

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

Vienna, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1773.

A good friend of Herr Fischer's<sup>1</sup> has invited him and us to come to Baden,<sup>2</sup> [5] for we have, after all, never seen the spa in Baden. Accordingly, we dine at Herr Fischer's today and drive to Baden after the midday meal, and tomorrow, Sunday, we return home in the evening. We have 2 coaches: in one Herr Fischer, his wife and both of us will drive, in the other Herr Taiber<sup>3</sup> will drive with his family.

[10] This morning Herr *Ganeval*,<sup>4</sup> as I gather, set off for Salzburg. I did not write last post-day,<sup>5</sup> for we had a big musical event in the garden<sup>6</sup> in the Landstrasse district. Our little Fräulein Franzl<sup>7</sup> has now had a relapse for the second time, and has again recovered.

It is astonishing that she can stand so much letting of blood, *medicines* and *vesicatories*, [15] spasms, fainting etc., since she is nothing but skin and bones. But you already know how this goes, these people do not last at all. Little *Md.<sup>ssle</sup> Sepperl*<sup>8</sup> is still the same old gabbling goose. The gentlemen von Heufeld<sup>9</sup> and Brean,<sup>10</sup> especially the former, no longer come out so often, Herr Grill<sup>11</sup> more often.

[20] All commend themselves. Herr von Mesmer<sup>12</sup> is building 3 new rooms downstairs in order to live downstairs in winter, because upstairs astonishing quantities of wood are burnt, and the rooms, despite that, never become warm. You will not have written last post-day because you did not receive a letter, and today the letters are still not there. I have not seen Frau Leutgeb<sup>13</sup> again since that time. According to what she said, [25] she will leave tomorrow with the post-coach and consequently I firmly believed she would come to me today. If she had come, I would have given her the fan to take with her. Write to me if the Archbishop leaves Salzburg again.<sup>14</sup> The good people of Salzburg have always been waiting for a *physician* from Vienna.<sup>15</sup> – No-one

<sup>1</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0288/4. Gottlieb Friedrich Fischer († 1793), married the daughter of Maria Anna Barbara Fischer, widow of the Vienna court cook, Johann Fischer († 1759). Her daughter thus retained the same surname.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Spa resort near Vienna, cf. No. 0288/4-5.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0292/23. Family of Matthäus Teyber (c. 1711-1785), violinist in the Imperial Court music.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>5</sup> BD: 18<sup>th</sup> August.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0288/36. It is thought that Mozart composed the Serenade KV 205 (173a; KV<sup>6</sup>: 167A) for this event.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Franziska Oesterling, daughter of a captain from Baden, since 1772 a patient residing permanently with the Mesmers.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Josephine Stesskam, another permanent member of the Mesmer household.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Franz Reinhard (von) Heufeld (1731-1795), known to the Mozarts since 1770. Imperial official and playwright. Theatre director. The title role in his version of *Hamlet* was played in 1773 by Joseph Lange, who later married Aloisia Weber, Mozart's sister-in-law. Cf. Nos. 0163/23, 24, 26; 0288/23 ff.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Franz de Paula Prean von Zahlhausen, official in the War Ministry. Cf. No. 0288/43.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Probably Michael Grill, likewise an official at the War Ministry. Cf. No. 0288/43.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0288/33. 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).

<sup>13</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>14</sup> BD: Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus of Salzburg, the employer of Leopold and Wolfgang (cf. No. 0263/9). Recent letters had speculated that he might be going on a long journey.

<sup>15</sup> BD: It is not clear what is referred to here.

comes. Of these and other things much could be said. [30] We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, within and beyond the house. We kiss you both many 100 000 times and I am as always your  
Mzt mp<sup>16</sup>

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

If one considers the propitiousness of the moment, and yet does not entirely forget at the same time the respect owed to the sun, it is certain that, praise and thanks be to God, I am well. But the second sentence is quite different, instead of the sun, let us take the moon [35] and instead of propitiousness, art, and in this way everyone gifted with a little natural reason will conclude that I am a clown, since you are my sister. What state is *Miss Bimbés*<sup>17</sup> in? I beg you to pass on to her every imaginable good wish from me. My compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. From Herr and Frau von *Mesmer, Prean, Grill*,<sup>18</sup> *Saliét*,<sup>19</sup> *Steigentesch*,<sup>20</sup> [40] *Stephani*,<sup>21</sup> *Sepherl*, little Fräulein *Franzel*,<sup>22</sup> I have compliments to convey to you and to Herr von *Schidenhofen*.<sup>23</sup> From *Msr. Greibich*,<sup>24</sup> who was the first person we met in Pressburg,<sup>25</sup> and then in Vienna too, I have to pass on all the good wishes you could imagine, as also from Her *Majesty* the Empress,<sup>26</sup> Frau *Fischer*,<sup>27</sup> Prince Kaunitz.<sup>28</sup> *oidda*.<sup>29</sup> –

