

Munich, 26th *Septembre*,
1777*Mon très cher Père.*¹

We arrived safe and well in Munich at half past 4 on the evening of the 24th. What was quite new to me straight away was that we had to drive to the customs, accompanied [5] by a *grenadier* with fixed bayonet. The first familiar person to meet us on the journey was *Sig.^{re} Consoli*,² who knew me straight away and felt indescribable joy on seeing me. He came to visit me straight away the next day. I cannot fully describe Herr Albert's³ joy. He is indeed an entirely honest man and our very good friend. After [10] my arrival, I was at the clavier the whole time until the meal. Herr Albert was not yet at home. He came afterwards, however, and we went down to dine together. There I met Msr. Sfeer⁴ and a certain secretary, his very good friend. Both send their compliments. We got to bed late and were tired from the journey. Yet we were already up at 7 o'clock [15] on the 25th, but my hair was in such disorder that I did not get to Count Seeau⁵ until half past 10. When I got there, the information was that he had already gone off hunting. Patience! In the meantime, I wanted to go to Canon Bernad,⁶ but he has already set off for the country with Baron Schmid.⁷ I came upon Herr Bellval⁸ in the middle of his business. He hardly did more than ask for compliments to be passed on.⁹ During the [20] midday meal, Rossi¹⁰ came. At 2 o'clock came Consoli, and at 3 o'clock Beeché¹¹ and Herr von Bellval. I paid my visit to Frau von Durst,¹² who is lodging at the Franciscans.¹³ At 6 o'clock I took a short walk with Herr Beché. There is a certain Professor Huber¹⁴ here, perhaps you remember him better than I do; he says he saw and heard me in Vienna the last time¹⁵ at [25] the young Herr von

¹ = "My very dear father".

² BD: Tommaso Consoli (1753 – after 1811), castrato, 1773-1789 employed at the court in Munich. Sang Ramiro in the premiere of *La finta giardiniera* KV 196 in Munich on 13th January, 1775. Later in 1775, he sang in Mozart's *Il ré pastore* KV 208 in Salzburg, text by Metastasio (much altered). The guest of honour on that occasion, Archduke [Erzherzog] Maximilian Franz, a son of Maria Theresia, was on his way to Italy, reaching Salzburg on 21st April, 1775. On the 24th April, Mozart played various things as his invention led him at an evening entertainment; Countess [Gräfin] Antonia Lützow, Leopold's pupil, also performed (cf. No. 0319/37, 39), while the Archduke and the Archbishop played in the orchestra. BD VII: Consoli must have been dismissed in Munich in 1778, for he no longer appears in the records. In 1817 he was living in Rome.

³ BD: (Cf. No. 0312/22); Franz Joseph Albert (1728-1789), landlord of the inn "Zum Schwarzen Adler" ["The Black Eagle"], where the Mozarts had stayed on a number of occasions. The keyboard competition between Mozart and Ignaz von Beecke (cf. No. 0110/7) took place there in the winter of 1774/75.

⁴ BD: Nothing is known about him. Leopold mentioned his death in No. 1025/29.

⁵ "graf". BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Graf Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

⁶ 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.

⁷ BD VIII: Friedrich Samuel, Baron [Freiherr] von Schmidt zu Rossan, Bavarian ambassador in Frankfurt.

⁸ BD VIII: Cf. No. 0300/6. Max Clement von Belval, staff commissioner and the Mozarts' landlord in Munich.

⁹ Reading uncertain.

¹⁰ BD VIII, p. 109-110: Felice Rossi, buffo bass, possibly sang "Nardo" in the premiere of *La finta giardiniera*.

¹¹ BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there. Played in the music for the Archduke mentioned above.

¹² BD: It was with Frau von Durst, whose husband was an overseer in the salt works in Reichenhall 1765-1772, that Nannerl stayed in Munich in January, 1775, for the premiere of *Idomeneo*.

¹³ BD: Cf. line 50.

¹⁴ BD: Klemens Huber, actor and theatre manager, 1776-1779 engaged for father roles in Munich.

¹⁵ BD: That is, in the summer of 1773.

