

0199. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG; POSTSCRIPT FROM MOZART TO HIS MOTHER AND NANNERL

Bologna, 21st Julii, 1770

The congratulations from me and Wolfgangerl¹ on your and Nannerl's name-day² may be late, but hopefully still in the *octave*.³ You will have been expecting as much, since you knew we were on our travels. [5] I did have the intention of writing to you on the way, but the letter would have gone to Venice and perhaps then only even via Vienna to Salzburg. Herewith we congratulate both of you from our hearts and wish you health, above all God's grace; otherwise we need nothing, everything else takes care of itself. We left Rome on the 10th *Julii* at 6 o'clock with a *vetturino*,⁴ [10] continued all through the night without sleeping and arrived in *Cività Castellana*⁵ at 5 in the morning, drank chocolate there, threw ourselves onto the bed, slept until 10 o'clock, then heard Holy Mass in the cathedral church,⁶ afterwards Wolfgang played the *organ*, then we had our midday meal and lay down to sleep for a couple of hours again, [15] and left around 5 in the evening.⁷ But only for the first day's journey did we travel during the whole night, for fear of *malaria*. On the other days we always drove off at 3 or 4 in the morning until 8 or 9 o'clock, then we halted until 4 o'clock in the evening, and then drove until 8 or 9 at night. [20] By the way, this was one of the most toilsome journeys I have made, partly because of the little and interrupted sleep, partly because of the unbelievable multitudes of vermin and fleas and bugs, which did not let even a completely exhausted body sleep, but especially because of my leg, which, although it was fairly much recovered, not only opened up again because of the constant jarring of the driving, [25] but was also so swollen at the bottom that the calf and the lower part were all the same size. I therefore could not take my walks and had to be content to see sights to any extent at all and mainly had to make sure that I could lay my leg on the bed as soon as we arrived anywhere. It just happened to be the 16th when we made our devotions in *Loretto*.⁸ [30] I bought 6 little bells and various other things. *N.B.* besides relics, I am also bringing a piece of the Holy Cross from Rome with me.

In *Sinegaglia*,⁹ we came across Herr *Prinsechi*,¹⁰ because the famous annual market is on now. We took a look at that, and it is worth seeing. The whole sea coast from *Loretto* to *Rimini* is occupied by soldiers and *sbirri*.¹¹ [35] Every 100, 200 and even 300 paces, there is a picket¹² of them, as there is also on high ground and other mountains, in order to prevent sea robbers¹³ landing and molesting travellers. We will tell you more about that in due time. We reached here¹⁴ on the morning of the 20th at 8 o'clock. My first concern was to stay in bed all day, [40] where I also ate, as I did today. And now it is visibly better and the swelling almost completely gone. With the next post I will be able to write, with God's help, of the continued

¹ BD: A pet name less often used at this time than "Woferl": cf. Nos 0034/28; 0035/60; 0036/6; 0040/6, 10.

² BD: 26th July (Anna).

³ BD: The eight days in the church calendar following a religious festival.

⁴ BD: = hired coachman, to drive the two-seater *sedia*.

⁵ BD: Cività Castellana, about 57 km north of Rome.

⁶ BD: Dating from the 12th century; cf. No. 1212/279-280.

⁷ BD: Route: Terni-Spoleto-Foligno-Loreto-Ancona-Senigallia-Pesaro-Rimini-Forli-Bologna, a total of 483 km.

⁸ 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.

⁹ BD: Senigallia.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0171/47-48, 94. Giuseppe Prinsechi, merchant.

¹¹ BD: Officers of the law, organised in a military fashion.

¹² BD: "piquet": a small detachment, usually on horseback.

