

0375. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musi=
que / à / Manheim /at 'The Palatine Court'.¹*

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

Salzburg, 20th Novb., 1777

Much as your letter of the eighth³ filled me with a certain hope, [5] and was a pleasure to all of us, especially to Herr Bullinger,⁴ your letter⁵ of the 13th brought an equal displeasure. To our great amazement, we received it on the evening of the 18th, after only 5 days, when all the others reached us in six days at the fastest. It would of course have been very much better if you had received 15 Louis d'or⁶ instead of a watch,⁷ even if it is valued at 20 Louis,⁸ [10] for the money is more necessary for travel, yes, indispensable. Where, now, will you be reading this letter? – – probably in Maynz⁹. For heaven's sake – *ysh mhot ollk asnly*.¹⁰ You will no longer have received my letter¹¹ of the 15th in Mannheim, but were probably already gone. I anticipated everything – – and, concerning Frankfort,¹² [15] gave you full details of Herr Leopold Henrich Pfeil's¹³ letter to me. – – What use, then, is everything that I might wish to write to you: what is past can now no longer be changed. Nor did I ever have the pleasure of learning why you had to hurry off in a beeline to Manheim in the greatest haste: probably after much urging by various people who thought they knew something about it, [20] and in order not to miss the beautiful German opera.¹⁴ Yet, of course, the journey was not a beeline, since Herr Becke,¹⁵ with his *malicious marching route*, sent you on a robust outing, since, as Herr Bullinger says, it is known to everyone there that one must go via Constat¹⁶ and Bruchsal to Manheim, and not via the other, better road. And has Herr Beke really never travelled to Manheim? [25] – The toilsome journey to Elwang¹⁷ was for nothing, and you have to thank the kindness of Herr Becke for the unnecessary expense. – – And was Prince Taxis¹⁸ then back in Regensburg?¹⁹ – – Enough! It is in the past! – Now you must take care not only to let yourself be heard

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Mannheim at ‘The Palatine Court’.” [An inn, ‘Im Pfälzischen Hof’.]

² = “My very dear son!”

³ BD: No. 0366.

⁴ 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 tutor 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).

⁵ BD: No. 0370.

⁶ BD: = 165 florins.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0370/40 ff.

⁸ BD: = 220 florins.

⁹ Mainz. BD: Cf. No. 0369/99-100.

¹⁰ Family code: “you must seek money.”

¹¹ BD: No. 0369.

¹² Frankfurt am Main.

¹³ BD: The letter: No. 0362a, lost; cf. No. 0369/ 64 ff. Leopold Heinrich Pfeil (1725 or 1726-1792), French teacher, formerly factotum to Goethe's father. Married a cousin of Goethe in 1746. School director. Ordered several instruments from Friederici in Gera, which had probably led to his contacts with the Mozart family.

¹⁴ BD: Holzbauer's opera, cf. No. 0363/81.

¹⁵ BD: 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.

¹⁶ Cannstatt.

¹⁷ Ellwangen.

¹⁸ “Fürst Taxis”. BD: Carl Anselm, Prince von Thurn und Taxis (1733-1805); ruled 1773-1805.

¹⁹ Regensburg. BD: Another wasted journey. Cf. No. 0347/192.

before the Electors of Mainz,²⁰ and to manage things so that you receive a present in money, [30] and, if it is at all possible, that you can furthermore give a concert in the town, since there is a sizeable nobility and the whole government there, which is not the case in Mannheim, where the government and most business is in Düsseldorf.²¹ Concert master Kreiser²² could do most to help you and put the matter on the right track, for, on the first point, [35] he knows himself, as one who has travelled, that one has more need of cash, and you need not be hesitant in telling him the quite natural reason, once you have played before the Elector, since you have just received a gallant trinket in Mannheim. Concerning the concert, he can do much, because he is popular everywhere in Mainz. If he is not there, the leading female singer, [40] Franziska Ursprunger,²³ to whom I most obediently commend myself, will let you know to whom you should turn. Perhaps to the violoncellist Herr Schwachhofer,²⁴ the son, to whom I commend myself, and he could introduce you to the Prince of Biberach,²⁵ who is close by – – and is his pupil. I am now speaking blindly about Mainz because I suspect that you are there, [45] since you do not give the least information about where you will go, and that is the nearest court; the post-coach and gratuities on the way may have cost you around 10 to 11 florins. In Mainz, there will be no lack of opportunity to give clavier material to Canon Stark²⁶ |: I send him my most obedient thanks :| which he can then, by changing the difficult passages into easier ones, [50] work through with his pupils. – Why did you not think about giving the Elector of Mannheim²⁷ something of your composing? It was for your benefit that I suggested this to you, and also in order to make your composing known; that was truly a place with a splendid orchestra of instruments. – Yes, you had no time to think about that. Where do you want to move on to now? – – [55] To Paris?²⁸ – What route do you want to take? – Will you travel to Paris without any letters of recommendation? – – What route will you take in order to earn something on the way? – – If we do not assume this, you surely know how much money would be needed for this astonishing journey? – – And once you are both there, to whom are you going to turn? [60] – Must there not first be enough money in the bag to be able to live from until one has made the necessary acquaintances in order to be able to earn something? – – By giving lessons one can make a lot in Paris quickly!²⁹ That is certain, but does one find the pupils all at once, and will one quickly dismiss one's teacher in order to take on the foreigner who has just arrived? [65] – One can earn much by composing pieces

