

[Mannheim, 13th November, 1777]

²Now write her a sensible letter for once; you can still have fun writing, but write that you have received all her letters safely,³ then she will not need to worry and fret about them.

[5] *Ma très chère Nièce! Cousine! fille!
Mère, Sœur, et Epouse!*⁴

⁵Heavens above thousand sacristy,⁶ Croatians, dire straits, devils, witches, fays, heavenly hosts without end, by the elements, air, water, earth and fire, Europe, Asia, Africa, Jesuits, Augustinians, Benedictines, Capuchins, [10] Minorites, Franciscans, Dominicans, Carthusians, Maltesers, Canons Regular and Irregular, and all lazybones, rogues, cowards, sluggards and pricks in a heap, donkeys, buffalos, oxen, clowns, simpletons and fools! What manner of action is this one hears, 4 soldiers and 3 bandoliers? – – A packet like this and no portrait?⁷ – – I have been full of longing [15] – – I firmly believed – – for you did of course write⁸ to me yourself, not long ago, that I would have it very soon, very soon indeed. Do you perhaps doubt if I, on my part, will keep my word?⁹ – – I certainly hope that you will have no doubts about that! Now, I beg you, send it to me, the sooner the better. It will hopefully be as I requested, namely dressed in the [20] French style.¹⁰

How do I like Mannheim? – – As much as I can like any place without my little cousin. Pardon my bad handwriting, the quill is clearly old. It will soon be 22 years that I have been shitting out of the same hole,¹¹ and it is still not torn! – and I have shit so often in that time – – and bitten off the shit [25] with my teeth.

Conversely, I also hope, as happens to be the case, that you have received my letters safely, namely one from Hohenaltheim,¹² and 2 from Mannheim,¹³ and this one, as happens to be the case, is the third from Mannheim, but the 4th in all, as happens to be the case. Now I must finish, as happens to be the case, [30] for I am not yet dressed, and we are just about to eat so that, afterwards, we can shit again, as happens to be the case. If you still love me as much as I love you, madam, we shall never cease to love each other, even if the lion is hovering around us within the walls,¹⁴ even if the hard victory of doubt was not duly taken into account, and the tyranny of the oppressors is sliding from its course, [35] yet Codrus,¹⁵

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

² BD: Presumably a genuine excerpt from a dialogue between Mozart and his mother.

³ BD: A wish for letters to be sent on was expressed in No. 0364/43 ff.

⁴ = "My very dear niece! Cousin! Daughter! Mother, sister, and wife!" BD: In an orderly parallel in line 44, Wolfgang signs the letter simultaneously as "nephew and cousin", respectfully including his uncle and aunt in the farewell.

⁵ BD: A chaotic series of expressions of shock is the absence of the promised portrait of his cousin in the newly arrived packet, cf. line 14.

⁶ BD: Instead of the frowned-on "*Heaven Lord God Sacrament*".

⁷ BD: The portrait: cf. Deutsch Bild No. 281. It was sent later.

⁸ BD: No. 0370a, lost.

⁹ BD: His promise to send a portrait of himself in return.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0355/160-161.

¹¹ BD: Cf. note on No. 0364.

¹² BD: No. 0358, lost.

¹³ BD: Nos. 0361, 0364.

¹⁴ BD: No. 0358, lost.

¹⁵ BD: A prize example of "nonsense with pathos". Perhaps a coded message? – Cf. 0537/11 ff.

the wise philosopher, often eats snot instead of porridge, and the Romans, the supports of my arse, are always, always have been, and will always remain – – free of charge.¹⁶ *Adieu, j'espère que vous aurés déjà pris quelque lection dans la langue française,*¹⁷ *et je ne doute point, que – – Écoutés: que vous saurés bientôt mieux le français, que moi; car il y a certainement deux ans,*¹⁸ [40] *que je n'ai pas écrit un môt dans cette langue. adieu cependant. je vous baise vos mains, votre visage, vos genoux et votre – – afin, tout ce que vous me permettés de baiser. je suis de tout mon cœur*

votre

*Mannheim le 13 Novv:
[45] 1777.*

*trés affectioné Neveu et Cousin*¹⁹
Wolfg: Amadé Mozart

¹⁶ BD: Mozart wrote “kastenfrei” [= “without box”]. The intention was surely “kostenfrei” [= “free of charge”], which obviously had some familiar significance.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0361/7-8.

¹⁸ BD: Mozart had in fact used French two weeks previously in an entry in his cousin’s album (No. 0356).

¹⁹ = “*Adieu*, I hope that you have already taken some lessons in the French language, and I do not doubt at all that – – listen, so that you will soon know French better than I do, for I have gone certainly two years now without writing a word in that language. *Adieu*, nevertheless. I kiss your hands, your face, your knees and your – – in short, everything that you allow me to kiss. I am, with all my heart, your very affectionate nephew and cousin, Mannheim, 13th Nov.”