Mesmer's.¹⁶ He is not too big, not too small, pale, with white/grey hair and in his physiognomy not unlike the Junior Riding Master.¹⁷ He is also the vice-supervisor *du theatre*:¹⁸ his work is to read through the plays that they want to perform, to improve them, ruin them, add things, remove things. He comes to [30] Albert every evening. He speaks with me very frequently. Today, being Friday the 26th, I was at Count Seeau's at half past 8. It happened this way: I went into the house, and Mad. Niesser¹⁹ the actress was just coming out and asked me, You are surely looking for the Count? Yes. He is still in his garden. God knows when he will come. I asked her where his garden is. Yes, said she, I also have something to talk to him about, [35] let us go to him together. Hardly had we come out through the gate when the count came towards us, and when he was about 12 paces from me he recognised me and called me by my name. He was very courteous. He already knew what had been happening to me.²⁰ We went upstairs completely alone and slowly and I very briefly disclosed my situation to him. He said I should request an audience [40] with His Electoral Highness²¹ as soon as possible. If I were not granted a hearing, however, I should simply present my case in writing. I implored him to keep all of this quiet – he gave me his promise. When I said to him, What is missing here is a real composer, he said: I am well aware of that! After this, I went to the bishop in Chiemsee,²² and was with him for half an hour. [45] I told him everything. He promised to do everything he could for me in this matter. He drove to Nümphenburg²³ at 1 o'clock, and promised me he would assuredly speak to Her Electoral Highness the Electress.²⁴ On Sunday evening the court returns here. Today, at midday, we were guests of Herr von Belval at Rasco's.²⁵ He and they, Herr von Lori,²⁶ Belval, Passauer,²⁷ everyone sends their compliments. Next we went [50] to Frau von Durst. She is lodging in Mayor Schmadl's²⁸ house 3 flights of stairs up. Herr von Lori is lodging on the second floor. From there, Herr Siegl²⁹ |: who has now been married for 2 months |: collected us and we all went together to Frau von Hofstetten,³⁰ her husband is not here, but will come soon. Franz Dufresne³¹ is a court counsellor, but so far *sine auro*.³² Afterwards, Siegl took [55] Mama home, she having given Beeche her word that she would

¹⁶ BD: Joseph Conrad Mesmer (1735-1804), school director at St. Stephan's. A distant relative of Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer, the famous "magnetiser".

¹⁷ BD: Jakob Lindert.

¹⁸ = "Of the theatre".

¹⁹ BD: Frau Nieser, née Hörl, wife of the Munich theatre director Johann Franz Nieser; the latter, originally a lawyer, founded a theatre troupe in 1771 in which Emanuel Schikaneder played *Hamlet* in 1777.

²⁰ BD: Seeau already knew about the dismissal from service of Leopold and Wolfgang, cf. No. 0329/29.

²¹ "S: Churf: Durchl.". BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph, cf. No. 0050/7.

²² BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee.

²³ BD: Schloss Nymphenburg, summer residence of the Bavarian Elector.

²⁴ "mit S: Chr: Durchläucht der Churfürstin". BD: Maria Anna Sophie, daughter of Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony, wife of Elector Maximilian III Joseph.

²⁵ BD: Possibly Georg Raso, Electoral Gentleman-at-arms. "Rasco" could also be a landlord.

²⁶ BD: Possibly Johann Georg von Lori (1723-1787), adviser at court in Munich, responsible for the foundation of the Munich Academy of the Sciences.

²⁷ BD: Two possibilities: Johann Ignaz Andreas, Ritter und Edler von Passauer auf Hellenbrunn, adviser at court, in 1775 administrator of the Elector's breweries, and/or Andreas Ignaz, Ritter und Edler von Passauer auf Hellenbrunn, adviser at court, from 1775 adjutant administrator of the Elector's breweries.

²⁸ "bürgermeister schmadl". BD VII: Joseph Anton von Schmädel auf Bucherried, Esquire [Edler von Schmädel auf Bucherried], one of the mayors in the Munich city administration.

²⁹ BD: Johann Georg Sigl, keyboard teacher, cf. No. 0349/40-41.

³⁰ BD VIII: Probably the wife of the court adviser and general director of roads, bridges and waterworks, Joseph Aloys von Hofstetten, cf. No. 0932/28.

³¹ BD VIII: Also "Dufraisne". 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. He found the accommodation for Nannerl in 1774.

³² BD: = "without gold", unsalaried.

go to the theatre³³ with him, and I accompanied Frau von Durst home, and subsequently to the theatre, where we met. The play was: Henriette,³⁴ or She is already married. This morning, at half past 11, I called with Becche on Fräulein von Seau,³⁵ who is pretty as a picture. Fräulein von Tosson³⁶ has made a very good match. [60] His name is Hepp. They say he is very rich. Herr Joannes Krönner³⁷ has been declared vice-concertmaster, and all by some coarse speech. He performed two symphonies |: *Dio mene liberi* :|³⁸ of his own composition;³⁹ the Elector asked him: Did you really compose that? – – Yes, Your Electoral Highness. From whom did you learn it? – From a schoolteacher in [65] Switzerland – – One makes so much out of the composition – – This schoolteacher did indeed tell me more than all our *compositeurs*⁴⁰ here were able to tell me. Today, Count Schönborn and his consort,⁴¹ the sister of the Archbishop, arrived just as I was at the theatre. In conversation, Herr Albert said that I was here and told him that I was no longer in service. He and she were [70] quite amazed. They were *absolument*⁴² not prepared to believe that I had had 12 florins 30 kreuzers of blessed memory!⁴³ They were only changing at a post-stage, they would have liked to speak to me, but I was no longer able to meet them. But now I ask to be allowed to enquire about your circumstances and your health. I hope, as does my Mama, that you, sir, are very well indeed.

