

Bologna, 29th Sept., [1770]

Your last 2 letters¹ are of the 7th and 21st *Sept.*, and so you did not write on the 14th *Sept.*; at least, we have received no letter of the 14th *Sept.*² I have already written, in my last letter,³ that you should address them to Milan. [5] I hope to find an answer to that letter in Milan. Today Herr Troger⁴ informed⁵ me of the lodgings⁶ we are to occupy in Milan and we will, God willing, leave *Bologna* on the 6th or 8th *Octb.* Both Wolfgang and myself are unbelievably moved because of our good little Martha,⁷ who to all appearances has long had an incurable internal condition, like her brother Lorenz.⁸ [10] May God strengthen her! What is to be done? – Neither of us can get her out of our minds the whole day. – – Give her our *compliments*.

If you sometimes find there is something you cannot read, you should not be surprised, for I have cramp in one finger and cannot write properly, and flying bile, [15] or whatever it is, is going for a stroll from my shoulder into my arm, and is even finding pastime as far as my fingers. It will probably all pass, Herr Fischer⁹ used to say.

We are well, praise God. Wolfgang started the *recitatives* for the *opera*¹⁰ today. He kisses both of you 1 000 000 000 etc. times, along with myself.

[20] You will already know that the whole matter between the Pope and Portugal has been resolved with good accord again, but there is great fear that the abolition of the Jesuits will go ahead, for Bishop *Palafox*,¹¹ who was persecuted so much by the Jesuits in his day, is to be canonised. I could tell you of a multitude of such disputes, but it does not concern you greatly.

[25] It is bad enough that now in Catholic countries, yes, in Italy, the most abominable polemic tracts are being published against the authority of the Pope, against ecclesiastical immunity etc.

Keep well, both of you. Our *compliments* to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen, inside and beyond the house. I am as always your
Mozart.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[30] To fill out the letter a little, I will add a few words, too. I am heartily sorry about the chronic illness which poor Miss Martha¹² is having to suffer and endure with patience. I hope that, with God's help, she will indeed become well again. If not, one should not be too sorrowful, for God's will is always the best, [35] and God will surely know better whether it

¹ BD: Nos. 0206a; 0209a, both lost.

² BD: But cf. No. 0213/2.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0210/4 ff.

⁴ BD: Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. Father of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

⁵ BD: No. 0210a, lost.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0207/17. Not in the Augustinian monastery as on the first visit.

⁷ BD: Maria Martha (* 1751), a daughter of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, friend and landlord to the Mozarts, cf. No. 0200. She died on 29th October, 1771.

⁸ BD: Hagenauer's son Johann Lorenz (1744-1763).

⁹ BD: The man whose stock-phrase is quoted here remains unidentified.

¹⁰ BD: *Mitridate, Rè di Pontò*, KV 87 (74a), for Milan; the composition is marked "opera seria". Libretto by Cigna-Santi, based on Parini's translation of Racine's *Mithridate*. Cf. No. 0200/27 ff.

¹¹ BD: Jean Palafox de Mendoza (1600-1659) served as a bishop in Mexico, where he had been in conflict with the Jesuits, then returned to Europe to present his case to the Pope. First steps towards his canonisation were taken in 1694 by the Spanish court, but blocked on the grounds that no enemy of the Jesuits could be declared a saint. Despite that, fresh attempts were now being made.

¹² "Jungfrau Martha".

is better to be in this world or in the other, but she should take comfort because she can now come from the rain into the fine weather.¹³ I kiss Mama's hand; and keep well.

Addio.

Wolfgang Mozart.

¹³ BD: Mozart voices similar words of comfort in his letter to Leopold and Nannerl following the death of his mother in Paris, cf. No. 0462/22 ff.