

0208.¹ MOZART TO THOMAS LINLEY,² FLORENCE

³*Dear Friend,*

[Bologna, 10th September, 1770]

Here is a letter from me at last! I come late, indeed very late, to replying to the most courteous letter you sent to me in Naples, but which I did not receive until two months after you had written it to me. My father's plan was to take the [5] Loreto road to Bologna [, from there to travel via Florence, Livorno]⁴ and Genoa to Milan, and thus to surprise you, arriving unexpectedly in Florence. But as my father had the misfortune to receive a severe blow on the shin |: the shafthorse of the post-sedia⁵ having fallen :|, which injury not only necessitated his remaining [10] in bed for three weeks, but held him up in Bologna for 7 weeks, this ugly accident forced us to change our plans and to go to Milan via Parma.

First of all, we have missed the right time to make this journey and, secondly, there is now no longer a right time to do it (everyone being in the country), and not even to recover in this way the costs of the journey.

[15] *You can be sure that this accident was infinitely displeasing to us. I would do everything possible to have the pleasure of embracing my dear friend, and my father would join with me in having the greatest desire to see once again Sigr. Gavard⁶ and his dearest and most courteous family, as well as Signora Corinna and Sigr. Nardini,⁷ and then to return to Bologna, if there were sure hope simply of recouping the costs of the journey.*

[20] *Regarding the lost prints,⁸ my father thought of doing you a service and your information arrived in time for him to be able to acquire two of them again. It would be most gracious of you if you would inform me soon about the best way we could send them to you.*

Retain your dear friendship for me and believe firmly that I am always and remain, with unchangeable affection,

[25] *Bologna, 10th September, 1770. Your most devoted servant and most affectionate friend,*

Amadeo Wolfgang Mozart

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Please be so gracious as to give our compliments to all our friends, both ladies and gentlemen.
Leopoldo Mozart.

¹ BD: Original lost. The text of lines 1-19 used here is the transcription on p. 81 of BD VIII of a facsimile in an auction catalogue, which differs in details from the version in BD IV [= Edition: G. P. Jarro, *L'origine della Machera di Stentorello*, 1898, pp. 5-6].

² BD: When Leopold and Wolfgang, carrying a letter of recommendation from Maria Theresia's personal physician Laugier, called on the poetess "Corilla" (Maddalena Morelli-Fernandez) in Florence, they met Thomas Linley there. Linley (1756-1778) studied with his father, with Boyce in London, and then with Nardini. He returned to England at the beginning of the 1770s working as a violinist and composer. Cf. Nos. 0177/47 ff.; 1212/251 ff.

³ Entire letter in Italian.

⁴ BD VIII: the passage [...] is not in the facsimile.

⁵ BD: Small carriage, two wheels, two seats, two horses, the driver on one of the horses attached to a spar projecting sideways from the carriage; the other horse was between the shafts. Cf. No. 0163/21.

⁶ BD: The senior administrator mentioned in No. 0174/10.

⁷ BD: Should be "Corilla": cf. footnote 2. "Nardini": violin virtuoso currently in Florence, had met the Mozarts in Augsburg in 1763, cf. No. 0051/14.

⁸ BD: Engravings? Leopold had been collecting engravings recording the main sights seen on their journey. Perhaps those by Mechel-Delafosse, cf. Deutsch Bild No. 5.