²⁰ “Churf. von Mainz”. BD: Friedrich Karl von Erthal.

²¹ BD: Düsseldorf came to the Palatinate in 1614. Some improvements were made by Elector [Kurfürst] Johann Wilhelm von der Pfalz (1679-1716) and then by Karl Theodor (1742-1799) with numerous new cultural establishments.

²² BD: Georg Anton Kreusser (cf. No. 0105/78). The Mozarts met him and his brother, Johann Adam, in Amsterdam in 1766.

²³ BD: Franz Kajetan Ursprunger, personal valet, native of Salzburg; cf. No.0062/19-21. His three daughters were, according to Leopold, “Franziska”, “Magdalena” and “Catharina”. Margarethe, Franziska and Magdalena were recorded as performers in the court music in Mainz in 1763.

²⁴ BD: Members of the Schwachhofer family are mentioned in No. 0060/22. There is no proof of relationship with the cellist mentioned here.

²⁵ “Fürsten von Biberach”. BD: Probably Count [Graf] Stadion auf Warthausen, near Biberach, minister in the government in Mainz; his natural son was Georg Michael von La Rocher (1720-1788), grandfather of Clemens Brentano.

²⁶ BD: Johann Franz Xavier Star[c]k, († 1799), cathedral canon and cathedral vicar, cathedral organist and music director. Produced a keyboard reduction of the *Abduction from the Seraglio* in 1785, causing Mozart and Torricella to abandon their own idea for a keyboard reduction; cf. No. 0375/47 ff.

²⁷ “Churfürsten von Mannheim”. 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.

²⁸ BD: Leopold had in the meantime read of Wolfgang's intentions to go to Paris in No. 0370/11, received on 18th November, 1777. Cf. No. 0378/102 ff.

²⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0370/12-13.

and having them engraved. Yes! But is not protection essential for all of this, one or more friends, a subscription, and does all this not presuppose acquaintanceship already made? – Passing over all of this, it is nevertheless entirely certain that the journey and the first period of the stay will require a well-filled purse. [70] You know that ³⁰*wl swl turll uhndrld ghedlno ts Ulrr Bheefnglr, ts Ulrr Wlfolr*³¹ *svlr m uhndrld ghedlno. Wftu Klrocubmalr*³² *F dsn't knsw usw ahcu, bht ft wfee meos mashnt ts mrshnd isrty ghedlno. Tul bfeeo irsa tul emdflo' mnd tul glntelaln's tmflsro wfee mrrfvl fn tul nlw ylmr*, not to mention other trifles of *osml ghedlno*,³³ and [75] *shr loolntfme dmfey lxplndfthrl. Ussd csoto vlry efttel*:³⁴ but it is, of course, especially now *fn wfntr, wftu wssd mnd cmndelo mnd amny stulr afnsr tufngo, os amny lxplnolo tumt F umvl Insjgu*,³⁵ that I have my work cut out to keep everything going. Despite all this, I am prepared, in the event that you really want to go to Paris, [80] to make a provision for you both, once you are there, of 20 or 30 Louis d'or,³⁶ in the hope that takings of twice and three times that amount will come in there; but do we have our friend Grimm³⁷ there again? – yet why would fatal destiny have it that you were so close to each other in Augsp.³⁸ without knowing it? – Perhaps he is in Paris? Perhaps he was on the point [85] of travelling to Paris just then? – But who can know that? – How about Wolfgang now writing a letter to Paris, addressed *à Msr: Grimm Envoyé de S: A: Serenissime Le Duc de SaxenGotha à Paris*.³⁹ In this letter he could inform him of his journey and regret that you were so close to each other in Augsp., since on just that evening when Herr von Grimm alighted at The Three Moors,⁴⁰ there was the concert, [90] or academy⁴¹ etc. etc. The address for the reply must be indicated to him, to Coblenz⁴² or the place you are going to, and since a note left at the post office on your departure is the most secure way to get your letters safely, an answer will certainly come if he is in Paris. If he is not in Paris, [95] it does not matter if the letter gets lost, since there is nothing inexpedient in it; with such letters, however, one should not place the signature too far down, leaving a lot of blank space above it, otherwise a rogue, if such a letter should fall into unknown and malign hands, might cut the name out and enter, in the blank space left above it, [100] a small obligation for some Louis d'ors.⁴³ I have already reminded you twice that a note left behind, with an indication of the place, is the safest way to get one's letters, since the post

