

0354. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, AUGSBURG; ENCLOSURE FROM LEOPOLD;
POSTSCRIPTS BY BULLINGER, NANNERL, JOLY

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Le Chevalier Wolfgang / Mozart Maître de
Musique / à / Augspourg*¹

My dear spouse!

Salzb., 23rd Octb., 1777

The first thing that I have to tell you, just coming back to the house from Whitsun Mass, [5] is that the Senior Equerry's² wife unexpectedly passed into eternity after 8 o'clock this morning. Yesterday she invited her midwife to breakfast today, because today is the wedding anniversary of the Senior Equerry's wife. She came at half past 7 and found the Sen. Eq.'s wife, dressed in snow white, in the best of moods. The latter said to her that she was in better heart today than on her actual wedding day, [10] on which she was very anxious. Then she showed her an entire little chest full of Viennese shoes which she had just received, and said: I will not make a tear in a single pair of them, my successor will be glad to find a whole chest of shoes. Suddenly, she complained about pains in her stomach and went to the chamberpot. There she fainted after taking a laxative, [15] they sent for *Dr. Barisani*³ and the barber Gilowsky.⁴ *Dr. Barisani* is in Lauffen,⁵ his wife came with the young *Dr. Steinhauser*,⁶ who was just on the point of mounting his horse to accompany the 2 *Barisanis*, who left for Vienna at 8 o'clock with the post-coach. He found her fainted for the second time, and the young upstart prescribed bloodletting, Herr Gilowsky thought one should rather keep her [20] very warm and rub her astonishingly, but *Dr. Steinhauser* insisted on letting blood. They opened the vein – a little blood – a couple of pulses – and she was gone! – – Now they have sent a lackey straight to Lauffen with the fine news. Now a different story! Tell Wolfgang that the big-eyed daughter⁷ of the Archbishop's personal baker,⁸ who danced with him at The Star⁹ [25] and often made such friendly compliments to him and then finally went to the Loretto nunnery¹⁰, has returned to her father's house. She heard he¹¹ wanted to leave Salzb., she will have believed that she would still see him and stop him. He will then be so good as to reimburse the father for the costs of the pomp and all the fine [30] preparations for entering the nunnery.

So you are still in Augsp.? – *bravissimo!* I had already enclosed the previous letter¹² with one to my brother¹³ because I thought you might be away over hill and dale. Now I see that you will not get away before the 24th or 25th, thus staying a fortnight in Augsp. Of

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Mozart, Knight, master of music at Augsburg".

² "Fr. Oberbereiterin". BD: Eleonore Weyrother († 1777), née Wagner. Her husband was Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables.

³ BD: Laufen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop's autumn residence.

⁴ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

⁵ BD: Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky von Urazowa (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court barber/surgeon. Father of "Katherl". In No. 0705 called the "Barber of Salzburg".

⁶ BD: Dr. Michael Steinhauser († 1814, aged 61), physician, son of Prof. Dr. Johann Philipp Steinhauser (Stainhauser) von Treuberg (1719-1779).

⁷ BD: Maria Ottilie Feyerl (1755-1796), daughter of the personal baker to the Prince-Archbishop and mill-owner Johann Georg Feyerl (1715-1805). She did not return to the nunnery.

⁸ "Mundbecken".

⁹ BD: Inn "Der Stern".

¹⁰ BD: The Loretto nunnery in Salzburg, often seen as a last resort for "fallen girls"; the chapel is often mentioned in the correspondence in requests for Masses to be read, cf. No. 0036/47-48 etc.

¹¹ BD: Mozart.

¹² BD: No. 0353.

¹³ BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.

