

[Mannheim, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1777]

That is curious!<sup>2</sup> I ought to write<sup>3</sup> something sensible and nothing sensible occurs to me. Do not forget to admonish the esteemed Dean,<sup>4</sup> so that he sends the scores<sup>5</sup> to me soon. Do not forget your promise,<sup>6</sup> madam; I will certainly not forget either. [5] How could you have any doubt? With the next post, I will send you a letter entirely in French, and you can then have it put into German by the esteemed head forester.<sup>7</sup> I hope you will have already begun to learn?<sup>8</sup> Now there is too little room to set down yet more sensible things, and writing sensible things all the time leads to headaches. [10] My letter is of course full of sensible and learned things anyway. Once you have read it, you will have to admit this, and if you have not yet read it, I beg you to read it soon, you will draw much profit from it. At some lines you will shed bitter tears.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Mozart's cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in Mozart's letters as his "Bäsle" ["little cousin"]. Cf. No. 0358.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0364/53 ff.

<sup>3</sup> BD: This may be a suggestion made in a previous, lost letter from Wolfgang's cousin.

<sup>4</sup> "Herrn Dechant". BD: Father Ludwig Zöschinger (1731-1806), took vows in Augsburg in 1761. Organist and monastery dean in Holy Cross [Heiligkreuz]. Also composed. Compositions: cf. No. 0355/13 etc.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Mozart had lent some of his pieces to the monastery Holy Cross [Heiligkreuz] in Augsburg. Cf. No. 0376/32-34, where Mozart speaks of two masses and an oratorio, i.e. KV 192 (186f), 220 (196b), 222 (205a).

<sup>6</sup> BD VII: There was a promise to exchange portraits, cf. Nos. 0371/14; 0364/11-12.

<sup>7</sup> "Forstmeister". BD: This should in fact be the postmaster [Postmeister], cf. No. 0350/49-50.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0371/37-38, where Mozart again talks about French lessons.