

0281. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantova / Insprugg¹

Milan, 23rd January,
1773.

[5] I am writing in bed,² for severe *rheumatism* befell me a week ago now, and I have already had to stay in bed since the 17th. The pain was in the joint of the left thigh, then spread downwards into the left knee after some days, and now it has also appeared in the right knee. Here I need nothing except burdock root tea, [10] of which I drain 3 and 4 large glasses every day, having to stay on the mattress, for the room is perhaps often colder than the street, and the saddest thing is that one furthermore has to cover the painful thighs with coats, furs etc. in order to keep warm and to let some vapours perspire, since one has nothing over oneself except a single or 2 such woollen blankets. [15] I am lying in a nightgown and fur covering just to keep warm; just imagine the weight on the feet and the inconvenience when I want to move.

After receiving this letter, you cannot write to Milan anymore, for I hope to God that I will certainly be able to set off during the first week of the coming month, [20] if the *copyists* do not hold me up in additional ways regarding the music³ which I have to get written out for His High Princely Grace,⁴ since they cannot write at the moment and have to work for the theatre, for the second *opera*⁵ does not begin until the 30th January.⁶ If you write to me on the 5th February, let the letter go to Roveredo⁷ and write *Ferma la Posta*⁸ on it. [25] Wolfgang regrets that *Leitgeb*⁹ is coming too late and will be too late to hear his *opera*.¹⁰ The theatre is astonishingly full every day, it is being performed 26 times. The rest of the time is reserved for the second one, and on Fridays and one or other of the evenings of devotional days there will be no opera.¹¹ <I sent Wolfgang's *opera*¹² to the Grand Duke in Florence. Even if no hopes can be placed in him, I do nevertheless hope that he will recommend us. [30] But if everything is now in vain, we shall not come to grief, God will help, I have already come up with some ideas>. We commend ourselves to our good friends, inside and outside the house. We wish Herr Joseph Hagenauer¹³ good, lasting

¹ BD: Innsbruck. Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:º 13 from Milan".

² BD: The illness portrayed here is of a "diplomatic" nature (cf. No. 0282/38 ff.), An excuse to stay in Milan longer to wait for the official reply from the Grand Duke of Tuscany regarding possible employment for Wolfgang. The unofficial negative reply had already arrived, cf. No. 0279/29-30.

³ BD: Including a copy of the score of *Lucio Silla* KV 135, cf. No. 0279/6.

⁴ "S^e: Hochf: Gden". BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812). Became Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, and thus Leopold's employer, on the 14th March, 1772.

⁵ BD: *Sismano nel Mongol* by Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816), text by Gamera (cf. No. 0266/28). He met Mozart again in Vienna some years later, travelling back from Saint Petersburg, where he was director of music and court composer.

⁶ Date postponed because of the success of *Lucio Silla*, cf. No. 0279/17.

⁷ Rovereto.

⁸ Hold the post.

⁹ BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart (KV 371, KV 412 + 514 (386b), 407 (386c), 417, 447, 495) speak for his musical abilities. From previous letters it is clear he was thinking of seeking an opportunity to play in Italy.

¹⁰ BD: *Lucio Silla* KV 135, the first opera of the season in Milan.

¹¹ Family code.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0271b. On Leopold's hopes cf. No. 0279/30-31.

¹³ BD: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

health. We kiss you both many 10 000 etc. times and I am as always your
Mzt mp.¹⁴

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:¹⁵

[35] Signor and Signora d'Aste,¹⁶ Sig.^{re} and Sig.^{ra} Germani,¹⁷ Sig. Mislivecek,¹⁸ Sig.^{ra} de Amicis¹⁹ have pressed me to write and to convey to you their compliments and respects. I ask you to tell Herr Giovanni Hagenauer²⁰ on my behalf that he need not doubt that I will assuredly go to that weapons shop to see if they have those named things that he desires, and that, having once found them, I shall certainly bring them to Salzburg with me. [40] I am sorry that Sig. Leitgeb has departed from Salzburg so late that he will no longer find my opera on stage,²¹ and perhaps we shall not meet each other either, unless on the journey.

Yesterday evening was the first rehearsal of the second opera with instruments, but I heard only the first act, because I left the second, it being already late. [45] In this opera there will be 24 horses and a multitude of people on the stage, so it will be a miracle if no misfortune happens. I liked the music, I don't know if it will please the public, for at the rehearsals they allow in only those who belong to the theatre. I hope that my father will be able to go out of the house tomorrow. This evening the weather was terrible. Sig.^{ra} Teiber²² is now at Bologna and will sing at Torino next Carneval, [50] and the next year she will then go to sing in Naples. My respects to all my friends, both gentlemen and ladies. Handkisses on my behalf to my mother. I don't know what else to say. *Addio*. Pardon my poor handwriting, the pen is not worth a fig.

¹⁴ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁵ Written entirely in Italian.

¹⁶ BD: Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, daughter of Leopold Troger, and husband, 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. Cf. No. 0155/41.

¹⁷ BD: Don Fernando (Ferdinandi) Germani, steward/house administrator [Haushofmeister] to the governor general of Lombardy, and his wife Therese, frequent providers of hospitality to Leopold and Wolfgang.

¹⁸ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. 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.

¹⁹ BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis, met the Mozarts in Mainz and Naples, cf. Nos. 0060/29-31; 0188/54; 0269/19.

²⁰ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 that his aged mother then took over the business.

²¹ BD: See line 24.

²² BD: Elisabeth Teyber (1744-1816), singer, member of perhaps the only family (mainly musicians) in Vienna to have maintained contacts with all the members of the Mozart family over 20 years.