

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzburg

Vienna, 14th August, 1773.

Your letter¹ of the 10th reached me today. On the coming Tuesday,² His High Princely Grace³ will leave Sierendorf,⁴ where he is with his esteemed father,⁵ [5] and thus arrive⁶ on Wednesday evening or early on Thursday. When are we coming? – – Not yet, for His High Princely Grace has allowed us to stay on here. Herr von Messmer's⁷ cousin,⁸ who is also called Messmer, is a travelling personal cook to His High Princely Grace and arrived in Salzburg roughly a fortnight before His High Princely Grace left, then travelled at once to Vienna with His High Princely Grace. [10] He had been commissioned by Herr and Frau von Messmer to visit us immediately in Salzburg on that occasion and to pass on 1000 beautiful messages. Now he apologises, saying that he called on us once, but found no-one at home. Now the first thing he will do surely be to call on you, for he has received this grand commission from all of us. You will see that he looks somewhat similar to the young Messmer.⁹ [15] He is very fine and bears himself very nobly, and has no little pride for a cook. If I had had the fan yesterday that will be waiting for me today, I would have given it to him. Since it is now somewhat in fashion to cover fans with *taffeta*, I had the fans covered with *pomegranate-coloured taffeta*, which thus match the *pomegranate* accessories. [20] Then I bought 4 fan papers, of which 2 are *Chinese*.

The story from Munich seems to me to be a *solemn* fable.¹⁰ As far as I know, His High Princely Grace is due to go to the mountains and to Gemünd¹¹ after a stay of some time in Salzburg. Write to me every post-day with what you hear about the sojourn or departure of His High Princely Grace, so that I can prepare myself accordingly. [25] Herr *Criner*,¹² who visited us recently, was also in His High Princely Grace's antechamber last Thursday. But he was not heard, as far as I could see, unless he paid his respects later in the evening, as His High Princely Grace departed.

After much rain we finally have good weather and, [30] for some days now, astonishing heat. The Messmer kith and kin¹³ and the whole household commend themselves. The two

¹ BD: No. 0288b, lost.

² BD: 17th August, 1773.

³ "S^c: Hochf: Gden:". BD: Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus of Salzburg, the employer of Leopold and Wolfgang (cf. No. 0263/9).

⁴ BD: Sierendorf, north of Vienna. The castle there are still bears the Colloredo coat of arms.

⁵ 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.

⁶ BD: Arrival in Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815), the famous "magnetizer" and healer. A brief memorial to his methods is found in the first finale of *Così fan tutti*. Sang (tenor) and played numerous instruments (violoncello, harpsichord, glass harmonica).

⁸ BD: Joseph Mesmer (1742-1784), known to have been the Salzburg Archbishop's cook 1774-1781, later supervisor and manager.

⁹ BD: Joseph Conrad Mesmer (1735-1804), school director at St. Stephan's. A distant relative of Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer, cf. line 33.

¹⁰ BD: Probably a rumour that the Archbishop would be travelling to Munich.

¹¹ BD: Gmünd in Carinthia, probably founded by Salzburg; the Lodron family had their primogeniture estate there.

¹² BD: Perhaps the Salzburg court musician and university choir director Joseph Krinner, also composer.

¹³ BD: The families of Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer and Joseph Conrad Mesmer.

Fischer ladies and Herr Fischer¹⁴ do likewise. We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, inside and beyond the house. We kiss you both many 100 000 000 times, and I am as always your
Mzt mp¹⁵

The entire *Martines*¹⁶ and *Bono*¹⁷ households likewise commend themselves

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

[35] weather permitting.

I hope, my queen, you will be enjoying the highest degree of health and yet, now and again or, rather, occasionally or, better, intermittently or, even better, *qualche volta*,¹⁸ as they say south of the Alps, you will, from your important and pressing thoughts |: which emerge constantly from the most beautiful and surest reason, [40] which you possess besides your beauty, although in such tender years and in a woman almost nothing of that just mentioned is required, you, oh queen, possess these in such measure that you shame the men, yes, even the aged men :|, sacrifice a number to me. Farewell.

| Here you have something profound |

Wolfgang Mozart.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[45] Herr *Alphen*¹⁹ has already been dead for a couple of years now. Before his demise, he got himself *married* to a woman whom he made heiress to a pretty inheritance.

The young *Domanök*²⁰ is married; more on that at the next opportunity.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁶ BD: The family of Nicolò Martinez (*1689), master of ceremonies at the Papal Nunciature in Vienna; had two daughters, Marianne and Antonia, and several sons. Marianne (1744-1812) was tutored as a child by Pietro Metastasio and received tuition in singing, keyboard and composition from Joseph Haydn and Nicolò Porpora. (All four persons lived in the same building.) Later she was a pupil of Giuseppe Bonno. Became honorary member of the Accademia Filarmonica in Bologna in 1773.

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

¹⁸ = "sometimes".

¹⁹ BD: Eusebius Johann Alphen (1741-1772), from Vienna. An ivory miniature by him purportedly represents Wolfgang and Nannerl (cf. Deutsch Bild No. 606). Cf. No. 0069/31. The Mozarts had last met him in Milan in 1771.

²⁰ BD: Domaneck? A brother of the "Md:^{sellc} Domanök" mentioned in No. 0269/27.