

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantua¹

Milan, 12th *Octob.*, 1771

The cleric Herr Troger² has made your teeth water³ for Italy much too much, and I assure you that for people who have not seen the things in the world that you have seen, [5] there is indeed much that is special to be seen; but for you, these are no special curiosities and Italy will always be there; yes, one must on this occasion steal what one wishes to see now, and suffer the greatest inconvenience, yes, perhaps even risking one's life,⁴ if one insists on paying the penalty for one's inquisitiveness. [10] When I have more time I will write telling you about one thing or another. Most of it ultimately has the purpose of entertaining the populace: horse races; setting up a garden in a broad street with green *avenues*; allowing the populace to plunder heaps of victuals;⁵ to marry off 100 peasant girls and give them a public banquet in the said *avenue* laid out in the public street – [15] these are the things that some people will pay an arm or a leg to see.

The Archduke,⁶ his bride,⁷ the court, the theatre: these are things which last forever and can always be seen.

– – Yesterday there was the 4th stage rehearsal of the *serenata*.⁸ Tomorrow there will be the 7th rehearsal for *Sgr. Sassone*,⁹ and on Monday the last rehearsal for Wolfgang because of the scenes. [20]

*Baron Duping*¹⁰ accompanied Nannerl with the *violin*, as he told us. The *Duke of York*¹¹ is already here. A Prince of *Saxen Gotta*.¹² The Crown Prince,¹³ namely the father, and the mother of the Princess bride have also arrived. Count *Sauerau*¹⁴ is also here. People are swarming everywhere, [25] and one will have to suffer the greatest inconvenience to see everything.

They have laid down the finest regulations: that common people cannot carry a sword or any other weapon; that all persons are recorded accurately at the gates, and that all householders must hand in descriptions of those residing in their houses to a specially formed

¹ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:º 10 from Milan".

² BD: Not Leopold Troger, personal secretary to the governor general of Lombardy and with whom the Mozarts were in frequent contact in Milan, but a clergyman, probably the one mentioned in No. 0248/18 ff.

³ BD: Leopold seems to be mixing (intentionally?) two synonymous stock phrases: "making someone's mouth water" and "making someone's teeth long".

⁴ BD: A danger already mentioned in No. 0248/26. A fatal accident did in fact occur, cf. No. 0251/18 ff.

⁵ BD: The "cuccagna" mentioned in No. 0251/18-19. Typically, a temple or similar building would be set up filled with food.

⁶ BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia. Mozart was writing music for his upcoming wedding in Milan.

⁷ BD: Princess Maria Beatrice Ricciardi of the Este family.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0242/11. Mozart's serenade, *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111.

⁹ "The Saxon Gentleman" = Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), in Vienna from 1764. Leopold Mozart heard his opera *Demetrio* in Mantua in 1770 (cf. No. 0158/22).

¹⁰ BD: du Beyne. Cf. Nos. 0251/66; 0783/14. Possibly retired Court Counsellor [Hofrat] Aedat Joseph Philipp du Beyne de Malechamp (1717-1803), with whom the Mozarts ate on 28th August, 1773 (No. 0293/5-6). A noted music lover with an extensive music collection.

¹¹ "Duc de York". BD: Brother of George I and distantly related to the Este family, from whom the bride in the impending wedding came. Cf. No. 0248/11.

¹² "Prinz v Saxen gotta". BD: From the eminent house of Saxe-Gotha.

¹³ "Erbprintz". BD: The later Duke Ercole III Rainaldo (1727-1803).

¹⁴ "S: E: graf Sauerau". BD: Cf. Nos. 0128/46, 0248/10 f. Joseph Gottfried, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Saurau (1720-1775). Cathedral canon, cathedral dean, privy councillor in Vienna.

commission; no-one may walk the streets at night without a light. [30] Soldiers and *sbirri*¹⁵ patrol in the town, and the hussars outside the town etc. etc.

Whether for the *opera*,¹⁶ *serenade*, *ball*, court banquet, or any other *spectacles*, one must have *tickets etc. etc.* I must finish, for we have to read through the 2 *scores* of the *serenade* [35] which were copied in haste for His Majesty the Emperor and for the Archduke and still have to be bound, since there is much to be *corrected*, for the Italian *copyists* are terrifyingly inaccurate. We kiss both of you many 100000 times and I am as always your
Mozart mp¹⁷

[40] Our compliments to all --

On the evening of the 15th the Archduke will arrive, then the *wedding* takes place; after the wedding hand-kissing at court, then 2 hours of music, then the meal. – the 16th: *opera*; the 17th: *serenade*; the 18th, 19th and 20th: nothing, because of the anniversary of the death of His Majesty the Emperor.¹⁸ Monday *serenade etc. etc.*

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0181/26. Militia-like officers of the law.

¹⁶ BD: *Ruggiero ovvero L'eroica gratitudine*, text by Metastasio. Hasse's last opera.

¹⁷ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁸ "Sr. M. des Kaysers". BD: Charles VI, father of Maria Theresia, died 20th October, 1740.