

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantua¹

Milano, 27 d'ottobre 1770

You will have received my first letter² from Milan of 20th. On the same post-day, I also wrote³ to His High Princely Grace.⁴ [5] Let me know if His High Princely Grace has received it, you will without doubt find out soon. We are well, praise God, and since there is always heavy rain, we have only been out of the house a little. *La Spagnioletta*,⁵ whom you saw in *Lyon*, is here and will sing in *Verona* this Carnival. She said to us that the *tenor*⁶ will come from Germany, [10] and is in service at a court not far from Bavaria. Perhaps Herr Meissner⁷ will come, for I know that he could have had the theatre in *Verona*. Consequently, I surmise that he is the one. Tell me immediately. We will, God willing, leave here halfway through January and travel via *Brescia, Verona, Vicenza, Padua* to Venice in order to see the end of Carnival, which is very short this year, [15] and then hear some *concerts* during Lent, which, as everyone tells me, is the best time to put on *concerts*. It is only a pity that we will then have a dirty and perhaps even dangerous journey home, since it is no fun to travel through the mountains in spring when the snow is melting. I still have a mind to leave via Carinthia, [20] for I have now seen Tyrol already and I have no joy in taking the same route twice, as dogs do, unless it is necessary. In the meantime, I would ask the 2 gentlemen Johann and Joseph Hagenauer⁸ to find out if I might have private lodgings⁹ in a secure place in Venice. I will certainly stay in *Brescia, Verona* etc., [25] and all these places for a little time in order to see the *opera* in passing, and consequently not reach Venice until *February*, yes, perhaps only in the first days of the week following Candlemas.¹⁰ Herr Hafner,¹¹ to whom I most heartily commend myself, promised to send letters to Venice for us.¹² If he is willing to do this, [30] one can have them delivered in advance to a friend in Venice so that I collect them there, for it would be unnecessary to send them on a long trip to Milan. Herr Misliwetscek¹³ visited us in *Bologna*, and we often visited him; he frequently recalled Herr Johannes Hagenauer¹⁴ and, of course, Herr Croener.¹⁵ He was writing an *oratorio*¹⁶ for

¹ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N: 45 from Milan".

² BD: No. 0214.

³ BD: No. 0215, lost.

⁴ "Se: Hochf: Gnaden".

⁵ BD: Clementina Spagnoli, singer, also knew Frau Mozart and Nannerl from Lyon in 1766, cf. No. 0171/39.

⁶ BD: The one meant to sing with Clementina Spagnoli in Verona.

⁷ 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.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0207/13-14. Sons of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, friend and landlord to the Mozarts and recipient of numerous letters from Leopold.

⁹ BD: It was probably Johann (Nepomuk Anton) Hagenauer (cf. Wolfgang's postscript to No. 0231) who arranged the accommodation with family Giovanni Wider (cf. Nos. 0235/7; 0133/10; 0235/3).

¹⁰ BD: Candlemas is 2nd February. The Mozarts arrived on 11th February, 1771 and stayed until 12th March.

¹¹ BD: Siegmund Haffner the Elder (1699-1772), Salzburg merchant and public figure. Mozart's *Haffner Symphony* KV 385 was written for his son by his second marriage, Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787).

¹² BD: Presumably letters of credit.

¹³ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris.

¹⁴ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 that his aged mother then took over the business.

Padua, which he will now have finished, and then he is going to Bohemia. [35] He is an honourable man and we have built up a perfect friendship with each other.

Our lodgings¹⁷ here are not far from the theatre¹⁸ and consist of a large room with a balcony and 3 windows. In this room there is a fireplace. The bedroom is equally large, with 2 large windows, without a fireplace. [40] Consequently, if we do not freeze, we can thus be sure that we will not stink, for we have enough air. The bed¹⁹ is fully 9 man's spans wide. Now we have quite a long way to Count *Firmian's* residence,²⁰ but it is necessary for us to be near the theatre now.

We wish both of you good health, and especially cheaper times, [45] as you always give me the sad news that everything is becoming dearer.²¹ What will become of Salzburg in the end if they do not think up the means of setting up a good policy? With such small salaries, we will in time see nothing but beggars. The poor court servants hardly have anything to satisfy their hunger, and since their children are learning nothing because they lack the means, [50] they are growing up as idlers, and within 20 years the town will be filled with a horde of useless people who live in misery and are a burden to both the court and the entire *public*. Within a few years, yes, from year to year, one will see that I speak the truth. If one wants to allow everyone to marry and fill a town with people, [55] one must surely know in advance how one will give these people work and, consequently, something to live on. Filling a town with beggars is something quite simple. One must be able to provide them with work and earnings, then the population behaves well. And to me it seems not impossible, although Salzburg is very hemmed in and blocked on right and left. In such cases [60] one must have an idea for something that can be used in our own country, but one must also have the product in the land. We kiss you 100 000 000 times and I am as always your

Mozart.

Has *Zezi's* lottery²² got going?

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

[65] My very dearest sister!

You know that I am a great babbler and it was as such that I left you. But now I am moving more into sign language, as the son of the house is dumb and deaf,²³ and has been so from birth. Now I have to write for the *opera*.²⁴ I am heartily sorry that I cannot be of service to you with the *menuetti*²⁵ you asked for, [70] but, God willing, you shall perhaps have them,

¹⁵ BD: Most likely someone known to the Mozart since Salzburg, but just possibly one of the four sons of the violinist Thomas (von) Croener of Augsburg who played in the court music in Munich.

¹⁶ BD: The oratorio for Padua was *Giuseppe riconosciuto*, text by Metastasio.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0207/17. The precise location is not known.

¹⁸ BD: Teatro Regio Ducal.

¹⁹ BD: Leopold shared the bed with Wolfgang, cf. No. 0176/108-110, so Leopold emphasises its width.

²⁰ "grafl. Firmianische behausung". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

²¹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0189/51; 0203/58; 0206/27-28. The constant price inflation led the city of Salzburg to carry out a census, according to which there were in total 435 houses, palaces and monasteries, in which 14,857 persons over seven years old and 1266 under seven years old lived.

²² BD: This did in fact start, but is not clear which of the twin brothers Zezi was responsible for it: one brother dealt in textiles and trinkets, the other in spices.

²³ BD: Wolfgang relates more about this in the postscript to No. 0243/56-57.

²⁴ BD: *Mitridate, Rè di Ponto*, 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. Nos. 0200/27 ff.; 0206/9-10; 0211/18-19.

²⁵ BD: Menuets by Michael Haydn by Nannerl for Wolfgang to arrange for keyboard, cf. Nos. 0168/6; 0210/38.

and me with them, at Easter. I can write nothing more, and know of nothing else, for there is nothing new. Look after yourself, and pray for me. My handkiss to Mama, and my compliments to all who know me, and I am as always your brother
[75]

Wolfgang Mozart.