elsewhere: Nos. 0112b (lost); 0113/46; 0184/45-46; 0190/7-8.

<sup>5</sup> "S: E: gr: Spaur". BD: Ignaz Joseph, Graf Spaur (1727-1779), cathedral canon in Salzburg from 1755 to 1776, 1778-1779 Bishop of Brixen/Bressanone. Member of an influential family.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Leopold is answering questions from his wife's letter No. 0193a (lost).

<sup>7</sup> BD: *Mitridate, Rè di Ponto*, cf. Nos. 0165/17; 0200/28 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Mentioned in No. 0166/38.

<sup>9</sup> BD: By Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801). This was not performed until January, 1771, i.e. after *Mitridate*.

<sup>10</sup> BD: The king and queen of Naples are mentioned in No. 0184/108, 109, 114.

<sup>11</sup> BD: No. 0184/2.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 0192/21. Franz Lamotte (1751?-1781), pupil of Giardini, played in the concert given by the Mozart children in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1764. From 1772 first violinist in Maria Theresia's court music.

<sup>13</sup> "kayserin".

<sup>14</sup> BD: Probably a reference to the impending conferring of the Order of the Golden Spur, cf. No. 0195/7 ff.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0163/21. The *sedia* had two wheels and two seats; one horse was between the shafts; the second horse was ridden by the driver and was attached to a spar pointing out sideways from the carriage.

as it fell back, and with such force that I tore open half the shinbone on my right leg to the width of a finger. *N.B.* the leather mudguard was not of the kind that slots into place, [40] so it fell back. The whole business looked slightly dangerous on the second day because the whole leg was very swollen. Yesterday and today I was mostly lying on the bed. But today, as I write this, it is much better and the wound, which is very long, looks fine and is exuding only very little fluid, nor do I have any pain. I have not used anything apart from the white salve,<sup>16</sup> [45] and I will keep to that. Perhaps it had to happen this way so that you did not pack the linen wad for nothing, only I am sorry that there is so little plaster. You must write to me with the next post to say how to make it. If the letter comes after I have gone, *Abbé Marcobruni*<sup>17</sup> will certainly send it on to me. Esteemed *Abbate Crivelli*<sup>18</sup> learned of my ailing leg [50] and visited me this afternoon and also showed me the certificate of baptism.<sup>19</sup> We will dine with him as soon as I am better. You need not worry at all, with God's help the leg is getting better anyway, only it vexes me that I will have stay in Rome longer than I thought, not because of Rome, for I like being here, Rome pleases me, but because of the journey we have to make. [55] God will protect us. The heat is not so very intense yet, but that will come. Keep well, you and Nannerl. I kiss both of you 1000 times and am as always your Mzt.

Our compliments everywhere.

Where, then, were these weddings? – – –

[60] Herr *Marcobruni* commends himself.

In Naples I spoke to Obwexer,<sup>20</sup> who was a Jesuit, also to a young man, *Tiboni*,<sup>21</sup> who is now here.

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<sup>16</sup> BD: Probably zinc or lead carbonate ointment.

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

<sup>18</sup> “Abbate” = “Abbé” = abbot or person entitled to wear ecclesiastical dress. BD: Giuseppe Dionysio Crivelli, clergyman, agent in Rome for the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>19</sup> Possibly linked to the mysterious events outlined in No. 0173/30-42 and No. 0182/19-20.

<sup>20</sup> BD: One of the brothers Alois and Franz Obwexer, both Jesuits, two of nine children of a clothmaker in Klausen/Chiusa, between Bressanone and Bolzano.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Bartolo Tiboni, mentioned again briefly in No. 0202/31.