

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantova / Insprugg<sup>1</sup>*

Milan, 13<sup>th</sup> February,  
1773.

[5] Today, quite naturally, I have received no letter from you because I had already written to you a long time ago to say that you should not write to me in Milan anymore. But if some misfortune happens, we cannot evade it, as I have experienced many thousand times. My rheumatism,<sup>2</sup> which has moved into the right shoulder, has taken hold much more stubbornly than when I had it in the thigh and both knees. [10] Nor could I treat it properly, for it is easier to keep the feet warm in bed in an ice-cold room than the shoulders. Yes, I was in constant fear that it might again take hold of me as abominably as 10 years ago, when I had those terrible pains in both shoulders for all of 14 weeks.

[15] Praise God, I hope it will not come to that, since the pains have already eased, but I cannot use the right arm, and since Wolfgang is not in a position to do much for me and for himself, you can readily picture what kind of comedy this is.

I would have written to his His Most Noble *Excellency* the eminent Royal High Steward,<sup>3</sup> to ask him to give our excuses to His High Princely Grace<sup>4</sup> for our late return to Salzburg, but I can assure you that I cannot write a single sensible or reasonable line without getting a hot head, and cannot write even a few characters elegantly. You might therefore seek the opportunity to plead most obediently with His *Excellency* the Count<sup>5</sup> on our behalf and to assure His Elevated Person<sup>6</sup> that we will depart as soon as possible. By the way, you should also be aware that a terrible amount of snow has fallen in this area in the last week, which, since it immediately turned into mud and water again, has so disrupted the roads that today's post has not appeared, and that which should have come yesterday only arrived this evening, thus a whole day later. Those in Salzburg who may imagine that we are staying here longer for pleasure are quite mistaken, for we have had the great consternation of being unable to make our masking costumes, which we had thought out for the *performance* in Salzburg. With my *rheumatism*, I could have played the Crooked Devil<sup>7</sup> most naturally.

Herr Leutgeb<sup>8</sup> arrived late in the evening a week ago today. On the following Sunday he

---

<sup>1</sup> BD: Innsbruck. From this letter onwards there is no more numbering (by Frau Mozart? Nanner!?) beside the address.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Leopold was exaggerating such illness as he had to justify staying on in Milan to wait for news from Florence about possible employment for Wolfgang, cf. No. 0281/5 ff.

<sup>3</sup> "S<sup>c</sup>: Hochgr: Ex: H: Obersthofmeister". BD: Franz Lactanz, Graf Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

<sup>4</sup> "S<sup>r</sup>: 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 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1772. Studied in Vienna, was a canon in Salzburg in 1747, then called to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Priest in Statz, Austria, Canon in Passau and provost of Saint Moritz in Augsburg. 1761 Prince-Bishop of Gurk.

<sup>5</sup> "S<sup>r</sup>: Hochg: Ex:".

<sup>6</sup> "Hochdieselben".

<sup>7</sup> BD: Reference to "Der krumme Teufel" ["The Crooked Devil"] by Joseph Haydn (1751).

<sup>8</sup> 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. After much uncertainty in recent letters about his plans to visit Italy, he reached Milan on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1773.

called on us. Then we didn't see him for 2 more days, for he is living in the *lodgings* of the painter Herr Martin Knoller,<sup>9</sup> fully quarter of an hour away from our *lodgings*, where the accommodation costs him nothing. So far, he has done his business pretty well, and will made a good stack of money here, for they like him astonishingly, and if the *concert* that the *court gentlemen* want to arrange for him goes ahead, I would give him 100 *cigliate*<sup>10</sup> for it on the spot. The Archduke<sup>11</sup> wants to hear him as well.

I have become tired holding the pen, my head is getting hot, my feet and hands are cold; accordingly, I must finish. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. We kiss you both many 1000 times and I am as always your old Mzt mp<sup>12</sup>

Once again, you cannot write to me anymore, for as soon as I can use my arm at all, we will set off.

We are speaking words as sweet as sugar to the *copyist* so that he will produce a *copy* of the *score* of Wolfgang's *opera*<sup>13</sup> for us so that we can take it home with us. We will have to wait and see if we are so lucky.

---

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0161/37; 1391/12 ff. Martin Knoller (1725-1804), at that time court painter in Milan. The miniature on ivory (Deutsch Bild No. 9) is supposed to be by him.

<sup>10</sup> BD: = 450 florins.

<sup>11</sup> "Erzherzog". BD: Ferdinand, son of Maria Theresia. Music for his wedding celebrations in 1771 was the reason for the Mozarts' second Italian journey.

<sup>12</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>13</sup> BD: *Lucio Silla* KV 135, the first opera of the season in Milan and the reason for the Mozarts' present journey.