

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantua<sup>1</sup>*

Milan, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1771

This is fourth letter<sup>2</sup> that you are receiving from me. In this I must extol my *sedia*,<sup>3</sup> which has withstood this journey successfully, [5] and although we absolutely rattled our way over the largest stones on the Venetians' routes from *Verona*, yes, it even started at *Peri*,<sup>4</sup> I did not suffer the least inconvenience; only I had 2 bands fitted to one of the two front wheels, since the astonishing heat had dried out the wood entirely and repeated wetting with water helped little or not at all. As far as Botzen<sup>5</sup> we had mild weather; [10] yes, until Insprugg<sup>6</sup> it was cold rather than warm, and the sun, appearing occasionally, visibly gave rise here and there to mist which hung on and came down as rain, so during our first overnight stop in St. Johanns<sup>7</sup> I took my flannel waistcoat out of my night bag and put it on, but then removed it at the first post stage outside Botzen while the horses were being changed, [15] and since that moment we have had warmth, and I fear very much that when it comes to the first night, it will rain valiantly, which is certainly very inconvenient on the occasion of such celebrations. The poetry<sup>8</sup> has finally arrived, but Wolfgang has not yet written anything apart from the *overtura*, namely a somewhat extended *allegro*, then an *andante*, [20] which must be danced at the same time, but only with a few persons, for instead of the last *allegro*, he has written a kind of *contredance* and chorus,<sup>9</sup> which must be danced and sung simultaneously. Yesterday evening, Herr Hasse<sup>10</sup> arrived. We will now visit him. We paid our respects to Her Royal Highness the Princess Bride. [25] She was so gracious that she not only spoke to us for a long time and was most pleasant during our encounter, but it was remarkable that when she saw us, she hurried quickly towards us, removed her gloves, offered us her hand and had already started to speak to us from a distance before we had time to address her properly. His Excellency Count von Firmian<sup>11</sup> will come to Salzburg later than was expected, and it must have been quite a feat if this person is now in Salzburg. [30] Ask esteemed secretary Troger<sup>12</sup> to give you an opportunity to pay your respects to His Excellency, we have reason to thank His Excellency, and are also greatly indebted to Herr Troger. His Excellency's court steward,

<sup>1</sup> BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N: 4 from Milan".

<sup>2</sup> BD: The three previous ones were Nos. 0240, 0241, 0242.

<sup>3</sup> BD: "my" does not necessarily mean ownership. Simple two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage (with one of the two horses harnessed to an arm on the side of the carriage) for two persons and baggage.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Between Rovereto and Rhona.

<sup>5</sup> Bozen, Bolzano.

<sup>6</sup> Innsbruck.

<sup>7</sup> BD: St. Johann in Tyrol. 25 km from Lofér.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The text for Mozart's commission, *Ascanio in Alba*, had been sent to Vienna for approval, cf. No. 0242/11.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0245/9 ff. For a purely instrumental performance, Mozart had written a replacement (KV 120/111a ) for the chorus "of Genies and Graces".

<sup>10</sup> BD: Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), back in Vienna since 1764. Leopold Mozart heard his opera *Demetrio* in Mantua in 1770 (cf. Nos. 0117/8; 0158/22; 0239/16-17). He arrived in Milan with a letter of recommendation from Maria Theresia addressed to Princess Maria Beatrice.

<sup>11</sup> "S:† Exc: graf v 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. He had travelled to Vienna in connection with the impending marriage which Mozart was to write *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111 and visited his relations in Salzburg on the way.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. Father of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

*Ferdinando Germani*,<sup>13</sup> is His Royal Majesty the Archduke's<sup>14</sup> personal attendant and will take up his position when the Archduke arrives.

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[35] Now I have to remind you that 100 copies of the violin school are to be sent to Herr Breitkopf<sup>15</sup> in Leipzig, for 50 of which he is to pay 1 florin 30 kreuzers per copy in cash, but he has the other 50 copies on commission for 1 florin 45 kreuzers. Now these 100 copies are to be sent to Herr Schwarzkopf<sup>16</sup> in Nuremberg, and I do not know if it is better to have them taken to Nuremberg by my brother Franz Alois,<sup>17</sup> [40] or rather to hand them to Herr Schwarzkopf at the coming Michaelmas market.<sup>18</sup> The latter seems better to me. Now you have time to put the 100 copies together so that nothing gets lost. Then hand them over to Herr Schwarzkopf at the Michaelmas market, having addressed them to Herr Breitkopf and Son in Leipzig and packed them carefully, with the information that this is being done at the wish of Herr Breitkopf. [45] Then request Herr Hagenauer<sup>19</sup> to conduct a money transfer for you. The 50 copies come to 75 florins,<sup>20</sup> and from the last payment Herr Breitkopf still owes me 2 or 3 florins, as you will find entered in the little book and on the large sheet of paper, since it is the remainder of the payment made via Herr Steinhauser.<sup>21</sup> It will thus amount to around 78 florins.

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[50] Now we ask you to give our *compliments* to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, for we have no time for setting down entire *litanies*.

Keep well! We kiss you both many 1000000 times and I am as always your

Mozart.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

My dearest sister!

[55] We are, praise and thanks be to God, in good health. I have already eaten many good pears and peaches and melons on your behalf. My only diversion is using sign language with the deaf boy,<sup>22</sup> for I have this off to perfection. Herr *Hasse* arrived here yesterday, today we will visit him. The libretto for the *serenade* only arrived here last Thursday. I don't know of anything I should write. [60] I beseech you again regarding that completely different matter, where nothing more can be done, you know what I mean.<sup>23</sup> *Compliments* from Herr *Germani*, but especially from his wife, who is so keen to meet you. From *Madame d'Asti*<sup>24</sup> and from him and, below, from me too. My *compliments* to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. My handkiss to Mama. *Addio*.

[65]

Wolfgang.

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<sup>13</sup> "der Hausmeister S<sup>r</sup>: Ex:". BD: Don Fernando (Ferdinandi) Germani, steward/house administrator [Haushofmeister] to Count [Graf] Firmian in Milan, frequent host to Leopold and Wolfgang. The "supervisor" was apparently a kind of coordinator or manager for the duration of the Archduke's stay.

<sup>14</sup> "von S<sup>r</sup>: K: hoheit des Erzherzogs". Archduke [Erzherzog] Ferdinand, son of Maria Theresia; it was his wedding to Princess Maria Beatrice that was to be celebrated.

<sup>15</sup> BD: The publisher and music seller Breitkopf in Leipzig was also selling Leopold's violin school; cf. No. 0152/99 f.

<sup>16</sup> BD: The Nuremberg representative of the publisher Breitkopf, cf. No. 0163/31.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Around the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>20</sup> BD VII: Obviously the 50 copies mentioned in line 36 Cf. No. 0320/4-5.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0216/68.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0242/40-42, where some secret message was involved.

<sup>24</sup> BD: d'Asti von Asteburg and his wife Marianne, daughter of Leopold Troger. Cf. No. 0242/30.