

0297. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG; MOZART'S POSTSCRIPTS TO HIS SISTER AND H. W. VON HEFNER

Vienne / à Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzburg

Vienna, 15th Sept., 1773.

As you can easily imagine, we are spending astonishing amounts of time every day comforting *Dr. Niderl's* widow.¹ I will save all the stories involving her, [5] her sister, her brother-in-law² etc. to tell them in person. The unfortunate *operation* will have been related to you already by Herr Günther,³ with whom I sent my summer travelling coat. Reflecting on it all, it was indeed one of the saddest of occurrences. I could have received another letter from you, but I was firmly resolved to leave on Saturday [10] and therefore wrote to you that you should not write anymore. Now it turns out that I cannot leave until next week. Thus I hope, as promised, to arrive at the end of the coming week. You can unhesitatingly believe that this demise and the circumstances of it have disheartened me greatly, and have weightily oppressed my mind. [15] If you need to write to me about anything, you can write to me at Lambach,⁴ addressing it to be left at the monastery with Father Cammerer. But it is necessary to remind the post *official*, otherwise he may throw it, lost in his thoughts, into the *packet* for Vienna. In the meantime, you will receive letters from me constantly. But whether I will bring something in the way of coarse linen, canvas, printed linen,⁵ that is, [20] something, much, little or nothing at all, is a matter yet to be decided, for you well know that I do not want to put myself at any risk with the customs officials, for if I have to pay a lot of customs duty, no advantage would come of it, and since I have little baggage, nothing can be hidden, especially large things. What both of you will certainly receive are gloves from Baden.⁶ [25] It is starting to get chilly here, especially in the mornings and evenings. By the way, wine, fruit and crops have turned out astonishingly well everywhere, and they really are selling wine at 6 kreuzers⁷ a litre in order to get empty barrels. In Hungary, there is a surplus of grain, but pastoral farming was poorer.

[30] Has Herr Leutgeb⁸ paid the 6 Crem. and 5 thal.^{9?} – – – and Herr Kliebnstein¹⁰ had 2 books in *folio* from me, namely Fux¹¹ in Latin and Riepl¹² in German. I expect he has put them

¹ BD: On the death of Dr. Niderl and the circumstances in which his widow found herself, cf. No. 0296.

² BD: Nothing is known of these two persons.

³ BD VIII: Probably the Salzburg barber/surgeon ["Bader"] and town councillor Johann Joseph Günther. Cf. No. 0296/29.

⁴ BD: Cf. old connections in No. 0116/5.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0292/25, 35.

⁶ BD: Spa resort near Vienna, destination for day trips, cf. No. 0288/4-5.

⁷ BD: = one tenth of a florin.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0292/31. 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. In 1773 his wife borrowed a sum from Leopold Mozart (cf. No. 0293/31-32; No. 0297/30); this was still outstanding in 1782 (cf. No. 0673/56 ff.).

⁹ BD: Ducats minted in Kremitz in Hungary enjoyed a special reputation. 1 ducat ≈ 4.5 florins, 1 thaler ≈ 2 florins. (The sum here is ≈ 37 florins).

¹⁰ BD: Not identified.

¹¹ BD: Johann Joseph Fux (1660-1741), his *Gradus ad Parnassum*..., Vienna, 1725. Leopold made special mention of Fux in his violin school as one of those whose writings on music had made a great contribution to the cultured world.

back.

The *Jesuit Fathers* are already going about as secular clerics in long black cassocks and coats, then Italian collars.¹³

[35] His Majesty the Emperor¹⁴ arrived here unexpectedly, so to speak, from Poland¹⁵ via Moravia, last Monday after 7 o'clock in the morning, for he was not expected before the month of *October*.