¹³ BD: From the North African Barbary states.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0172/2-3. They stayed in Albergo S. Marco, Via dei Vetturini.

improvement of my leg of beef. His Excellency Count *Pallavicini*¹⁵ sent the young Count's¹⁶ High Steward,¹⁷ a cleric, to me yesterday and today, offering me doctors and surgeons. [45] I said No thank you, not on this occasion, since I do not need them, praise God. His Excellency furthermore offered me his coach and everything we need. I accepted the coach, as soon as I have a mind to go out again, and we will stay here rather a long time, because I will not travel further until the foot is perfectly well. [50] I would not have left Rome, but it was necessary because of the growing danger of heat and bad air. And, in the middle of this, to everyone's amazement, every morning and evening it is not only fresh, but so cold that, in the night that we drove off from Rome towards *Civita Castellana*, we put on our furs over our coats to shield us from the cold, [55] and we drove into *Sinegaglia* at 8 o'clock in the morning with the furs around us. It was our good luck that we had not been able to get the furs into the chest. All Italy is amazed at this weather. It only really started getting warm 2 days ago. If Wolfgang continues growing this way, he will be quite big when he gets home. [60] Next winter, he will no longer be able to wear the new woollen suit which was made in Salzburg. The waistcoat was already too small for him last winter. Keep well, both of you. I kiss both of you and am as always your

Mozart

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS MOTHER AND SISTER:

I *congratulate* Mama on her name-day [65] and wish that Mama may live many 100 years yet and always enjoy good health, for which I always ask God, and I pray every day and will pray every day for both of you. When I get back, I cannot possibly regale you with anything, such as any little bells from *Loreto*¹⁸ and candles and little bonnets and fleas. In the meantime, may Mama keep well, I kiss Mama 1000 times and remain, unto death, [70]

your faithful son
Wolfgang Mozart.

My dear sister,
*I wish that God may always give you health and let you live a hundred years yet, [75] and will let you die when you are a thousand years old. I hope that you will get to know me better in the future and then you will judge it as you please.*¹⁹ *Time does not permit me to write much. The trouble is not worth a fig, nor indeed the one who directs it. The title of the opera I have to write in Milan is still not known. Addio.*²⁰

SUPPOSEDLY ON THE ENVELOPE [MENTIONED BY NISSEN]:

¹⁵ "S: Ex: graf Pallavicini". BD: Giovanni Luca, Margrave [Markgraf] Pallavicini-Centurioni (1697-1773), from 1731 in the service of Austria, from 1754 Field Marshal. The Mozarts had been recommended to him by Count [Graf] Firmian, governor general of Lombardy.

¹⁶ BD: Conte [Count] Maria Giuseppe Pallavicini, son of field marshal Conte Gian Luca Pallavicini-Centurioni (cf. No. 0171/6, 8, 12).

¹⁷ "geist. Hofmeister".

¹⁸ BD: Cf. lines 29-30.

¹⁹ BD: It is not clear what Mozart is referring to here.

²⁰ Original Italian: *Cara sorella mia: Io vi auguro, che i dio vi dia sempre la salute e vi lasci vivere ancora cento anni, [75] e vi faccia morire quando avrete mille anni. spero, che voi impararete meglio conoscermi in awenire, e che poi ne giudicarete, come ch'egli vi piace. il tempo non mi permette di scriver molto: la pena non wale un corno, ne pure quello che la dirige. il titolo dell'opera che hò da comporre à Milano non si sà ancora. Addio.*

[80] I have been given, by the lady of the house in Rome,²¹ the Thousand and One Nights in Italian: it is very humorous to read.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Our *compliments* to all Salzburg, and especially to all little Mariannes.²² Always write only to *Bologna*.

The 2 unhappy *stories*²³ of the ones who were out by a few digits in their calculations do not surprise me very much. [85] Rather, I am amazed, since one has examples, that they do not look them up more diligently. What else can result? – Low pay! Big wars! And long marching columns!

You wrote that Herr Meissner²⁴ has arrived and has spoken to you, but you do not tell me where he has been so long? – [90] Whether he was the one who was ill? – Our *compliments* to him.

²¹ 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.

²² BD: Because of the name day, cf. lines 2-3.

²³ BD: Presumably some scandals in Salzburg. His wife had written to him: No. 0198a, lost.

²⁴ BD: It is not clear what Mozart is referring to here. 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.