course it is necessary, if one wants to give a concert,¹⁴ [35] to announce it many days in advance. I only hope that it may prove profitable! Yet I suspect it will not result in much at all. Each person will probably pay 1 florin 12 kreuzers.¹⁵ But will many come? I am keen to hear about it. That it is a very sorry orchestra¹⁶ – I knew that anyway; that is of course saddening! Herr Hagenauer¹⁷ has just sent me the Weekly Intelligencer,¹⁸ [40] and at exactly the same moment Frau von Gerlichs¹⁹ has sent a newspaper, because the concert is announced in both of them. It is good that it is in 2 places. The announcement is very well done. So you will play the Concerto for 3 Harpsichords?²⁰ And there Herr Stein's little daughter²¹ may play, too? Perhaps even the 1st keyboard, you the 2nd and perhaps father Stein²² the 3rd? – – Something of the kind could be imagined!²³ [45] – – Now, as you read this, everything is already past, and I hope for a few words with news of how it went off. I am glad that Herr Stein's pianofortes are so good. But they are indeed expensive too. It is not long since Herr Gasser²⁴ |: not Gassner |: lost his young beautiful wife, I read it in a letter to Herr Hagenauer some time ago. So he treated you to the best: [50] he is indeed an uncommonly obliging, courteous man. The two of you also visited Herr von Zabursnek.²⁵ He wrote of it to Herr Johannes Hagenauer,²⁶ and mentioned that he would have liked to invite you to be his guests, only his wife²⁷ is in confinement, but it would be a joy to him to come to the concert. – – Now, do not forget the departure in all this: the cold is becoming ever more penetrating. It started to get fairly cold here on Sunday and Monday; [55] on Tuesday, Wednesday and today the cold was so severe, due to the unremitting wind and the brightest of weather, that the horses and figures of the court fountain²⁸ were completely

¹⁴ BD: The concert took place in the Fugger Rooms [“Hochgräfl. Fuggerschen Concertsaal”] at six in the evening on 22nd October, 1777.

¹⁵ BD: The tickets cost 1 florin (best seats) and 30 kreuzers (ordinary seats).

¹⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0351/129-130.

¹⁷ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

¹⁸ “Intelligenz-Blatt”. BD: The “Augsburger Intelligenz-Blatt”.

¹⁹ 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. Cf. No. 0339/63.

²⁰ BD: KV 242, described in the announcement as “Clavier-Concert mit 3 Piano Forte”.

²¹ BD: Nanette (1769-1833), daughter of the instrument maker Stein and from 1794 wife of the pianist Johann Andreas Streicher (1761-1833). She was not only a recognised keyboard player (first performance 1776 in Augsburg), but also became so familiar with the whole process of making keyboard instruments that she was able to take over the workshop after the death of her father. Cf. No. 0352/55.

²² BD: Johann Andreas Stein (1728-1792), built organs and keyboard instruments. Active successively in Strasbourg, Augsburg and Vienna. Mozart greatly appreciated his pianofortes. He appears frequently in the letters, esp. Nos. 0349/32 ff. and 0352/61 ff. His annual production was typically between 20 and 25 instruments, costing 300 florins and more each.

²³ BD: For pianos 2 and 3, Leopold's guess was right. The first was played by Johann Michael Demmler (1748-1785), who had studied philosophy, was a music teacher, composer and cathedral organist. Schubart considered him to have “true talent for composition”.

²⁴ BD: Valentin Alois Gasser took the copies of Leopold's violin school printed by Lotter to the Frankfurt book fair free of charge. Cf. Nos. 0331/53; 0352/34-35.

²⁵ BD: Johann Christoph Zabuesnig (Zubuesnigg, Zabuschnig, Tschabuschnig) (1747-1827), merchant. 1807 city mayor; became a priest in 1816. Wrote novels, plays and poetry. Visited the Mozarts in Salzburg in 1769 and wrote a poem in honour of Wolfgang.

²⁶ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 that his aged mother then took over the business.

²⁷ BD: Maria Katharina Zabuesnig, née Veit, related to the von Weisers in Augsburg, of whom Ignaz Anton wrote the text for the *Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots* KV 35. They had 15 children, of whom 8 reached adulthood.

²⁸ BD: Today known as the “Residenzbrunnen”, erected 1556-1661.

covered with ice and icicles, and people everywhere were forced to get a little fire going in their heating ovens. The vine leaves are all shrivelled [60] as if they were baked in lard, and all the Bosc pears are frozen. – I am well, praise God, have neither pains in the chest nor a cough, and have recovered very well. You will now have established a better habit of walking than in Salzburg, since you now walk for quarters of an hour and almost half hours, to Herr Stein's, for example, if he still lives out of town on the river Lech, and St. Ulrich's²⁹ &c. With this exercise, I hope you will be entirely healthy. God keep both of you, I am as always your
Mozart.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S ENCLOSURE FOR HIS SON:

*Mon très cher Fils!*³⁰

I should be sending you good wishes on your name-day!³¹ But what can I wish you now [70] that I do not always wish you? – I wish you God's grace, that it may accompany you everywhere, that it should never leave you, and it will never leave you if you are zealous in exercising the obligations of a true Catholic Christian. You know me: – I am no pedant, not a religious bigot, even less a hypocrite: [75] only you will hopefully not refuse a request by your father? – It is this: that you should be concerned for your soul, that you do not cause your father any anxiety in his hour of death, so that, in that testing moment, he does not need to make any accusation against himself, as if he had neglected anything regarding the salvation of your soul. Live in health! Live happily! [80] Live sensibly! Honour and value your mother, who must now toil much in her old age, love me as I love you, as your truly conscientious
father Leop: Mozart.

