

0380. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musi=
que / à / Man[n]heim / at The Palatine / Court¹*

Salzb., 27th Novemb.

Mon très cher fils!

1777

[5] Your letter² of the 20th inst. on a little leaf of paper because there was no more in the house³ reached me on the 25th, so it was already here on the 5th day. But there I found, as usual, not a word as to whether you had received a letter from me since then, as you should of course have received that of the 13th,⁴ since there are seven days from the 13th to the 20th. Quite apart from that, I have already said to you once [10] that I have written every post-day up to now, and since you know that the post leaves here only on Mondays and Thursdays, you can thus easily know if you have received all the letters, and it is certainly no trouble at all to say, with two or 3 words right at the beginning: Your letter of the — — — has arrived. Nor can I find anywhere even a word about where your journey will lead, [15] or what plans you are otherwise considering: I can build up my hopes as much as I like from one letter to the next: always — nothing — not a word! — The aim of the journey, indeed, the necessary aim was, is, and must be to obtain m psoftfsu or lmrn asnly.⁵ So far, the matter shows no signs of moving towards the one or the other, unless perhaps it must be being kept secret only from me. [20] From Munich you gave me news about everything in great detail: there I knew, then, how matters stood and can take my orientation from it even now, and can also think out what measures one could take, if one wished to, in order to carry something out.

[25] From Augsp.,⁶ too, you told me about everything — only you stayed too long everywhere — at least there was something to read to your honour in the newspapers.⁷ There I was already expecting an answer to the suggestions I had made regarding the journey, about where you would go and why this — and not that — — but — not a word! — — and now, in Mannheim, [30] a wmtcu,⁸ and ns asnly,⁹ — there we really are stuck in an aloo:¹⁰ and nevertheless not a syllable on how you wish to proceed with your future journey. — I am thinking my brain out of my head in sheer agitation — and am writing my eyes blind; I would like to provide for everything in advance, and you two see everything as a trifle, are indifferent, tie my hands back from advising and helping you, [35] since you do not say a word to me about where you are heading for. I will give you clear proof of unforgivable thoughtlessness. Since you do not say a word to me that ysh mfgut bl fncefnld ts otmy fn Annulfa¹¹, or that, for this reason, you had made osal mlntfsn si tufo ts tul Lelctsr¹² or some other step, the only possible conclusion is a somewhat longer journey. So you will be thinking, [40] as I have already mentioned in my previous letters, about going to Paris. —

¹ “*To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music at Man[n]heim at The Palatine Court.*” [An inn, ‘Im Pfälzischen Hof’.]

² BD: No. 0376.

³ BD: No. 0376/3: Leopold sees this simply as an excuse.

⁴ BD: No. 0369.

⁵ Family code: “obtain a position or earn money”.

⁶ Augsburg.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0350/8-9.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0370/106 f.

⁹ Family code: “a golden watch, and no money.”

¹⁰ Family code: “mess”.

¹¹ Family code: “you might be inclined to stay in Man[n]heim”

¹² Family code: “some mention of this to the Elector”. BD: Elector [Churfürsten] 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.

You can now take any route, whichever one you wish, but you can *nlftihlr knsw nsr uspl wftu clrtmfnty*¹³ that you will earn as much money on the way as is needed for this expensive journey. Has it then never occurred to both of you that, [45] at some point on this long route, one must provide for credit in case of emergency? *Ysh umvl nsw gst ns ihrtulr tumn Amnnhlf*¹⁴ and you are already in that situation. Once you are past Maynz,¹⁵ you can no longer obtain anything from Frankfort:¹⁶ if you now take out money in Manheim, you will then, with God's help, not need to take out anything in Frankfort, where there is nothing to do anyway. One can therefore [50] hope that you will make so much in Maynz, Coblenz and Bon,¹⁷ visiting these 3 electors,¹⁸ that you will be able to get to Brussels. On that occasion we went from Bon to Cöln,¹⁹ from Cölln via Jüllich²⁰ to A[a]chen, from Achen to Liège, then from Liège via Tirlemont to Brussels.

