

Venice, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1771

You have Herr Wider<sup>1</sup> to thank for this letter, who is forcing me to write to you as I have nothing to do for a short time after the meal and today happens to be post-day. Yesterday there was a beautiful *concert*,<sup>2</sup> and in the last few days we have been tortured so terribly [5] that I don't know who will carry off the prize for having us as guests. Accordingly, I cannot leave earlier than Monday.<sup>3</sup> But that is the day fixed anyway for our departure from Venice. But you should not be afraid that we will not be in Salzburg for Easter. The time I overstay here I will take away from other places, [10] where I can be held up by less and, so to speak, ultimately by almost nothing at all. We are, praise God, well. We are only sorry, or, rather, it is a pity that we cannot stay here longer, as we have made the close acquaintance of the entire *nobility* and have had such honours heaped upon us everywhere, in company, at the dining table, in short, on every occasion, [15] that they not only send the house secretary to collect us in the *gondola* and escort us back home, but often the nobleman himself travels with us on the way back, and these are nothing less than the leading families, such as *Cornaro*, *Grimani*, *Mocenigo*, *Dolfin*, *Valier*<sup>4</sup> etc.

Do you know whom I saw yesterday? – – the husband of that abominable singer<sup>5</sup> [20] who gave the famous *concert* in the tavern and then had herself carried round the merchants' houses on a chair to beg. He was sitting at the entrance to the *concert*, behind the door, in a red coat, in order to see how big a company of nobles would come together. Finally, as I came nearer, he stood up to speak to me, [25] for I had acted as if I had not seen him. He was very glad to see me in Venice, and said that his wife was taking lessons with *Maestro Boroni*<sup>6</sup> and would like to pay her respects to me. I had to tell him, under duress, where I am lodging, but I also immediately gave *orders* back at the house that they should always deny knowing me if a man with a woman, or a woman alone, should come. [30] Today, after many fine days, we are having an abominably rainy day. I hope that the rain does not continue, otherwise we shall have a terrible road from *Padua* to *Vicenza*. Enough! One must take everything as it comes. These are things which leave me sleeping peacefully; as long as we are in good health. [35] You will hardly be able to write to me after you receive this letter: the reply can only be to Innsbruck,<sup>7</sup> where I will enquire at the post office.

I cannot describe to you the honours that we received at Herr Wieder's.<sup>8</sup> If we are not invited elsewhere, we always eat at his home, and he supplies everything that we need. [40] He and his whole family commend themselves to you and to the whole Hagenauer household.

Take care of yourself, we kiss both of you 10 000 times and I am as always your  
Mozart.

To all friends, both gentlemen and ladies, our compliments.

I received the *lamenting* letter which you sent to Milan. On the same day as the air-

<sup>1</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.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Tuesday, cf. No. 0233/24.

<sup>3</sup> BD: They finally left on the Tuesday, cf. No. 0236/3 ff.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Various important families in Venice; there had been Doges from the Grimani, Mocenigo, Cornaro and Valier families. Leopold and Wolfgang had obviously enjoyed particular hospitality from the Cornaro family, cf. Nos. 0232/43; 0233/6.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Nothing more is known about these persons.

<sup>6</sup> BD: It is doubtful whether this could be the Boroni who taught Clementi, as Boroni was in charge of music in Stuttgart 1770-1777 and then employed in the Vatican from 1778.

<sup>7</sup> Innsbruck.

<sup>8</sup> BD: = Wider.

gun shooting took place in the Eizenbergerhof,<sup>9</sup> we set off from Milan at midday, [45] and slept in *Canonico*<sup>10</sup> that night.

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<sup>9</sup> BD: The innkeeper Müllbacher, who had one inn in the Judengasse, also had a property outside the town on the road towards Bavaria, the Eizenberger-Hof. The large room there was rented out for events. The Mozart family participated regularly in air-gun contests. The name came from a previous owner.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Should be “Canonica”.