

Milan, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1770

In my last letter,<sup>1</sup> of the 10th inst., I had already said to you that you should, on our behalf, thank all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen, for the good thoughts and wishes.<sup>2</sup> We cannot, however, thank you and Nannerl,<sup>3</sup> [5] for although you wrote down the good wishes of others, your own wishes stuck in the pen, and Nannerl probably did not yet have a suitable phrase in mind, for she too wrote not a word. But in her last letter but one, she did promise her brother that she would *congratulate* him in her next one. Be thankful to God that I am not the doubly strict Herr Danner,<sup>4</sup> [10] God rest his soul; that would have been cause enough for me to have brought a complaint about you to the esteemed City Chaplain or even to the *Consistory*, for this is certainly a greater insult than hanging a dirty apron on the writing desk and the most important grounds for divorce. By the way, it would not have ruptured Nannerl's brain to write to me, – – [15] for now it occurs to me! – – yes, yes, she sent congratulations in Italian to her brother,<sup>5</sup> now I remember. If one has many other things in one's head, one cannot possibly think of everything.

We find ourselves, praise God, in good health. In the last few days, Wolfgang has had a little of his customary tooth root inflammation on one side with a little swelling. – [20] The *prima donna*<sup>6</sup> is infinitely satisfied with her *arias*. The *primo uomo*<sup>7</sup> is coming in the coming week.

We have fended off a second storm<sup>8</sup> between yesterday and today; and although there will still be one thing or another, I am hoping that, with God's help, all will go well, for it is a great good fortune, which seldom happens, if an *opera* receives general applause in Italy, [25] since there are many factions and even a mediocre, yes, even a bad *solo* dancer has her coterie who unite to shout *bravo* and make noise. Enough! We already have much behind us; this, too, with God's help, will find its fortunate end.

[30] So our esteemed parish priest of Sietzenheim<sup>9</sup> has died from the same illness from which his brother Johannes,<sup>10</sup> *organ* builder in Wels, died many years ago, with the difference that the latter was lean in the *moral* and *physical* sense at his death, since he had drunk consumption into his throat, and probably left his widow very little, while our esteemed priest will have died from hydrophobia and gangrene [35] and will have left something behind for both the worms and his heirs. I regret his passing, he was an honest man and an old acquaintance and friend of mine. *Requiescat in pace!*<sup>11</sup>

You recently asked me if we are living far from Herr Troger?<sup>12</sup> – We need quarter of

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<sup>1</sup> BD: No. 0218.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Leopold's birthday and then name-day (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November), cf. No. 0218/2.

<sup>3</sup> BD: On the reply cf. No. 0221/4 ff.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No doubt a Salzburg figure, not related to the Mannheim Danners of Nos. 0057/2 and 0360/23-25.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0217/39.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Antonia Bernasconi, cf. No. 0218/ 21 and No. 0125/134 naming singers performing in Vienna.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Pietro Benedetti, known as Sartorini, whom the Mozarts had met again in Rome (cf. No. 0192/13) and who sang in Mozart's *Mitridate* in Milan in 1770. Cf. No. 0166/37.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. the first one in No. 0218/20. This new storm was caused by Guglielmo d'Ettore, who had the title rôle in *Mitridate*, cf. Nos. 0166/38; 0448/200. Evidence of the demands he made are the four different surviving drafts of the cavata *Se di lauri il crine adoro* (No. 8), two drafts of the recitative *Respira alfin* (No.13), and two different settings of the aria *Vado incontro al fato estremo* (No. 20).

<sup>9</sup> BD: Kajetan Egedacher, parish priest in Sietzenheim, west of Salzburg, from 1764 to 1771.

<sup>10</sup> BD VII: Johann Christoph Egedacher, son of the Salzburg court organist builder.

<sup>11</sup> = May he rest in peace.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Leopold Troger. His sister lived in Salzburg, where he visited her in 1771. He was secretary to Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, governor general of Lombardy.

an hour to Count *Firmian's*<sup>13</sup> residence. [40] But there are few days on which we do not go out after the midday meal to get some exercise, for I do not want Wolfgang to write after the meal unless it is most urgently necessary. This evening we are going into the country with Herr *Troger*, roughly the same distance as to Plain,<sup>14</sup> and we stay there until Monday. He has bought a vineyard and fields there and wants to build a house there next spring. [45] In the meantime, he has leased one there. Now I no longer know what I should write. We kiss you both 10 000 000 times, commend ourselves to our good friends, both ladies and gentlemen, inside and beyond the house, and I am as always your  
Leopd Mozart *mp.*<sup>15</sup>

Is the *Congress*<sup>16</sup> already over? --

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<sup>13</sup> “das Gr: Firmianische Hause”. BD: Cf. No. 0216/42. 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.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Maria Plain is a pilgrimage church about 4 km outside Salzburg.

<sup>15</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>16</sup> BD: 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1770 – 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1771. Representatives of the bishopric of Bavaria met to discuss possible measures against the church politics of Elector Maximilian III Joseph; cf. No. 0206/ 29 ff.