

Milan, the 21<sup>st</sup> November,  
1772

We are, praise God, fresh and healthy like fishes in water, for since a week before yesterday, it has been raining so astonishingly that it would be no wonder if all the post that should arrive today will have to be waited for. [5] Besides the fierce rain and wind, there was a mighty thunderstorm in the night between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, which started with lightning at 10 o'clock at night and then went on the whole night without interruption until 4 o'clock in the morning, with much hefty thunder. For my part, I was awakened by vigorous thunder at 2 o'clock and then after 5 o'clock, but fell asleep again at once. [10] Wolfgang, in contrast, after falling asleep at 12 o'clock, heard nothing at all of the rest of the storm. We have much better lodgings<sup>1</sup> than we have had otherwise, more pleasing to the eye, more comfortable, even nearer to the theatre and consequently around 50 paces away from *Madame d'Aste*,<sup>2</sup> who has lent us a couple of good pillows,<sup>3</sup> since the Italian bacon rind is too hard for us. By the way, [15] whereas our previous bed was 9 handspans wide,<sup>4</sup> the present one is 10 spans. I will not doubt your wellbeing. Today is the anniversary of our wedding day.<sup>5</sup> It will be, I believe, 25 years ago that we had the good idea of marrying each other – although we had the idea many years before that. All good things need their time! [20] The *primo uomo*, *Sg<sup>r</sup>: Rauzzini*,<sup>6</sup> has now arrived, so there will now be more and more to be done, and it will become more animated. But we will not be spared the little *comedies* which are customary in the theatre. These are little things! The figs which Herr Joseph<sup>7</sup> gave Wolfgang on our departure were as miraculous as the bread and fishes in the *Gospel*,<sup>8</sup> for we ate from them again yesterday for our evening meal, [25] which consists of nothing else every day except grapes and bread and a glass of wine. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. The day is short! There is much to be done; if not work, they are tasks nevertheless. We kiss you both – as often as you wish – and I am, together with Wolfgang,

as always your

[30]

Mozart mp.<sup>9</sup>

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

I thank you,<sup>10</sup> you already know for what. From Herr von Hefner<sup>11</sup> I ask pardon that I have not yet replied<sup>12</sup> to him. But it was impossible, and it still is impossible, for as soon as I get home, there is something to be composed, often something is already lying on the table, and

<sup>1</sup> BD: Location unknown, but "around 50 paces" away from the d'Aste di Astiburg residence.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, daughter of Leopold Troger, cf. No. 0224/8-9. Leopold Troger was a court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Leopold found the long, thin Italian/French pillow type too hard.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0216/41: Leopold shared the bed with Wolfgang.

<sup>5</sup> BD: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1747, in Salzburg Cathedral. Cf. No. 0506/94-95.

<sup>6</sup> = "leading man". BD: Venanzio Rauzzini (1746-1810), soprano castrato, in Vienna since 1766. Cf. No. 0117/10. In 1772 he sang in the première of Lucio Silla KV 135 (cf. No. 0266/23-24). Mozart wrote KV 165 (158a) for him (cf. No. 0279/36-37).

<sup>7</sup> BD: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

<sup>8</sup> BD: John 6, 1-15; in the Catholic Church the set reading for the fourth Sunday in Lent.

<sup>9</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>10</sup> BD: For carrying out various tasks involving a young lady in Salzburg, cf. Nos. 0264/42-43; 0265/22-23.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Heinrich Wilhelm von Hef(f)ner († 1769), son of Franz Friedrich von Hef(f)ner, the city legal adviser in Salzburg. At school and university he had acquitted himself well onstage.

<sup>12</sup> BD: A reply to No. 0266a (lost).

outside the house, on the street, [35] I cannot possible write. When you see him, let him read the following, and I ask him to be content with that for the time being. I will not be offended that my fair-minded friend has not replied to me. As soon as he has more time he will certainly, doubtlessly, without doubt, surely, correctly reply to me. [40] My compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. I kiss Mama's hand. Well keep, and new me soon some writes.<sup>13</sup> The Germany from the post has not yet arrived.

*Oidda.*<sup>14</sup>

[45] *Milano* à 2771 novembr. 12 the.

I otherwise as am  
*Mozart* Wolfgang

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<sup>13</sup> BD: "Addio" backwards.

<sup>14</sup> BD: The final lines play with word orders.