

0282. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

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

Milan, 30th January,
1773.

[5] Today we received no letter. All that needed to be done was for the *courier from Rome*, who goes via *Mantua*, to bring something additional with him, since he sometimes brings the German letters left behind in Mantua with him. Otherwise your letter, if you wrote one, will perhaps arrive on Wednesday. You will see from my handwriting that I am writing in bed² [10] because I am still laid out by the accursed rheumatism and am suffering like a dog. Patience! – the *master* over all dog-like misery. As the spiritual word of wisdom goes: rather here than there. But I say: rather there than here, because a cold room, a room that is colder than the street, cannot possibly agree with a *rheumatic* perspiring in bed, although, at the same time, I do not wish myself an extremely heated room either. [15] Today the 2nd *opera*³ is being performed for the first time. I am so unfortunate as not to be able to hear it. I am sending Wolfgang to hear it in Herr von *Germani*'s⁴ *box*. In the meantime I will be complaining to the world. We had some days of abhorrent rainy weather here. On the 29th, or yesterday, the finest weather started again, and it is warm rather than cold. [20] If my health had allowed, I would have left here in the first days of February. But now I have to consider myself lucky if I can get away on the 10th or 12th, for this is precisely the worst time for my illness, as I will encounter snow and bracing air in Tyrol, more than I need. I will, of course, hopefully not miss the beautiful *operas*⁵ in Salzburg! [25] In the meantime, I have already written to you in my previous letter that you cannot write to Milan anymore. If, then, you write to me on the 12th, write to *Insprugg* and have the following put on the back of it: To be delivered to the Golden Eagle⁶ and kept there until arrival, for I could arrive at night and leave in the morning [30] when the post office is still closed, consequently the letter cannot be demanded if it is left at the post. Now that I am alighting at the Golden Eagle, it is better if the letter is waiting for me there. Wolfgang is well, for just as I write this, he is constantly cutting capers. We both commend ourselves to all good friends, within and outside the house, [35] kiss you both many 100 000 times and I am as always your Mzt mp⁷

Mad.^{me} and Herr *d'Aste*,⁸ Herr von *Troger*,⁹ Herr and *M^e. Germani* commend themselves.

¹⁰<No further answer has come yet from the Grand Duke in Florence. What I wrote about my

¹ BD: Innsbruck. Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:° 14 from Milan".

² BD: A "diplomatic", fictive illness: cf. Nos. 0281/5 ff., 0282/39.

³ 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 while travelling back from Saint Petersburg, where he was director of music and court composer.

⁴ 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.

⁵ BD: Meant ironically.

⁶ BD: "Goldener Adler" in Innsbruck, where they intended to stop again on the return journey. Cf. No. 0264/6, 7.

⁷ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

⁸ 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. Cf. No. 0155/41.

⁹ BD: Cf. line 21 and No. 0155/41.

¹⁰ Family code, marked < >.

illness is not completely true.¹¹ I was in bed> for some days, [40] <but I am now in good health and am going to the opera today. But you must say everywhere that I am ill. You can cut off this little leaf so that it does not fall into anyone's hands.>

¹¹ BD: Cf. line 5.