

0315. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

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

Munich, 8th February, 1775

Here, too, we already had strong wind on Friday the 3rd, but it became heftier on Saturday the 4th, and raged so much in the night [5] that it lifted the biggest of planks, with which the corn sacks were covered on the square, into the air and carried them 30 paces, damaged roofs, chimneys *etc.* astonishingly, and there were some lightning flashes, and shattered the windows in some places outside the town *etc. etc.* The most terrible thing was that on Sunday morning, when the wind was still raging at its fiercest, fire broke out in a chimney [10] around half past 6, but, praise God, it was put out at once. But just imagine the terror in the whole town. We are living only about 150 paces from it. But our comfort was that the whole, astonishingly large [church of]² Our Lady stands in between. The wind lasted for the whole of the same day, and turned into hefty snow drifting. Wherever one went, [15] everyone was complaining that they had spent the whole night sleepless.

How, then, will Frau von Gayer³ like the castle? *Addio*, parties! We are well, praise God. Yesterday Herr Kempfer⁴ left for Augsburg, he was given a hearing by the Elector⁵ and was here for a week. There were also a couple of rogues⁶ here. One of them was an English master, [20] born in Silesia, named Schwarz. He was here for almost a year and made off with clocks, clothes, and left many debts behind, the other pretended to be the son of the rich *banker* Herr Schmittmeyr from Vienna, and was here for a number of weeks, but took off after it was discovered that he is a landlord's son from Nikelsburg⁷ in Moravia. [25] He will already be in custody in Augsburg. We kiss you all, keep well.

I am as always your

Mozart mp⁸

We commend ourselves to all.

Count Wolfegg⁹ is also here. As are the 2 young Counts von Zeil.¹⁰

¹ "Franco" = "Postage paid".

² BD: Word ["Kirche"] missing.

³ BD: Probably Maria Theresia von Geyer. Her husband, Johann Elias von Geyer (cf. No. 0109/55), an artillery engineer, had official accommodation in the castle ["Hohensalzburg"]. Perhaps his wife was now moving there.

⁴ BD VII: Joseph Kämpfer (1735-1788), double bass player.

⁵ "beym Churfürsten". BD: Maximilian III Joseph.

⁶ BD: No other details are known of these two persons.

⁷ BD: Nikolsburg.

⁸ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁹ BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Wandsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, high official. Supposedly Provincial Director, under the name "Prunelius", of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge "Apollo".

¹⁰ "grafen v Zeil". BD: Members of the family included Ferdinand Christoph, Graf Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop in Chiemsee and cathedral canon in Salzburg. Involved with Mozart in 1777, cf. e.g. No. 0331/104, and Sigmund Christoph, Graf Waldburg-Zeil, cathedral dean, nephew of the deceased Bishop in Chiemsee.