It is true¹⁶ that the Russians were given a thorough hiding by the Turks,¹⁷ so much so that they wanted to call their troops from Poland into the army, [40] and in the meantime it is said that the Prussians have occupied the Russian part of Poland.¹⁸ We commend ourselves along with all friends here to you all, inside and outside the house. I have not yet been to Rothmühle,¹⁹ although the Messmer²⁰ household has already been there a long time, and little Fräulein Franzl²¹ almost died there again. We kiss you both a million times and I am as always your Mzt mp²²

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

[45] We are well, praise and thanks be to God. This time we have taken the time to write to you, although we have things to do. We hope you too will be well. The death of *Doctor Niderl* has left us very disconsolate, we assure you that we absolutely wept, howled, spouted and teardropped.²³ Our compliments to All Good Spirits Praise God the Lord,²⁴ and to all good friends, [50] both gentlemen and ladies. We remain herewith graciously inclined towards you:

Vienna, from our *palace*.

15th Sept. 1773

Wolfgang.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HEINRICH W. VON HEFNER:²⁵

To Herr von Hefner.

I hope we may yet meet in Salzburg, my friend so august,

¹² BD: *Anfangsgründe zur musikalischen Setzkunst...*, Joseph Riepel (1709-1782). Appeared in 10 extensive "chapters" over many years, only five of them appearing during Riepel's lifetime. It is not known how many "chapters" were in Leopold's possession.

¹³ BD: Consequences of the dissolution of the Jesuit order, cf. No. 0296/31 ff.

¹⁴ "S: Mayst: der Kays:": BD: Joseph II.

¹⁵ BD: Under the treaty for the division of Poland in 1772, Austria had been given Galicia and Lodomeria, a total of around 1500 square miles with a population of 3 million. Joseph was returning from a survey of the area.

¹⁶ BD: Obviously replying to a point raised by his wife in a letter: No. 0296a, lost.

¹⁷ BD: Russia and Turkey were at war 1768-1774.

¹⁸ BD: Under the treaty for the division of Poland in 1772, Russia had been given the land east of the Duna and Dnieper.

¹⁹ BD: Their country estate by Schwechat (Deutsch Bild No. 261), cf. No. 0289/54.

²⁰ 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). Cf. No. 0292/22.

²¹ BD: Franziska Oesterling, daughter of a captain from Baden, since 1772 a patient residing permanently with the Mesmers. Cf. No. 0288/29. The vicissitudes in her health are noted in many recent letters.

²² mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

²³ BD: Wolfgang was obviously far less affected than Leopold by the event.

²⁴ Wolfgang quotes the title of a recently published Catholic home prayer book: "*Alle guten Geister loben Gott den Herrn*".

²⁵ BD: Heinrich Wilhelm von Hef(f)ner († 1769), son of Franz Friedrich von Hef(f)ner, the city legal adviser in Salzburg. At school and university he had acquitted himself well onstage. Cf. No. 0241/54.

I hope you are well, and betray not my trust,
 otherwise fear the avenging thrust,
 or even suffer the bed-bug's lust.
 So I advise you to make better verses, or I'll be at strife
 With Salzburg *Cathedral* for the rest of my life,
 for I am entirely *capable*
 of making my way to *Constantinapable*.
 Afterwards you will not see me anymore, nor I you, yet
 when the horses are hungry, it's oats that they get.
 Now stay well and glad I shall forever be
 Or else I'll turn mad From now on and eternally²⁶

[LINES 54-65 LITERALLY:

To Herr von Heffner:

I hope we shall yet meet in Salzburg, upright friend.

[55] I hope you are well, and not my spider-enemy,²⁷

otherwise I will be your fly-enemy

or even your bed-bug enemy

so I advise you, sir, to write better verses, otherwise I will not come
 to the cathedral in Salzburg for the rest of my life,

[60] for I am even *capax*²⁸ of going to Constant-
 -inople, which is known to everyone

afterwards you will see me no more, nor I you, but
 when the horses are hungry, let them be given oats

Keep well.

[65] otherwise I will become mad

I am at all times
 From now until eternity]

²⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0384/67.

²⁷ Literal rendering of a stock phrase meaning "arch-enemy".

²⁸ = "capable".