

Milan, 12th January, 1771

We will not be going to *Turin* until the coming Monday.¹ I must give you the news that I was informed yesterday by *Sgr. Pietro Lugiatì*² [5] that the *Accademia Filarmonica* in *Verona* has received our son as a member and the *Cancelliere dell'accademia*³ is in the process of drawing up the *diploma* for him. Praise God, the *opera*⁴ has attracted such a throng that the *theatre* is full every day. I send you once again a reminder to look out for linen for shirts,⁵ for now I am having pieces added to the sleeves [10] so that we can at least get by with his little shirts until we get home. Herr Wider⁶ has written to me from Venice, and I have already answered him.⁷ His Excellency Count *Firmian*⁸ has travelled to *Parma*, and as Herr *Troger* is with him and we are now travelling to *Turin*, we will no doubt receive your letters late. We kiss you 100 000 times. I have nothing to say and much to do, [15] for I have to write to half the world. I am as always your

Mozart.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

I have written nothing for a long time now because I was busy with the *opera*. Now that I have time, I will take better note of my duties. [20] The *opera*, praise and thanks be to God, is well received, as the *theatre* is full every evening, which also left everyone amazed, as many say that they have never seen, in all the time they have been in Milan, a first *opera* so full as this time. I am, along with my Papa, well, and hope I can tell Mama and you everything in person at Easter. *Addio*. My handkiss to Mama. [25] *Apropos*,⁹ yesterday the *copyist* called by and said that at this very moment he is having to write out the *opera* for the court in *Lisbon*.¹⁰ In the meantime, take care of yourself, my dear *Mademoiselle* sister. I have the honour to be and to remain, from this time forth and evermore,¹¹

your faithful brother.¹²

¹ BD: 14th January, 1771.

² BD: Pietro Lugiatì (1724-1788), provincial tax official.

³ Chancellor of the Academy.

⁴ BD: *Mitridate, Rè di Ponto*, KV 87 (74a); the composition is marked "opera seria". Libretto by Cigna-Santi, based on Parini's translation of Racine's *Mithridate*. First performance 26th December, 1770, in the Teatro Regio Ducal, Milan, which was opened in 1717 with Gasparini's *Costantino* and burned down completely in 1776. Cast list in BD V, p. 289.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0223/36 ff.

⁶ BD: They were planning to stay with Giovanni Wider (Wieder) (1707-1797), merchant, previously in Salzburg, now in Venice. The Mozarts certainly had a letter of recommendation from Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, who did business with him.

⁷ BD: No. 0227a, lost.

⁸ "S:† Ex: Gr: Firmian". 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.

⁹ In the sense of "by the way".

¹⁰ BD: After the performances of *Mitridate* in the *Teatro Regio Ducal*, the copyist retained the original score, but had to make at least five complete copies (cf. No. 0233/19 ff.). Lisbon copy is probably the one kept today in the Biblioteca de Ajuda.

¹¹ BD VII: A similar phrase is used in No. 0384/67.

¹² BD: The signature has been cut off.