

0339. MARIA ANNA MOZART TO HER HUSBAND, SALZBURG; POSTSCRIPTS BY MOZART AND HIS MOTHER

Munich, 29<sup>th</sup>  
September, 1777

We are well, praise God, and still here. Today Wolfgang was at the bishop's<sup>1</sup> in Chiemsee, but tomorrow he will pay his compliments to the Elector,<sup>2</sup> [5] it couldn't be done earlier. Herr Woschicka<sup>3</sup> dined at our table yesterday evening and at midday today, and was very courteous. How things will go with us we must wait and see, we have indeed many good friends here who would like to see us remaining here;

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

that is true! Very many good friends, but most of whom, unfortunately, can do nothing or [10] little. Yesterday, at half past 10, I was at Count Seau's<sup>4</sup> and found him, however, much more earnest and not as natural as the first time, yet that was only how it seemed. For today I was at Prince Zeil's,<sup>5</sup> and he said to me, in all politeness, the following: "I believe we shall not achieve much here. At the banquet in Nümphenburg<sup>6</sup> I spoke privately with the [15] Elector. He said to me, It is still too early at the moment. He should go, travel to Italy, make himself famous. I am not refusing him anything, but it is still too early at the moment." There we have it. Most of the great men have such an appalling Mediterranean paroxysm. Yet he advised me to go to the Elector and present my business in the usual way. I spoke privately today with Herr Wotschicka [20] as we dined, and he told me to come tomorrow at 9 o'clock, when, he maintains, he is sure of arranging an audience. We are now good friends. He *absolument*<sup>7</sup> wanted to know who the person<sup>8</sup> was, but I said to him: Rest assured that I am your friend and will remain so, I am also completely convinced of your friendship, sir, and let that suffice you. And now, to come back [25] to my recent shistory,<sup>9</sup> the bishop in Chiemsee also spoke completely alone with the Electress,<sup>10</sup> she shrugged her shoulders and said she will do her best, but she has great doubts. Now comes the business with Count Seau; Count Seau asked Prince Zeil |: after he had told him everything :, Perhaps you know if Mozart is in such circumstances that he could stay here [30] on a small allowance. I would be very pleased to keep him here. The bishop gave him this answer: I do not know, but I doubt it very much; but you may by all means speak to him about it. So that was the reason why he was so thoughtful the following day. I like being here, and I am of the opinion, like many of my good friends, that if I only stay here a year or two, I could [35] gain approval and merit, and am consequently more

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [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 .

<sup>2</sup> BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777), an outstanding viola da gamba player and also a composer.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Wo(t)schitka (c. 1727-1796), Electoral valet and chamber virtuoso [Churfürstlicher Kammerdiener, Kammervirtuos], cf. Nos. 0399/106; 0464/99.

<sup>4</sup> "graf". BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

<sup>5</sup> "Fürst Zeil". Cf. line 4.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Schloss Nymphenburg, summer residence of the Bavarian Elector.

<sup>7</sup> = "absolutely".

<sup>8</sup> BD: The Prince-Bishop of Chiemsee?

<sup>9</sup> Mozart writes "schistori" instead of "histori", creating an assonance with "shit".

<sup>10</sup> "Churfürstin". BD: Maria Anna Sophie, daughter of Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony, wife of Elector Maximilian III Joseph. Cf. No. 900.

likely to be sought by the court rather than that I should be the one seeking. Since my arrival, Herr Albert<sup>11</sup> has had in mind a project whose realisation appears not impossible to me, namely that he wanted to bring together 10 good friends, each of whom need donate only 1 ducat<sup>12</sup> per month, that is, 10 ducats per month or 50 guldens, [40] 600 florins per year. Now, if I afterwards had only 200 florins per year from Count Seau, that would be 800 florins. How does Papa like this idea, then?<sup>13</sup> – – is this not friendship? – – is it not something to be accepted if the situation became serious? – – I am completely satisfied with that. I would be close to Salzburg, and if you took a fancy, my dearest Papa, |: as I would [45] wish from the bottom of my heart :| to leave Salzburg and spend your life in Munich, the matter would be pleasant and easy. For if we have had to live on 504 florins<sup>14</sup> in Salzburg, we could surely live in Munich on 600 or 800 florins? – – I have 100 000 compliments to pass on from Countess Larosè.<sup>15</sup> [50] She is indeed a lovable lady! and our very good friend. Herr von Dufresne<sup>16</sup> recently said to me that both of them often argued with the President's wife<sup>17</sup> on account of us. Papa enjoys great favour with Countess Larosé. She says she does not often see such a sensible man! – and it is even visible in his face! – I visit her every day. Her brother<sup>18</sup> is not here.

