

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne Mozart / à / Salzbourg / Franco*¹

Munich, 16th Decemb.,
1774.

Now Nannerl² has lodgings, and just where do you think? – [5] With *Madame*, or rather, with the gracious widow Frau von Durst,³ formerly the wife of the salt mine director at Reichenhall, to whom Herr von M^ölk⁴ so often drove, and whom we have heard mentioned so often, to a woman who is at most 26 or 28 years old, brunette, with black eyes, very withdrawn and extremely well-read and sensible, who by the way does not tolerate any obsequious types around her, [10] and is very polite and pleasant. And who do you think helped me to get me this place? – *Herr von Dufresne*.⁵ He asked me why I had not brought Nannerl with me as well. I told him that she did indeed have the opportunity to come to Munich in the company of *Md.^{me} von Robini*,⁶ but since we were staying with Herr von *Pernat*,⁷ I knew of nowhere for her to stay. [15] He reflected, and finally said to me that he knew of a place, with Md.^c von Durst. He wanted to speak to her privately and hear what she said; he had high hopes, since she is completely alone and is a person on whom no-one calls, except her closest friends and the parents of Herr *Dufresne*.⁸ He then brought me the news that it was in order as far as it goes, [20] but she had reservations she might bring Herr von *Belval*⁹ into the house, because she knows that he visited us in Salzburg. Not that he has no right to visit Nannerl, but he could take this as an opportunity to become bothersome to her afterwards. The reason is quite natural. A young widow does not want frequent visits from a man who does not live with his wife. [25]

Today I called on her myself. Nannerl will have her own room to sleep in. It may be a little dark, but she will pass the rest of the time with the gracious lady in her room, which looks out onto the big market place, and where they will also put a *clavier*.

[30] Now here comes the situation where Nannerl sees how wretched it is if one cannot put on one's own bonnet, and cannot daub oneself or do yet other little things of the kind.¹⁰ One cannot always have other people's servants at one's service. I suspect the gracious lady will usually be accustomed [35] to putting her hair in order herself. So Nannerl herself must put on a *negligee* bonnet and get accustomed to daubing herself and *practice* the *clavier* thoroughly, especially the

¹ = "Postage paid".

² BD: Nannerl came to join them in Munich for the première.

³ BD: It was with Frau von Durst, whose husband was in charge of the salt works in Reichenhall 1765-1772, that Nannerl stayed in Munich in January, 1775, for the première of *Idomeneo*.

⁴ BD: Probably privy councillor and court chancellor [Geheimrat, Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von M^ölk (1714-1776).

⁵ BD VIII: Franz de Paula Dufresne, c. 1757-1792, court councillor [Hofrat] from 1777, cf. No. 0333/53-54. His father was probably Franz Ignaz, actual court chamber councillor [wirkl. Hofkammerrat] and commissioner, ennobled 1765.

⁶ BD: Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest of the Mozarts. She likewise wanted to come to Munich.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0300/6,17. Johann Nepomuk Sebastian (since 1777 Edler von [Esquire]) Pernat (1734-1794), son of a Munich patrician and vintner. Consecrated as priest in 1757; six years as parish priest; canon in Munich, where he was also named "patrician" [Patrizier]. He lived in "Bellvall's house" in Munich, where the Mozarts also found accommodation.

⁸ BD: Cf. line 11.

⁹ BD VIII: Max Clement von Belval, staff commissioner and the Mozarts' landlord in Munich. Cf. No. 0300/17.

¹⁰ BD: Nannerl needed help with the daily toilette.

*sonatas of Paradies and Bach etc.*¹¹ and the *concerto by Luchesi*¹² etc. We have not yet had a letter from you. We kiss you both, commend ourselves everywhere and I am as always
your
Mzt mp¹³

[40] How is everything going with the ball at the Town Hall? – What is *Miss Pimsess*¹⁴ doing? – Md^e. von Durst also has a sweet little thing, I think it is called *Finettl*.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I have toothache.

¹⁵*johanes chrisostomus Wolfgangus Amadeus Sigismundus Mozartus*¹⁶ *Mariæ annæ* [45] *Mozartæ matri et sorori, ac amicis omnibus, præsertimque pulchris virginibus, ac freillibus,*¹⁷ *gratiosisque freillibus*

S: P: D:¹⁸

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

The morning of the 17th.

Yesterday Wolfgang stayed at home because he had toothache, [50] and today he will stay at home as well, for he is now swollen.

Above all, Nannerl must seek the opportunity to tell Count *Sauerau*¹⁹ that she would be very happy to travel to Munich in the company of *Md.^{me} von Robini*²⁰ and Herr Gschwendner.²¹ Above all, one must give him confidence about mentioning it. *Addio*. I hope to see a letter from you today.

¹¹ BD: Pietro Domenico Paradies (c. 1710-1791), composer, in London since 1746/47. Cf. No. 0099/107. The reference here is probably to his (12) *Sonate di Gravicembalo* (London, 1754). – “Bach”: Johann Christian Bach; references possibly to his *6 Sonaten für Clavecin oder Pianoforte*, op. 5 (Amsterdam, 1768).

¹² BD: Andrea Luchesi (1741-1801). Went to Bonn with a wandering opera troupe in 1771 and became music director there in 1774 with a salary of 1000 florins (cf. No. 0369/106). Among the musicians working there was the tenor Johann van Beethoven. The concerto referred to here is probably the *Concert pour le clavecin* in F (Bonn, 1773).

¹³ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁴ “Miss Pim[p]ess”. 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. KV⁶, 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.

¹⁵ *johanes chrisostomus Wolfgangus Amadeus Sigismundus Mozartus* sends many greetings to Maria Anna Mozarta his mother and his sister, and to all friends, especially to the beautiful maidens, and young ladies, and graceful young ladies. [“freillibus” is doggerel, derived from “Fräuleins”]

¹⁶ BD: Mozart uses “Amadeus” three times in the correspondence: Nos. 0302/44; 0355/165; 0525/12. Other synonymous forms are used: Gottlieb, Theophilus. “Sigismundus” was the name given to him at his confirmation.

¹⁷ Derived by Mozart from “Fräulein” = “Miss”.

¹⁸ S.P.D. (salutem plurimam dicit): “sends many greetings”.

¹⁹ “Graf Sauerau” BD: Joseph Gottfried, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Saurau (1720-1775). Cathedral canon, cathedral dean, privy councillor. Cf. No. 0128/46.

²⁰ BD: Cf. line 52.

²¹ BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner (1740-1800), city councillor and merchant in Salzburg. Married (second marriage) Maria Cäcilia Schnürer (1751-1825) in January 1769; she bore a daughter in 1795, fathered illegitimately by Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Arco, High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister].

[55] Herr von *Pernat* and *Bellval*²² always commend themselves.

I will write more with the next post.

I have just this moment received your letter. There was no need for you to write any *address*. We know the post, and the post knows us.

Herr *Fischietti*²³ did well to choose something soon so that he can start soon. [60] When you see him, you can pass our *compliments* on to him. We have not yet thought about choosing anything. There is still plenty of time for that.

²² BD: Cf. line 20.

²³ BD: Domenico Fischietti (1725? - 1810?), born in Naples, known to have directed the theatre troupe in Prague in 1764; court music director in Dresden in 1766. Leopold was bypassed when Fischietti was appointed adjunct music director beside Lolli on the recommendation of Hasse and Wagenseil. The appointment was finalised on the 5th September, 1772, thus before Leopold and Wolfgang set off for Italy. Fischietti was also in charge of the theatre music. He is listed as “Titularkapellmeister” in the church and court calendar between 1776 and 1783. At that point he probably returned to Italy.