[75] I am always in my best humour. There is such a feathery lightness about my heart since I got away from that chicanery! – – I am already fatter as well. Herr von Wallau⁴⁴ spoke to me in the theatre today and I paid my visit to Countess Laroso⁴⁵ in her box. Now I simply must make a bit of space for my Mama. I asked that compliments should be passed on to the entire Most Worthy Company [80] of Riflemen⁴⁶ from three of its members, mainly from my Mama, myself, and Msr. Novac,⁴⁷ who comes to the Alberts daily. In the meantime, take the best care of yourself, my very dearest Papa. I kiss your hands countless times and embrace my sister the street urchin.

Wolfg: Amadé Mozart

POSTSCRIPT BY MARIA ANNA MOZART:

³³ BD: The theatre on Salvatorplatz.

³⁴ BD: After J.J. Rousseau's novel *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* by Gustav Friedrich Wilhelm Grossman (1744-1796).

³⁵ BD: Daughter of the theatre superintendent Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau, mentioned above.

³⁶ BD: Maria Anna Thumbacher (1757-1779), known as Maria Anna d'Hosson after her mother remarried. In 1777 he married Johann Philipp Rasso Nepomuk von Hepp (1753-1798). As Mozart mentions in line 60, the Hepp family was among the most respected patrician families in Munich.

³⁷ BD: Johann Nepomuk (von) Cröner († 1785), violinist, received a pension in 1777. Came from a large family of musicians who served the Bavarian Elector.

³⁸ = "God deliver me from them".

³⁹ BD: No symphonies by Cröner are known.

⁴⁰ = "composers".

⁴¹ "Graf Schönborn". BD: Eugen Franz Erwein, Count [Graf] Schönborn (1727-1801); he married Maria Theresia, Princess [Prinzessin] Colloredo (* 1744), sister of Archbishop Colloredo of Salzburg, in Vienna in 1776.

⁴² = "absolutely".

⁴³ BD: According to a decree of 1772, Wolfgang's salary at court had been 150 florins.

⁴⁴ BD: Gottfried von Wallau, Imperial Court Councillor's Agent [Reichshofratsagent], in this capacity representative of the Salzburg Prince [Fürst] in Vienna between 1752 and 1770.

⁴⁵ "gräfin Laroso". BD VII: Not Countess [Gräfin] Salern, but Theresia, Imperial Countess [Reichsgräfin] von Larosée, née Imperial Countess [Reichsgräfin] Topor-Morawitzky, the wife of Court Councillor [Hofrat] Johann Kaspar Alois, Count [Graf] Basselet von Larosée (1747-1826).

⁴⁶ BD: The airgun club: shooting bolts from airguns at round targets, practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. Each time, a prize was likewise donated by a member.

⁴⁷ BD: Not identified. Cf. No. 0351/192.

[85] Wolfgang has left no news over for me. I hope to receive a letter from you soon and to learn with joy that you are in good health. We are, praise God, in sound health and wish for nothing else but that you might be here with us, which will happen with God's help. In the meantime, be free of cares and drive away all causes of vexation from your mind, everything [90] must surely turn out well when it comes to the final fitting. We lead a charming life, early to rise, late to bed. The whole day we have visits, living like the children of the Prince until the slave-driver comes for us. *Addio, ben mio*;⁴⁸ I wish health and repose, push your arse to your nose; sleep well, sleepy head, may your shit split the bed; it is already past farting:⁴⁹ now you can rhyme it [95] yourself.⁵⁰

To my dear Sallerl⁵¹
Catherl,⁵² Nannerl, Bimberl,⁵³ all imaginable good wishes.

Maria Anna Mozart

⁴⁸ = "Goodbye, my dear".

⁴⁹ The original "über oas" [past one] in line 94 has to be combined with a "sch" placed below it in line 95.

⁵⁰ The rhyme goes "Scheiss ins Bett, daß's übergeht, morgen ist Elisabeth". ["Shite in the bed till it overflows, tomorrow is St. Elizabeth's Day".] In total, the lines are reminiscent of Nos. 0364/28-30; 0197/36-37 and of the text of the canon KV 561 (1788).

⁵¹ BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as "Sallerl", was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [konfektmeister] Mathias Joly.

⁵² BD: "Katherl, Katerl, Catherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

⁵³ BD: The name of the family dog in a diminutive form: "Pimperl", "Bimberl" or "Pimberl". Also Miss Pimpes: "Miss bimbes". "Pimsess". "Pimpess".