

0257. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG; MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER

Milan, 24th or 23rd November, 1771

We are still here, and will probably stay here another week, since the Archduke¹ will not come back from *Varese*² until Tuesday and will then speak to us. Nevertheless, we will arrive in Salzburg [5] during the first fortnight of *December*, God willing, since even if we stay somewhere on the way, we reach Salzburg from here in a week. We are well, praise God. Address your future correspondence only to *Verona*, and I believe it will be the last, unless you receive another letter from me in the meantime. [10] We have constantly cold but very beautiful weather here, and it has not rained for a long time. Herr *Marcobruni*,³ in whose room I am writing this, commends himself to both of you, as do the two Herr von Trogers⁴ and *Msr.* and *Madame d'Aste*.⁵ Today Herr *Misliwitschek*,⁶ who arrived yesterday, called on us and is writing the first *opera*. Herr von Mayr⁷ and Herr de *Chiusolis*⁸ also commend themselves. We often meet together, [15] and yesterday we made music redoubtably at Herr von Mayer's. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. We kiss you both 100 000 times, and I am as always your

Mozart

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

Dearest sister!

Herr von Älfen⁹ is in Milan, and is still the same as he was in Vienna and *Paris*. I know one more piece of news: Herr *Manzoli*,¹⁰ [20] who was otherwise considered and held by everyone to be the most prudent of the *castrati*, has shown a sample of his lack of reason and his arrogance in his old age. He was engaged for the *opera* for 500 *cigliati*¹¹ and, because there was no mention of the *serenata* in the contract, he wanted to have 500 *cigliati* more for

¹ "Erzherzog". BD: Archduke Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia, who had just married in Milan. He must have communicated with his mother about the possibility of employing Mozart at the court in Milan. BD V, p. 311 quotes from his mother's reply (in French). The reply said that he did not need "a composer or useless people", but if he has pleasure in it, she will not prevent him. One should never "take on such useless people or give them titles", since it debases service "when these people run around the world like tramps." All the hopes expressed by Leopold in recent letters were thus shattered.

² BD: About 60 km from Milan, with a palace belonging to the d'Este (his bride's) family.

³ BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

⁴ BD: One was Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771. The other is the "chaplain" mentioned in Nos. 0248/18; 0249/3.

⁵ BD: Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9, was the daughter of Leopold Troger.

⁶ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer, writing the first of the two operas usually commissioned for one season. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris.

⁷ BD: Albert Michael (von) Mayr, the younger son of the Vienna Court Paymaster [Hofzahlmeister], Johann Adam (von) Mayr, who gave Leopold 100 ducats [= 450 florins] and the two children festive clothing in October, 1762, on the orders of the Empress. Albert Michael was Chamber Paymaster [Kammerzahlmeister] to Archduke Ferdinand.

⁸ BD: de Chiusole; probably the person described as "cashier" in No. 0258/16; surely a relation of a person of the same name mentioned in No. 0151/35 and 0034/56.

⁹ BD: The miniature painter Eusebius Johann Alphen, whom the Mozart had met in Brussels (cf. No. 0069/31) and in Paris (cf. No. 0110/4). The miniature painter Eusebius Johann Alphen, whom the Mozart had met in Brussels (cf. No. 0069/31) and in Paris (cf. No. 0110/4).

¹⁰ BD: Giovanni Manzuoli (1725?-1780?), soprano castrato from Florence. He gave Wolfgang singing lessons free of charge, cf. No. 0099/76. Cf. 0095/11, 12.

¹¹ BD: 500 *cigliati* = 2250 florins; 1000 *cigliati* = 4000 florins; 700 *cigliati* = 3150 florins.

the *serenade*, that is, 1000 *cigliati*. [25] The court gave him only 700 and a beautiful golden box : I think it would have been enough :| but, as a *castrato*, he gave back the 700 *cigl.* along with the golden box, and departed with nothing. I do not know what kind of outcome this story will have. An unfortunate one, I expect. Otherwise I know of nothing. My handkiss to Mama. Compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. *Addio*. [30] Keep well. I am

your true, faithful brother

Wolfgang

[ON THE ORIGINAL (BD V, p. 311): A letter in his own hand by the great Mozart, which was found among the papers of his son Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | died in Carlsbad on the 29th July | J. Baroni.]