

Milan, 20<sup>th</sup>  
Feb., 1773.

Still in Milan, I am afraid! Today I wrote to His *Excellency* the eminent Royal High Steward,<sup>1</sup> and it was a struggle for me to form legible handwriting; my *rheumatism* is now making me impatient, and I am in a state of fear about being buried under an avalanche in the Tyrol with the approaching mild weather, as I hear that a mass of snow is lying there. So you can easily imagine how I will set off as soon as my health permits. Today, around 12 noon, Herr Leutgeb<sup>2</sup> |: whom I had not seen for some days :| came to my bedside, for I am still lying in bed in order to perspire, and he showed me in a letter the news that his wife has given birth to a son.<sup>3</sup> He immediately gave me 5 whole *souverains d'or*<sup>4</sup> in order to have the same sum paid to his wife. I accordingly ask Herr Hagenauer<sup>5</sup> to have these 15 ducats,<sup>6</sup> or 5 whole *souverains d'or*, delivered to Frau Leutgeb,<sup>7</sup> or their equivalent value, for which I will reimburse him on my return – that being, more precisely, in kind. I cannot tell you anything beyond that Wolfgang, praise God, is in good health. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, within and outside the house, and I am as always your  
Mzt mp<sup>8</sup>

We kiss you both many 100000 times.

<sup>1</sup> “S<sup>c</sup>: Ex: t: H: Obersthofmeister”. BD: “wrote”: No. 0285, to Franz Lactanz, Count [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>2</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 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1773 (cf. No. 0284/35).

<sup>3</sup> BD: Friedrich, later a ribbon maker in Vienna.

<sup>4</sup> Gold sovereigns. BD: 5 sovereigns = 67.5 florins.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>6</sup> BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Leutgeb's first wife, Barbara.

<sup>8</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.