#### MARIA ANNA MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[55] At midday on Friday we dined with Herr Bellvall,<sup>19</sup> afterwards we went to Frau von Durst<sup>20</sup> and went to the theatre with her. She asks to be commended to you and Nannerl. Herr Becke<sup>21</sup> travelled out into the countryside today with Countess Seeau.<sup>22</sup> Certainly, I like it well here, but I would wish to be able to divide myself so that I could also be with both of you in Salzburg. I beg you [60] to keep an eye on your health, and do not go out so soon until you are really well, and don't worry your hair grey, everything will end well with God's help. As must be, compliments to all my friends, namely Frau von Moll,<sup>23</sup> Frau von

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins, but in the letters, as here, it is usually converted as 5 florins/guldens.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0343/29 for Leopold's questions.

<sup>14</sup> BD VII: It is not clear how Mozart comes to this figure. He himself received 150 florins a year, Leopold received 28 florins 30 kreuzers per month (= 396 florins per year): total 546 florins.

<sup>15</sup> "gräfin Laroso". BD: Maria Josepha, Countess [Gräfin] Salern, née Gräfin Larosée, wife of Count [Graf] Salern.

<sup>16</sup> 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 and commissioner, ennobled 1765.

<sup>17</sup> BD VII: Josepha, Imperial Countess [Reichsgräfin] von Larosée, née Baroness [Freiin] wife of Royal War Council [Hofkriegsrat] President Johann Kaspar von Larosée († 1795) and mother-in-law of the "Countess [Gräfin] Laroso" mentioned in No. 0333/77.

<sup>18</sup> BD VII: Perhaps Maximilian, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] Topor-Morawitzky, major [Major] in the Bavarian Electoral Prince's infantry regiment [kurprinzliches Infanterieregiment], from 1767 Electoral Chamberlain [kurfürstlicher Kämmerer].

<sup>19</sup> BD VIII: Cf. No. 0300/6. Max Clement von Belval, staff commissioner and the Mozarts' landlord in Munich.

<sup>20</sup> 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 première of *Idomeneo*.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> "gräfin". BD VII: Possibly the wife of Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Leopoldine von Moll, née Cristan di Rall, wife of Ludwig Gottfried von Moll (1727-1804), from 1788 Baron [Freiherr] von Moll, employed by the State of Salzburg from 1746 onwards, finally being named Actual Privy Councillor [wirklicher Geheimer Rat] in 1770. Member of the Bavarian Academy of the Sciences 1776; Governor of Tyrol 1789.

Gerlitsch,<sup>24</sup> Mlle. Catherl,<sup>25</sup> especially to my dearest Sallerl,<sup>26</sup> and Herr Bullinger,<sup>27</sup> Frau Hagenauer,<sup>28</sup> Spinster Mizerl<sup>29</sup> [65] with a word to everyone who wants to hear something from us. I kiss Bimperl<sup>30</sup> on his little tongue, he will have forgotten me already. Nannerl will be very pleased with herself because she has two ladies-in-waiting.<sup>31</sup> Write to us elegantly about whatever new is happening in Salzburg. Tomorrow a German operetta will be performed. We will go to see it as there is such a commotion because it [70] is said to be so beautiful. I also send my best greetings to Thresel,<sup>32</sup> she should not be allowing herself to get bored while I am away and should be diligent in taking Bimpes<sup>33</sup> out to pee. I also send my greetings to the little birds. I cannot possibly write much, for the pen is miserable, and I cannot write at all with the golden one.<sup>34</sup> So I kiss both of you many million 1000 times. Live together [75] in true contentment and health, I pray for you daily. *Addio*, Maria Anna Mozart

#### MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Today, namely the 30<sup>th</sup>, I went to court with Msr. Wotschicka at 9 o'clock as agreed. There everyone was in hunting uniform. Baron Kern<sup>35</sup> was the officiating valet. I would have gone there yesterday evening, but I could not affront Herr [80] Wotschicka, who personally offered to arrange from me to speak to the Elector. At 10 o'clock he led me into a narrow little room through which His Electoral Highness had to pass in order to hear Mass before the hunt. Count Seau passed by, and gave me a most friendly greeting, At your service, my dearest Mozart.<sup>36</sup> As the Elector approached me, I spoke thus: May [85] Your Electoral Highness allow me to lay myself most humbly at his feet, and to offer him my services -- Yes, entirely gone from Salzburg? -- Entirely gone. Yes, Your Elect. Highness.<sup>37</sup> -- But why then? Were you embattled?<sup>38</sup> -- Ah, by my faith, Your Highn., I merely requested to make a journey, he refused me it, so I was forced to take this step, although I had [90] long been thinking about leaving. For Salzburg is no place for me. Yes, most certainly. -- My God, a young person! But your father is of course still in Salzbourg? -- Yes,

<sup>24</sup> BD VII: Anna Maria Gertrud von Gerlichs († 1785), daughter of cloth factory inspector Franz Christoph von Edlingen, married Royal Chamber Director [Hofkammerdirektor] Gerhart von Gerlichs († 1763) in 1747.