*Gnagflow Trazom.*  
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<sup>16</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>17</sup> “Miss bimbés”. The name of the family dog is also used in a diminutive form, “Pimperl”, “Bimberl” or “Pimberl”. Present-day dialect speakers would understand this as “penis”, but the “Pimperl” mentioned by Leopold in No. 0943/57 is the “Hanswurst” [≈ Pagliaccio] character in a puppet show. BD: A fox terrier at home in Salzburg. A sketch by Mozart (cf. KV<sup>6</sup>, note on KV 441) suggests he chose the same name (“Pimberl”) for his dog in Vienna, but in No. 0337/125 he also seems to apply the name to himself.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Mesmer, Prean (Brean), Grill: see above.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Official in the Ministry of War.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Konrad Steigentesch (1744-1779, from Konstanz and thus the same area as Mesmer. Broke off medical studies, became an actor and appeared together with Joseph Lange, Mozart's future brother-in-law, in 1774. Cf. No. 0288/43.

<sup>21</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*. Cf. No. 0289/54.

<sup>22</sup> Sepherl (Sepperl), Franzl: see above.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0143/29-30. Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Maria Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach while Leopold and Wolfgang were travelling.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Perhaps the Senior Equestrian [Oberbereiter] Greibich from Munich; also possibly Franz Kreibich, later chamber music director to Emperor Joseph II. Neither is mentioned in No. 0046.

<sup>25</sup> Today Bratislava.

<sup>26</sup> “ihro majestät der käiserin”. BD: Maria Theresia.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0288/4. Maria Anna Barbara Fischer, widow of the Vienna court cook, Johann Fischer († 1759). Her daughter, of the same name, married coppersmith Gottlieb Friedrich Fischer († 1793) and thus retained the same surname as well.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, from 1753 State Chancellor [Staatskanzler]. Cf. No. 0034/89. There is no mention anywhere of an audience with him. It is more likely that this list is meant humorously.

<sup>29</sup> In next two lines, all words and numbers are to be read backwards. “Trazom” was used for years later as a pseudonym by clavier maker Johann Andreas Stein in Augsburg, cf. Nos. 0349/44; 0362/140; 0412/51.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I have just this moment received your letter. If I had known the circumstances of Frau von Messmer, which, as you know, were very doubtful, I could have taken you both with us. But I could not have known. Then there is the circumstance, first of all, that the Messmer household would have wanted to have you in the Landstrasse district, [50] and Frau Fischer<sup>30</sup> would have wanted you with her and, finally, how would we have come back home? – – You could come down by water, and even faster, but more than onerously, by post-coach. And how do you get back? – – And what kind of stir this would cause in Salzburg! You can rest assured that it would be a great pleasure for us and all our good friends in Vienna, [55] but it is no longer worth the trouble, and we are not in a position to incur great costs. If we had prospects or cash takings, I would certainly have written saying you should come. But there are many things that one cannot write about and, beyond that, one must do everything to prevent anything [60] that can cause any stir or any suspicion, whether here N.B. or in Salzburg, and which gives an opportunity to throw a spanner in the works.

We ourselves do not know when we will depart. It could happen very soon, but it could be delayed some time yet. It depends on circumstances which I cannot specify. At the end of September, [65] God willing, we are quite certainly at home. The situation will, and must, change. Be of good courage, keep well! God will help! – – – – – If the Archbishop<sup>31</sup> stays away long, we will correspondingly not hurry home.

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<sup>30</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0288/4. Maria Anna Barbara Fischer, widow of the Vienna court cook, Johann Fischer († 1759). Her daughter, of the same name, married coppersmith Gottlieb Friedrich Fischer († 1793) and thus retained the same surname as well. They had known the Mozarts since 1768.

<sup>31</sup> See line 27.