³⁰ Family code: “we owe three hundred guildens to Herr Bullinger, to Herr Weiser over a hundred guildens. With Kerschbaumer I don't know how much, but it will also amount to around forty guildens. The bills from the ladies' and the gentlemen's tailors will arrive in the new year.” On the “bills from the ladies' and the gentlemen's tailors” cf. No. 0414/7 ff.

³¹ BD: Weiser: Probably Ignaz Anton (“von” after 1747) Weiser (1701-1785), Salzburg merchant, later mayor of the town. Related to the families Hagenauer and Duschek, frequently mentioned in the correspondence.

³² BD: Kerschbaumer: Probably Johann Franz Kerschbaumer, a Salzburg merchant.

³³ Family code: “some guildens.” Guildens can be taken as equal to florins.

³⁴ Family code: “our essential daily expenditure. Food costs very little.”

³⁵ Family code: “in winter, with wood and candles and many other minor things, so many expenses that I have enough.”

³⁶ BD: 220 or 330 florins.

³⁷ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

³⁸ Augsburg. BD: Wolfgang played in a concert there on 22nd October, 1777; cf. No. 0362/114.

³⁹ “to Msr. Grimm, envoy of His Most Serene Highness, the Duke of Saxony-Gotha, in Paris.”

⁴⁰ “bey den 3 Mohren”, an inn in Augsburg.

⁴¹ The word “Academie” was often used interchangeably with “Konzert”, which could also mean “concerto”.

⁴² Koblenz.

⁴³ BD: 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

office is concerned to deliver the as yet underpaid letter to its destination. Good friends to whom one gives such a commission can forget it. [105] On arriving in any place, one must then enquire often and assiduously at the post office. What I mentioned just now about providing money⁴⁴ in Paris would *blcsal fapsoofbel isr al fi ysh nsw tmkl sht osal asnly fn Irmnkirt*,⁴⁵ for which reason you must now *ollk ts rlclfyl m prlolnt fn cmsu*,⁴⁶ or at any rate see that a lady might take over [110] having the *wmtcu rmiield*⁴⁷ among the nobility, as La Motte⁴⁸ did in Prague with all the fancy trinkets he received there. Herr von Dalberg's⁴⁹ beautiful wife could do it. Herr Krauser⁵⁰ knows the best way to do it. – – But that is still not everything by a long way! Mama will say, answering my question about the route to Paris, How will we travel? – – We will simply take [115] the old way as we did then. Mama will remember that there are 34 post stages, but it should be noted that you cannot use the *chaise* anymore, they would harness 4 horses for you and supply 2 postillions; there is no way round it, and in Brabant the post-coach from Brussels to Valenciennes,⁵¹ 4 horses, cost 44 florins. At Valenciennes one must take 6 horses. [120] Now the *chaise* should be sold,⁵² and the *diligence*⁵³ taken for travelling. N.B. I believe that on these French roads, the diligence does not go at night. On this point, you must now be sure to enquire at the post offices in each place, for one cannot sell the *chaise* head over heels at the last stage and let oneself be put under pressure. [125] One must therefore be sure to think about this earlier. You both see from this that one must take care to write to me far in advance about everything one is thinking of doing, since the letters have all too long a distance to go to receive an answer. I will save writing down all the post-stages from Brussels to Paris for you for the next post-day. I would only ask you to write to me with your thoughts on how you actually intend to continue your journey. [130] The Prince of Chiemse⁵⁴ has suffered an attack of gout at Zeil⁵⁵ in Swabia, otherwise he would have been in Munich long ago. They are expecting him there and if you write to him now in Munich, he will certainly be there. It seems to me that you like Munich better than Manheim. I would be happier with Munich: [135] even if the orchestra in Manheim is good, I do not like the fact that they have no singers, and they have a large turnover of singers and maestros at the opera every year. Would you not, then, like to write to Prince Zeil that he should make a proposal to the Elector⁵⁶ and Count Seeau⁵⁷ that he should take you for only one or 2 years, as he customarily does with the castratos, [140] that you do not demand an appointment, – – that you are a young person who is not looking for that at all, but is still young enough to seek his fortune in the world, but that you have an irresistible inclination to serve the Elector for

⁴⁴ BD: Cf. lines 79-81.

⁴⁵ Family code: “become impossible for me if you now take out some money in Frankfurt.”

⁴⁶ Family code: “seek to receive a present in cash.”

⁴⁷ Family code: “watch raffled.”

⁴⁸ BD: Franz Lamotte (1751-1781), from 1772 until his death first violinist in Maria Theresia's court music.

⁴⁹ BD: Friedrich Christoph Anton, Baron [Freiherr] von Dalberg, supervisor of the Mainz court music. His wife [“Frau”] is probably his “madam daughter” [“Frau Tochter”], Countess [Gräfin] Ostein, cf. No. 0060/7, since Leopold does not mention a wife in his travel notes.

⁵⁰ BD: = Kreusser in lines 33-34.

⁵¹ BD: On 9th May, 1766.

⁵² BD: But cf. No. 0385/131-132. This was the family's own travelling vehicle, with which Wolfgang and his mother had reached Mannheim.

⁵³ BD: Large coach often used for regular post services

⁵⁴ “Fürst von Chiemsee”. BD: Cf. No. 0261/6: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee, a life-long supporter of Mozart.

⁵⁵ BD: Southwest of Memmingen.

⁵⁶ “dem Churfürsten”. BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777) was also an outstanding viola da gamba player as well as a composer.

⁵⁷ “gr: Seeau”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Graf Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

whatever period he might see fit. You could write to the Prince, on a separate sheet, saying it would not be to the detriment of His Excellency Count Seau,⁵⁸ [145] since you undertake to prepare his German *Singspiels* properly and are willing to give an assurance and a written obligation in return saying that you would not trouble or plague the Elector beyond the set period if His Elevated Person⁵⁹ were not so inclined etc. – – My idea is this: you would be nearer to Italy; [150] if a *scrittura*⁶⁰ comes and if you are in Munich, he lets you go and the salary is continued. If, now, no *scrittura* comes, this service is all the more certainly the way to receive one, and a hundred things that you know yourself. His domains are astonishingly numerous: castles and monasteries around Munich, and constantly enough entertainment with hunting, riding and driving, once one is known; [155] opportunity to compose for the church and the theatre, and in winter more entertainment than in any place that I know. – I must finish. We both kiss dear Mama and yourself, and I am as always your good old husband and father,

Mozart

Today we received no letter from you both, [160] perhaps one is coming tomorrow with the Friday post. Concerning the German opera, who composed it? Who sang in it, and how? – Not a word! Concerning the concert, who played, who sang, who puffed and piped; beautiful music? Not a word! You are a rare troop! – Yes, of course, Mama wrote: the music at the opera was beautiful. There we have it; the rest of it – See for yourself! – What kind of players were there for the violin concerto? [165] – – Herr Fränzl?⁶¹ – – See for yourself! And the philosopher Raaff,⁶² dry as a crust? – See for yourself!

⁵⁸ “S: Exc: der H: Gr: Seau”.

⁵⁹ “Höchsderselbe”.

⁶⁰ = “contract to write an opera”. BD: Leopold was still counting on the contract for Naples mentioned by Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), cf. No. 0347/39-40.

⁶¹ BD: Ignaz Fränzl (1736-1811), cf. No. 0057/9, whom the Mozarts met in Schwetzingen in 1763. From 1747 violinist in Mannheim. Concertmaster from 1774. Mozart gave an opinion of his playing in No. 0377/19 ff. He was married to the sister of Cannabich’s wife. He did not move to Munich in 1778, when most musicians with the court. He stayed as director of the court theatre [Hoftheater]. His son Ferdinand (1770-1833) became concertmaster in Munich in 1789.

⁶² BD: This dryness was the lack of acting skill mentioned by Wolfgang in No. 0373/67.