

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg*

Vienna, 12<sup>th</sup> August,  
1773.

I have received all your letters<sup>1</sup> correctly. Although Her Majesty the Empress<sup>2</sup> was very gracious to us, [5] that was in fact all, and I must save this to tell you in person when we return, for it cannot be written down in its entirety. Regarding that certain enclosure,<sup>3</sup> there was nothing of advantage in it, since this gentleman<sup>4</sup> himself lives alone far from all courts. By the way, the letter was uncommonly courteous, and he suggested something to me [10] that I had had in mind for a long time anyway, but it all has its obstacles. Today, His High Princely Grace<sup>5</sup> comes back from Laxenburg, will spend some days at his esteemed father's<sup>6</sup> in Sierendorf<sup>7</sup> and then come back to Salzburg,<sup>8</sup> which can hardly all happen before the coming Saturday or Sunday, consequently he will arrive in the coming week. With the next post you will hear when we are leaving. [15] Herr Gscheider<sup>9</sup> is not here, but in Bohemia with his lord and master. Frau Leutgeb<sup>10</sup> was here with me again today, she will stay here a week until the coming Sunday. We have already visited Herr von Melk<sup>11</sup> a long time ago, the day before yesterday we met him with Herr von Gayer<sup>12</sup> and Herr von Mehoffer<sup>13</sup> on the bastion. Herr von Gayer and Herr *von Gilowsky*<sup>14</sup> had recently visited us at home. [20] If we do not leave on the coming Monday, we will not come back before the beginning of September. I will find out between either today or tomorrow. Little Fräulein Franzl<sup>15</sup> was in the meantime again so close to death that they put vesicants on her arms and legs. Now she is so much better that she has knitted, in bed, a red silk pouch for Wolfgang and has given it to him as a keepsake. [25] She commends herself, as does

<sup>1</sup> BD: No. 0288a, lost.

<sup>2</sup> "S:° Mst: die Kayserin". BD: Maria Theresia, who had described the Mozarts (and other musicians) as "useless people" (cf. note on No. 0256/4).

<sup>3</sup> BD: The contents of the "enclosure" are unknown beyond what one can deduce from the following lines.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Unknown.

<sup>5</sup> "S:° Hochf: Gden:°". BD: Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus of Salzburg, the employer of Leopold and Wolfgang (cf. No. 0263/9), had arrived in Vienna on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1773, travelling on to Laxenburg on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, where he presumably called on Maria Theresia.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Rudolph Joseph, Count [Graf] and from 1764 Prince [Fürst] Colloredo-Mels und Wallsee (1706-1788), member of an ancient noble family with roots going back to 1302.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Sierendorf, north of Vienna. The castle there still bears the Colloredo coat of arms.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0290/3-5.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Mentioned briefly in No. 0163/27.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Wife of Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). He had joined the Mozarts in Milan on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1773. Regarding the transfer of money to his wife, cf. No. 0286/11 etc.

<sup>11</sup> BD: It is not clear which member of the family of Royal Chancellor [Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Molk (1714-1776) is meant. Perhaps the Chancellor himself.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Perhaps Ferdinand von Geyer (\* 1751), son of the Salzburg Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] Johann Elias von Geyer (c. 1718-1790), who is responsible for work on the New Gate [Neutor] in Salzburg, mentioned frequently by Leopold in his letters. Ferdinand is known to have entered Imperial service.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Anton Johann Mehofer, son of the chamber quartermaster Franz Mehofer (cf. No. 0119/24-25). Secretary to the Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenberg (cf. note on No. 0034/41).

<sup>14</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Wenzel [von] Gilowsky (1757-1816), son of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799); studied medicine in Vienna, master surgeon, brother of "Katherl", witness at Mozart's wedding.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Franziska Oesterling, daughter of a captain from Baden, since 1772 a patient residing permanently with the Mesmers. Cf. No. 0288/29.

everyone, yes, the whole *litany* of the Landstrasse district, the 2 young Fräulein Fischers<sup>16</sup> and Herr Fischer, the Bonos<sup>17</sup> etc. etc.

Young Messmer's<sup>18</sup> boy has real talent, so much that he should be my son alone, or, at least, he should be with me. Concerning the woman, it is none other than the daughter of the *Doctor Auenbrugger*,<sup>19</sup> [30] or rather his 2 daughters, both of them, the elder especially plays incomparably and has fully mastered music. We dined with them, but they have received no grant from the Empress. Young Messmer<sup>20</sup> has an impressive position, he serves in equipping the Model Schools<sup>21</sup> in all hereditary Imperial lands, of which a *court gentleman* is the president. Do you know that Herr von Messmer [35] plays *Miss Devis*'<sup>22</sup> *harmonica* very well? He is the only one in Vienna who has learnt it, and has a far more beautiful glass *machine* than *Miss Devis* had. Wolfgang has also played on it already.<sup>23</sup> If only we had one. On the Feast of *Saint Cajetan*,<sup>24</sup> the *reverend fathers*<sup>25</sup> invited us to a meal and to the Office, and because the organ was not usable for playing a *concerto*, [40] Wolfgang borrowed a violin and a *concerto* from Herr Teiber<sup>26</sup> and was so bold as to play a *concerto* on the violin. – At the Jesuit church at court,<sup>27</sup> one of Wolfgang's Masses was performed in the *Octave* of *St. Ignatius*,<sup>28</sup> namely the *Pater Dominicus Mass*,<sup>29</sup> I conducted, and the *Mass* was astonishingly well-received. We are glad that the music for the *final* event of the academic year<sup>30</sup> went well. [45] Wolfgang will be sure to express his thanks to Herr Meissner.<sup>31</sup> In the meantime we commend ourselves to him.

