

0365. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM

À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Manheim / at The Palatine Court¹

Salzb., 6th Novb., 1777

My dear wife, and my dear son!

[5] Praise God that you have reached Manheim safe and well! Although I do not know, and doubt very much, if Wolfg. will find everything there that he has imagined or that which some people may have depicted to him in a favourable light. The long haul from Augsburg to Mannheim will have done a lot of damage to your purse, and Mannheim will hardly fill it up again. Enough! [10] You two are now there. Herr Becke² will be heartily glad that Prince Taxis³ and the Prelate⁴ in Kaysersheim⁵ have not heard you, so he will still rule the roost in his area and be the clavier god to his worshippers. Herr Vogler⁶ will be that person, as far as I know, who published a treatise⁷ on musical calculation; he is a strong contrapuntalist and algebraist; [15] he is in charge of the music school or academy⁸ for the young people.

Yesterday evening, Colonel Baron Pranck⁹ was buried. Today, the violoncellist Herr Baumgartner and the flautist Herr Gering¹⁰ arrived here, they have just visited me, and send their compliments; they are going to Vienna. Nannerl has received the silk¹¹ from Augsburg, but there is very little of it because, [20] I think, the weights there will be smaller or less. Count Wolfegg¹² also arrived today, but I have not yet spoken with him. If, as usually happens at such royal courts, it looks likely to become long drawn-out, make

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart master of music in Mannheim at The Palatine Court” [an inn: im Pfälzischen Hof]

² BD: Cf. No. 0110/7. Notger Ignaz Franz von Beecke (1733-1803), keyboard player, later superintendent of music in Wallerstein, cf. No. 0111/33-34. The first publication of his compositions was in Paris. He took part in a keyboard “competition” with Mozart in Munich in winter 1774/75, cf. No. 0312/22. They are said to have met again in Frankfurt or Mainz in 1790, where they played a piano concerto four hands.

³ “Fürst Taxis”. BD: Cf. No. 0347/192. Prince [Fürst] Carl Anselm von Thurn und Taxis (1733-1805); ruled 1773-1805.

⁴ “Prelat”. BD: Coelestin II Angelsprugger (1726-1783), born in Augsburg, prelate, elected abbot in 1771, vicar-general to the Cistercians in Upper Germany. He and Mozart drove from Mannheim to Kaisheim together in December, 1778.

⁵ BD: Kaisheim.

⁶ BD: Georg Joseph Vogler (1749-1814). After studying law and theology he became a court chaplain in Mannheim. He was sent to study in Italy for two years, returning to become spiritual adviser and deputy music director. Also active as teacher and theorist. Mozart usually spoke disparagingly of him.

⁷ BD: *Tonwissenschaft und Tonsetzkunst*, Mannheim, 1776; dedicated to Elector [Kurfürsten] Karl Theodor, cf. No. 0462/186 f.

⁸ BD: Opened with the support of the Elector Karl Theodor in 1776.

⁹ “Oberst B: Pranck”. BD: 0365/16: Pranck: BD: Franz Xaver Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Pranck (1719-1777). Had a military career in Salzburg from 1743; from 1765 Military Adviser [Kriegsrat]; from 1766 City Commandant [Stadtkommandant] in Salzburg. Not related to the Leopold, Count [Graf] Pranck of No. 0346/22.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0346/39. Johann Baptist Baumgartner (1723-1781), born in Augsburg. Cello virtuoso, wrote a school for the instrument in 1777, also composed. Worked successively in Augsburg, Trier and Eichstätt. Gave a concert in Augsburg on 5th October, 1777, with musicians from Vienna and Weimar.

¹¹ BD: Silk: cf. No. 0354/17.

¹² “Gr: Wolfegg”. BD: Arriving from Augsburg and Mozart’s concert of 22nd October, 1777. Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Wandsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, high official. Supposedly Provincial Director, under the name “Prunelius”, of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge “Apollo”.

arrangements for other lodgings: perhaps Wolfgang can manage things so that the Elector¹³ has him write a German opera. I am in fact worried, [25] for Mannheim is an expensive place. You know how matters stand. I hope Herr Danner,¹⁴ to whom I most courteously commend myself, will be at your side and give guidance. I hope Wolfgang will take pains to make friends with obliging courtesy, and the esteemed Deputy Music Director Vogler must be a very adroit man, for the Elector thinks very highly of him. [30] I very much desire that you obtain the favour of Herr Raff,¹⁵ to whom I commend myself most obediently; he has always been extolled to me as a very honest and Christian man. I have written¹⁶ to Misliw.¹⁷ saying that he should write to him on your behalf.

Now I hope that you are both well, and that Mama's catarrh has abated. [35] Both of us, praise God, are well, as is little Pimpes,¹⁸ who was never fresher than now. On Sunday the 2nd we invited Mitzerl¹⁹ here, and we celebrated Wolfgang's name-day²⁰ with a chicken and a little capon. If I wanted to write down here everyone's compliments, I would have to have the head of an angel to keep all the people in mind, and then I would write until I was tired. [40] Keep well, we both kiss you a million times and I am always your Mozart

Isn't this the most beautiful autumn that one could wish for? – but here the bread and flour have now been opening up because of the dryness and heat. Herr Rust²¹ can travel now, only that, as he wishes to have not only money for the journey [45] but also 3 months' salary as well, the Archbishop²² is not prepared to agree to the latter. So Rust is staying here behind the heating oven in his room, and is drawing his money as an invalid, for it has emerged that he has to keep not only a wife, but also his wife's father, that he has a heap of debts and some things pawned in Italy, so he cannot travel. But if he stays, [50] he can collect the money without costs and then send it there and pay off the debts. If he cannot go out, he stays at home, but the Archbishop must still pay him. *Addio*. If you do not have time, Mama should write, when she is at home and does not perhaps have much to do, about what is going on. [55] N.B. I have written every post-day until now, so you know whether you are receiving all the letters.

¹³ "Churf.". BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

¹⁴ BD: Johann Georg Danner (1722-1803), court musician (violinist), in No. 0360/25 referred to as "the old Herr Danner"; known to the Mozarts since 1763.

¹⁵ BD: Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich.

¹⁶ BD: No. 0352a, lost.

¹⁷ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris, cf. No. 0347/2. Other meetings with the Mozarts had been in Bologna (cf. Nos. 0172/14; 0202/34-35; 0216/31-32) and in Milan in 1770 and 1773 (cf. Nos. 0257/12; 0277/28; 0279/22; 0281/35-36).

¹⁸ BD: The Mozarts' dog in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0291/37.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: 31st October.

²¹ BD VII: Cf. Nos. 0331/96, 100; 0362/38 ff., 98-101. Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741 1786), first studied in Naples, later in Rome. Several of his operas were performed in Venice 1773-1776. 1776-1777, he was music director in Salzburg. He fell ill and left Salzburg for Venice in 1778, where he continued composing. In 1783 he accepted a post in Barcelona, where he died. Had strained relations with Michael Haydn.

²² BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colleredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang.