

0287. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

Milan, 27th Feb.,
1773.

Today I cannot write more than a few words, for it is the last day of *Carnival*, and the fasting does not begin until tomorrow, so it is no different here [5] than if everyone were mad. In 2 or 3 days we set off. I am writing this to you as an enclosure with Herr Spitzeder's¹ letter so that you can say that you have not received any letters and therefore believe that we have already set off. We must, and want to, arrive in Salzburg on the 13th March,² on the evening of election day. Regarding that certain matter,³ there is nothing that can be done. [10] I will tell you everything in person. God will have other plans for us. We are well, praise God. Today we are going to the *opera*,⁴ in fact straight away, and to the *ball* afterwards, which begins 1 hour after midnight and lasts until Mass is heard in the morning. Pay the postage to Herr Spizeder right away. You cannot imagine the confusion [15] I am in myself because of our departure; I find it very difficult to leave Italy.⁵

Md^e: and *M^{sr}*: *d'Aste*⁶ commend themselves etc. We kiss both of you many 100 000 times and I am as always your
Mzt mp⁷

I will make sure that I write to you again during the journey.

¹ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a). Leopold's present letter to his wife was enclosed with No. 0286a (lost) to Spitzeder.

² BD: On the 14th March, 1772, Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812) was elected. The election day remained an official celebration. Leopold and Wolfgang arrived on the evening of the 13th. It is reported that on this occasion the *Divertimento in C* KV 187 (159c; KV⁶: Anh. C 17. 12), consisting of arrangements of 10 pieces by Starzer and Gluck, was performed.

³ BD: After much waiting in Milan, Leopold had now received official confirmation that there was no opening for Wolfgang in Florence.

⁴ BD: It is not clear whether this was Wolfgang's *Lucio Silla* KV 135, written as the first opera in the present Milan season, or *Sismano nel Mongol* by Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816), text by Gamerra (cf. No. 0266/28).

⁵ BD: One of the rare emotional statements of this kind by Leopold.

⁶ 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.

⁷ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.