ABBÉ JOSEPH BULLINGER'S³² POSTSCRIPT:

Dearest of all friends!

The most sincere wishes that the warmest friend can make I send to you, sir, on the holy feast-day of your name. [85] While pleasure, contentment, happiness etc: are among the things I can say to you on this occasion, they are still not what I would like to say to you, and yet I am not able to express it. Best of friends, you know my heart, find pleasure in this. I am not happy at all with the damned Swabians;³³ [90] their behaviour brings them little honour. Yet they are not all of the same rabble. Farewell, best friend. I am your

Jos. Bullinger

MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Dearest brother!

I wish you all happiness and blessing, that God keep you always healthy, [95] and that you think of us when things are going well for you, or even badly, as we have to pass the time so sadly and are separated from you both, and I would only wish that what Herr Cassel³⁴ said, when he came to congratulate us, is true, namely that you and Papa had entered service in Munich with 1600 gulden. Such lies, I believe, start with the Haydn

²⁹ BD: One of the Salzburg monastery churches; cf. No. 0331/63.

³⁰ = My very dear son.

³¹ BD: Name-day: 31st October.

³² BD: Cf. No. 0331/5 etc. 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).

³³ BD: Referring to No. 0351/17 ff.

³⁴ BD: Joseph Thomas Cassel, listed as violinist and double-bass player in the court music 1778-1779.

woman³⁵ and her coarse tribe, [100] for they wish Papa gone from here so as to be sure that her husband becomes music director. Katerl Gilovsky³⁶ sends her compliments to Mama, and congratulates you on your name-day. She has no time to come to us during the entire week, except Sunday, because the chamber...³⁷ is here again. Tresel and [105] little Pimpes³⁸ also send congratu...³⁹ Live well and healthily. I kiss Mama's hands and kiss you with a loud smack of the lips. Mama will probably have forgotten to buy the silk⁴⁰ in Munich? That is only a question, and I ask you to reply.

POSTSCRIPT BY ROSALIE JOLY:

Wolfgang, friend so dear, your name-day now is here,
And so it's time to wish you, oh, Papa's dearest issue,
As much as you might long for, and all that you might need,
May happiness not leave you, nor bed-bugs make you bleed.
Since fortune to you always has shown its naked bum,
May in that distant land, then, a double fortune come.
These are my hearty wishes, sincere and straight and true,
And, if I could, not wishes, but gifts I'd give to you.
And tell your dearest mother, for I admire her so,
I always wish to see her, be it in joy or woe:
So long may we be faithful, and may we never split,
While in my lungs there's breathing, and in her arse a slit.
Keep well, of friends the dearest, and witty man of parts,
And share with me in future a two-voice fugue of farts.⁴¹
Rosalie Joly.⁴²

³⁵ BD: Maria Magdalena (1745-1828), daughter of the court organist Franz Ignaz Lipp, the wife of Michael Haydn. Cf. No. 0122/34.

³⁶ BD: 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. Cf. line 15.

³⁷ BD: Some letters illegible because of the seal.

³⁸ BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household), Pimpes the dog (cf. No. 0291/37).

³⁹ BD: Some letters illegible because of the seal.

⁴⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0365/19-20).

⁴¹ BD: Wolfgang's mother voices a similar sentiment in a less direct form in No. 0333/94.

⁴² [Literally: Wolfgang, my dearest friend, today is your name-day, / [110] for which I wish you, you best of all boys, / as much of everything as you may wish and which it is fitting for you to have. / You should be happy at all times, and the cockroaches should not eat you. / May happiness, which here has always shown you only its arse, / show double favour to you in distant places. [115] I wish you that from my heart, as truly as I live, / and, if it were possible, I would give, rather than wish, it to you. / And you must tell your mother, whom I revere so much, / that I love her constantly, and often desire to see her. [120] She should retain her friendship towards me / as long as she has a slit in her arse. Keep well, dear friend, in peace and in fun, / and occasionally join in a little farting duet. / Rosalie Joly]