Now I have written a lot. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, inside and beyond the house. We kiss you both many 100 000 times, and I am as always

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<sup>16</sup> BD: Maria Anna Barbara Fischer, widow of the Vienna court cook, Johann Fischer († 1759) and her daughter (\* 1743), who had the same name, having married the coppersmith Gottlieb Friedrich Fischer. Known to the Mozarts since 1768. Cf. No. 0288/3 etc.

<sup>17</sup> BD: The family of Giuseppe Bonno (1710-1788), from 1739 court composer in Vienna, later (1774) court music director.

<sup>18</sup> BD: The “young Messmer” was Joseph Conrad Mesmer (1735-1804), school director at St. Stephan's. A distant relative of Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer, cf. No. 0288/25. His “boy” was Joseph (1766-1818), from 1814 Imperial Court Secretary [kaiserlicher Hofsekretär].

<sup>19</sup> BD: Josef Leopold von Auenbrugger (1722-1809), physician, inventor of thorax percussion (*Inventum novum ex percussione thoracis humani...*, 1761). Employed from 1751 at a hospital in Vienna. Joseph Haydn dedicated his six keyboard sonatas (Artaria, 1780) to his two daughters. BD VII: Haydn praised the sisters and “their genuine insight into the compositions of the great masters” in a letter to Artaria on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1780.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Joseph Conrad Mesmer as above.

<sup>21</sup> “Normalschuel”.

<sup>22</sup> Leopold uses the English “Miss”. DB: Marianne Davies, glass harmonica virtuoso, met the Mozarts in London and again in Milan in 1771, cf. No. 0288/35.

<sup>23</sup> BD: For this instrument Wolfgang composed KV 617; 356/617a.

<sup>24</sup> BD: 7<sup>th</sup> August.

<sup>25</sup> BD: The monastery was close to the Mozarts' accommodation.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Almost certainly Matthäus Teyber (c. 1711-1785), violinist in the Imperial Court music, or perhaps his son Friedrich (1748-1829). His other son Anton was at this time studying in Italy. His daughter Elisabeth, singer, is mentioned frequently in the letters.

<sup>27</sup> BD: The Jesuits had had a base in Vienna since 1554. A decree dissolving the order was soon to be read out in Vienna: on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1773.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Eight days beginning with the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

<sup>29</sup> BD: KV 66. Wolfgang had composed it in October, 1769, for the first Mass celebrated by Kajetan Rupert Hagenauer, a friend of the family.

<sup>30</sup> BD: “Finalmusik” as mentioned in No. 0288/51, where graduating students played for the Archbishop and professors.

<sup>31</sup> BD: The performance was conducted by Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

your

Mzt mp<sup>32</sup>

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

[50] <sup>33</sup>Today we met on the road my Lord Edlbach,<sup>34</sup> who passed on your compliments to us, and who commends himself to you and your mother. *Addio. W.M.*

GOTTLIEB STEPHANIE'S<sup>35</sup> POSTSCRIPT:

Landstrasse, the 12<sup>th</sup>:

Herr Stephanie the Younger and his beautiful wife<sup>36</sup> commend themselves.

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<sup>32</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>33</sup> Mish-mash of Latin, French, German and Italian: *hodie nous avons begegnet per strada Dominum Edlbach* welcher uns *di voi compliments* ausgericht hat, *et qui sich tibi et ta mere* Empfehlen läst. *Adio. W. M.*

<sup>34</sup> BD: Benedikt Schlossgängl von Edlenbach (\* 1744 or 1748), son of the court counsellor and professor Franz Joseph Schlossgängl von Edlenbach; married to Marie von Ployer.

<sup>35</sup> BD: (Johann) Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), ("the Younger"), studied law, became a soldier, was an amateur actor with Johann Anton Mesmer in 1768, became member of the Burgtheater company, Vienna, in 1769. At least 32 of his stage works were put on there in 393 performances between 1776 and 1846. Collaborated with Mozart on the libretto of the *Abduction*.

<sup>36</sup> BD: The actress Anna Myka (1751-1802), member of the Burgtheater 1771-1802. Married Stephanie in 1771.