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House teacher to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

<sup>28</sup> BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer († 1800), wife of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with "Joly Sallerl" (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the "Tanzmeisterhaus" ["Dancing Master's House"] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold's death in 1787.

<sup>30</sup> BD: The dog, cf. No. 0291/37.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0335/28-29.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Yet another variant of the dog's name, cf. No. 0291/37.

<sup>34</sup> BD: With which Wolfgang had just been writing?

<sup>35</sup> BD: Probably Anton Joseph, Baron [Freiherr] von Kern zu Zellereith, storehouse administrator [Kastner] and senior customs official [Grossmauthner].

<sup>36</sup> BD: Text correction on p. 381 of BD V.

<sup>37</sup> "Euer Chrf: Durchleicht".

<sup>38</sup> BD: Text correction on p. 381 of BD V: the Elector was using Bavarian dialect correctly.

Your Elect. Highn., he lays himself most humbly etc. I have also been in Italy three times, have written 3 operas, am a member of the Academy in Bologna, had to pass an examination in which many *maestri* worked 4 to 5 hours and sweated, [95] I finished it in one hour: that may serve as testimony that I am capable of serving at any court. My only wish, however, is to serve Your Elect. Highn., who is himself a great = =. -- Yes, my dear child, there is no vacancy here. I am sorry. If only there were a vacancy. -- I assure Your Highn. [100] I would certainly bring honour to Munich. -- Yes, all of that does not help. There is no vacancy here. -- This he said in parting. I then commended myself to His Most Serene Grace.<sup>39</sup> Herr Wotschicka advised me that I should let myself be seen frequently at the Elector's. This afternoon I called on Count Salern.<sup>40</sup> His daughter, the Countess,<sup>41</sup> is now a lady-in-waiting. She went out with the hunt. I and Ravani<sup>42</sup> were on the street when [105] the whole procession came by. The Elector and Electress gave me a most friendly greeting. Countess Salern<sup>43</sup> recognised me at once. She made me very many compliments with her hand. Baron Rumling,<sup>44</sup> whom I had previously seen in the antechamber, was never so courteous to me as this time. I will write in the next letter how it went with Salern. Very well. Very courteously. And sincerely. [110] Now I beg you to watch your health properly. I kiss Papa's hands 100 000 times, and am and remain, sir, your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

P:S: *Ma très chere sœur*,<sup>45</sup> [115] the next time I will write a letter entirely for you alone. I commend myself to A:B:C: M:R:<sup>46</sup> and other letters of the kind. *Addio*. Someone built a house here and wrote on it:

[120] I built with pleasure and with mirth,  
Until I found it costs the earth.

During the night, someone wrote this under it for him:

You should have known before the start  
How much it costs, you private part.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> "zu höchsten gnaden".

<sup>40</sup> "graf Salern". BD: Joseph Ferdinand Maria, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] Salern (1718-1805), husband of Mozart's later patroness; previously in charge of "music and the opera" in Munich before being replaced by Count [Graf] Seeau. Natural son of Duke [Herzog] Ferdinand Maria of Bavaria.

<sup>41</sup> "Gräfin". BD VII: Identical with the "Countess [Gräfin] Salern" mentioned in line 106. The latter is not, as was previously supposed, the wife of Count [Graf] Salern, but a daughter. In No. 0342/4-5, Mozart denies that one of the daughters was the reason why he liked visiting the Salerns.

<sup>42</sup> BD: Gaetano Ravanni (1744-1815), born in Brescia, one of the most important altos of the day. Employed in the court music in Munich from 1764 as "chamber virtuoso" [Kammervirtuose]. In 1778, his annual salary was 1100 florins. He was active until 1784.

<sup>43</sup> BD VII: Countess [Gräfin] Salern, third wife of Count [Graf] Salern and later patroness of Mozart. His second wife, Maria Josepha, had died in 1772.

<sup>44</sup> "Baron Rumling". BD: Wilhelm Ernst Sigmund, Baron [Freiherr] von Rumlingen (also Rumling) († 1825). Appointed leading page [erster Cammerknab], cf. No. 0406/28, in 1778; in 1799 appointed privy councillor [Geheimrat] with duties as deputy supervisor of the court music and music supervisor at the court theatre [deutsches Hoftheater]. He was also active as a composer.

<sup>45</sup> = "My dearest sister".

<sup>46</sup> BD: Probably a random selection of initials of known names.

<sup>47</sup> Literally: "Building is a great joy, / that it costs so much I did not know." // "And that it costs so much / you should have known, you prick cover."