

0231. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG; MOZART'S POSTSCRIPTS TO NANNERL AND J. N. A. HAGENAUER

Venice, 13<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1771

Because of the terrible weather and astonishing wind, we did not reach Venice until the morning of the last Monday of Carnival.<sup>1</sup> In the afternoon, we sought to meet Herr Wider,<sup>2</sup> who then, along with his wife, accompanied us to the *opera*. [5] On Shrove Tuesday we dined at his home at midday, went to the *opera*, which began at 2 o'clock and was finished towards 7 o'clock in the evening, then we had our evening meal with him, and between 11 and 12 o'clock, according to German time reckoning,<sup>3</sup> we were on *St. Mark's* Square to go to the ball, and said to each other that you were now perhaps at Herr Hagenauer's<sup>4</sup> and would not imagine that we were speaking about you in *St. Mark's* Square. [10] It was the most abominably rainy weather, but today, Ash Wednesday, we have the most beautiful weather. We are well, praise God. Whom would you expect us to meet in *Brescia*? -- We went to the *opera buffa* there, and found as *prima donna* *Sgra. Angeliga Maggiore*,<sup>5</sup> who is married to a *tenor*, who also sings there. [15] She was quite astounded to see us. Say to Herr Spizeder<sup>6</sup> that if he wants to see his former *impresario* *Crosa*,<sup>7</sup> he can meet him in Milan, where he goes begging miserably dressed and with a long beard. Thus God punishes the deceivers! That *Carattoli*<sup>8</sup> and *Laschi*<sup>9</sup> have died: – you will have heard that. [20] Your letter reached me safely here, along with the note from Herr von Vogt.<sup>10</sup> Take care of yourselves. I must hurry. We kiss you both 100 000 times and I am as always

your

Mozart.

Herr Wider, the honest man, [25] together with his wife and daughters,<sup>11</sup> commend themselves. Our compliments to all Salzburg.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

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<sup>1</sup> BD: 11<sup>th</sup> February.

<sup>2</sup> BD: 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. They intended to stay with him in Venice.

<sup>3</sup> BD: As opposed to Italian time, in many areas calculated from the beginning of the evening, i.e. 17:30 is taken as Italian 00:00.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Angelica Maggiori, married to the tenor Giuseppe Gallieni. First evidence of her career is in Venice in 1768. She is the daughter of the Francesco Maggiore whom the Mozart family met in Frankfurt in 1763 and The Hague in 1765 (Nos. 0065/13-14; 0105/19). Gallieni sang in Venice in 1742 and 1744, later in Rome and in numerous towns in the north of Italy.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

<sup>7</sup> BD: Nothing more is known about him.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0125/133 for a list of *opera buffa* singers in Vienna. Francesco Caratoli (c. 1705-1772), *basso buffo* from Modena. The reports of his death here and in No. 0230/9-10 are false. He died in Vienna in 1772.

<sup>9</sup> BD: The father of the singer Luisa Laschi, cf. No. 0125/134. Luisa was the first *Countess* (*Marriage of Figaro*) and the first Vienna *Zerlina* (*Don Giovanni*).

<sup>10</sup> BD: Personal valet [“hochfürstlicher Leibkammerdiener”] to the Prince-Archbishop, ennobled in January, 1766. Mentioned in No. 0202/59 among those Wolfgang depicted as admirers of his sister.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Wider had six daughters, but one must have died before 1785, when only five daughters are mentioned in his testament.

My dearest sister!

From my Papa you will already have gathered that I am well. I do not know what I should write, other than my handkiss to Mama. Keep well.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO JOHANN NEPOMUK ANTON HAGENAUER:<sup>12</sup>

[30] <sup>13</sup>To Sig. Giovanni.

The enormously rich Sig.<sup>ra</sup> Perla<sup>14</sup> greets you heartily, as do all the other pearls, and I assure you that they are all in love with you, and that they hope that you will take all of them as wives, as the Turks do, to make all six happy. I am writing this in the house of Sgr. Wider, who is a courteous man, as you described in your letter,<sup>15</sup> and yesterday we concluded Carnival in his house, [35] dining here, and then we danced and went in the company of the pearls to the New Ballroom, which I found very pleasing. When I am at Herr Wider's and looking out of the window, I see the house where you lived when you were in Venice. I know of nothing new. Venice is much to my taste.<sup>16</sup>

My compliments to your esteemed father and mother, sisters, brothers and all my friends of both sexes. *Addio*.

[40]

13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1771.

*Wolfgango Amadeo*  
Mozart

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<sup>12</sup> BD V corrects the name from BD I. The postscript is entirely in Italian. 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.

<sup>13</sup> Entirely in Italian.

<sup>14</sup> BD: One of the six daughters, see note on line 25.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Presumably Johannes had written on this subject, but the letter is lost.

<sup>16</sup> BD: One of Wolfgang's rare positive reactions.