

0311. MOZART TO HIS MOTHER, SALZBURG

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / Franco¹

Munich, 14th January 1775

Praise God! My *opera*² went *in scena*³ yesterday, being the 13th, [5] and was done so well that I cannot possibly describe to Mama the uproar. First of all, the whole theatre was so bursting full that many people had to go away again. After every *aria* there was always a terrible din with clapping, and cries of *viva maestro*. Her Serene Highness the Electress,⁴ and the dowager⁵ |: who were *facing* me |: also called out *bravo* to me. [10] At the end of the *opera*, during the time when one is quiet until the *ballet* begins, there was nothing but clapping and cries of *bravo*, now ceasing, now beginning again, and so on. Afterwards I went with my Papa into a certain room which the Elector⁶ and the whole court have to pass through and I kissed the hands of Their Serene Highnesses⁷ the Elector and Electress and Their Highnesses,⁸ [15] who were all very gracious. Early this morning, His Princely Grace the Bishop of Chiemsee⁹ sent a message here with *congratulations* that the *opera* has, in everyone's opinion, turned out so completely beyond compare. As for the journey back, that will not happen so soon, nor should Mama wish it, for Mama knows, of course, how good it is to catch one's breath again – – –we shall be back – – soon enough. [20] A proper and essential reason is because the *opera* will be put on again¹⁰ on the coming Friday,¹¹ and I am very necessary for the *performance* – – otherwise one would not recognise it again – – – – for it is most *curious* here. I kiss Mama's hands 1000 times. My compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. My *compliments* to *Msr. Antretter*,¹² [25] I beg his pardon that I have not yet answered, but it was impossible to find time; it is to be done with the next post. *Adieu. 1000 little kisses to Bimberl*.¹³

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

¹ "Franco" = "Postage paid".

² BD: *La finta giardiniera* KV 196. It was followed by the ballet *La Nymphe perjure protégée par l'amour*.

³ = on stage.

⁴ "S: Durchlaucht die Churfürstin". BD: Maria Anna Sophie, daughter of Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony, wife of Elector Maximilian III Joseph.

⁵ BD: Maria Antonia Walpurgis, sister of Elector Maximilian III Joseph, widow of Elector Friedrich Christian of Saxony († 1763).

⁶ "Churfürst". BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph.

⁷ "s: d:[durchlaut]".

⁸ "hoheiten".

⁹ "S: fürstlichgnaden". BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee.

¹⁰ BD: The opera had two further performances in Munich: at the end of February (with cuts), and 3rd March.

¹¹ BD: 20th January, 1775. (Cf. No. 0312/16 f.)

¹² BD: Presumably a letter [No. 0310a, lost] had arrived from Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house.

¹³ The name of the family dog is often 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.

You must have received 2 letters¹⁴ from me and from Nannerl. How Nannerl will get back, and whether she can travel with Frau von Robinig:¹⁵ so far I do not know. Perhaps she will only travel when we do. Keep well, [30] we kiss you many 1 000 000 times and I am as always
your
Mozart mp.

I have received all your letters. My compliments to all.

¹⁴ BD: Counting from the arrival of Nannerl and including her postscript to No. 0309.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0302/13, 52. 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 came to Munich, and took her daughter Luise.