Achen and Lüttich are expensive places, where, in Achen, no one at all is there in winter. [55] Find the most direct route on the map, where the routes are all marked; from Cölln straight to Ma[a]strich[t] it will at most amount to around 14 German miles.²¹ From Mastricht, the way leads by Tongers |: or Tongern in German :| – St. Trou²² – Tirlemont²³ – and Leuven,²⁴ straight as a die to Brussels. – From Mastricht to Brussels it is not more than 14 German miles, and therefore, [60] from Cölln to Brussels, 28 German miles. It is thus about 3 miles further from Cölln to Brussels than from Salzburg to Augspurg, which is 25 miles, which is not significant. –

Now, since you are travelling with the post-coach and can therefore stay anywhere you please, Mastricht and Leuven are 2 places, especially the latter, where there is a large population [65] and a major university, where perhaps a concert could be organised. This is what to do: One asks the landlord about the capellmeister, music director of the place, or, if there is no such person, about the most famous musical artists. One then arranges to be taken to him, or, depending on the circumstances of his rank, to ask him to come, and one speaks with him. This way one immediately knows if the costs of the concert are high, [70] whether one can obtain a good clavier – whether one can obtain an orchestra, whether there are music lovers there – – one may thus perhaps be led immediately to someone who manages such things out of pure love of music and takes matters in hand himself etc. In short, one quickly finds out the truth of whether there is something to be done there or not – and all that in travelling clothes, without unpacking anything, only putting on a couple of beautiful rings etc. [75] This all applies if, for example, one encounters a clavier during the visit and wanted to play. And, since there are seldom great violinists in such places, you could play a concerto which is easy to accompany. But your violin is hanging on the wall: I certainly imagine it that way. – – I would have some confidence about Leuven, where we N.B. alighted at The Wild Man²⁵ and were looked after very well, [80] as we paid only only 2 florins 30 kreuzers for 5 persons at midday. I have no confidence about Mastricht.

¹³ Family code: “neither know nor hope with certainty”.

¹⁴ Family code: “You have now got no further than Mannheim”.

¹⁵ Mainz.

¹⁶ Frankfurt.

¹⁷ Koblenz and Bonn.

¹⁸ BD: Friedrich Karl von Erthal (Mainz), Clemens Wenzel von Sachsen (Trier, resident in Koblenz), Max Friedrich von Königsegg (Cologne, resident in Bonn).

¹⁹ Cologne.

²⁰ Jülich.

²¹ 1 German mile = about 7.4 km.

²² BD: Saint Trond/Sint Truiden.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0067/115 ff. (The journey of 1763-64).

²⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0067/121 ff. (The journey of 1763-64).

²⁵ “beym Wilden Mann”. BD: Cf. Nos. 0065/158; 0067/134. (The journey of 1763-64).

Now, to come back to the previous business regarding credit.²⁶ This is the reason why you should of course have thought of writing to me about the continuation of your journey, since you clearly see that you must have credit in Brussels, since one cannot possibly [85] provide for all eventualities, and the route is so astonishingly long. Otherwise one could certainly not carry out the matter so quickly, and you would then be in danger of sitting around for 2 or 3 weeks and using up the money pointlessly. I would not venture to advise you to take the other route, via Trier and Luxenburg,²⁷ about which I wrote²⁸ to you last time, it could turn out very nastily, and I could not say [90] if there might be anything to do in any one of these places. Down there on the Rhine there are, after all, 3 Electors, and Brussels and perhaps Leuven as well. Consideration of the matter and common sense will convince you that reflection and diligent, steadfast foresight is necessary, that I do not write all this from unnecessary concern, from a terrifyingly melancholic imagination, [95] but that I am speaking from experience. Now I am waiting for where the two of you are, where you are going – in order to be able to make the further arrangements. My dear wife always writes very little, and since she nevertheless gives us news of where she is invited to dine, we do at least know that she is well – God bless her! and keep you both in good health!

[100] We are, thanks be said to God, likewise in good health, and live as well as we can alone together, since Nannerl takes care of everything, and my day passes thus: partly with my frequent duty in the church, with my pupils, then writing to you, and in the evening, from half past 5 to half past 8 at the most, sitting at the clavier with Nannerl. Everyone commends themselves – Herr Bullinger,²⁹ the esteemed godfather,³⁰ who are with me at this very moment, [105] Miss Sallerl³¹ – Mitzerl,³² the Hagenaur,³³ the Andretters,³⁴ the Gilowskys' Cath.,³⁵ Fräulein Mosshammer,³⁶ that is the Contrôleur's little Marianne etc. etc., who did not even know that you had left. We kiss you both a million times and I am for ever, as always, your husband and father,

Mzt

Father Guethrath,³⁷ vice-rector, once again suffered a stroke and has died.

²⁶ BD: Credit is necessary in light of the impending journey, cf. line 43 ff.

²⁷ Luxembourg.

²⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0378/108-110.

²⁹ 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).

³⁰ BD: Johann Gottlieb Pergmayr, Wolfgang's godfather.

³¹ "Jgf. Sallerl". BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as "Sallerl", was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [Konfektmeister] Mathias Joly.

³² 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.

³³ BD: Family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

³⁴ BD: Family of Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house.

³⁵ BD: "Katherl, Katerl, Catherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of court surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, 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.

³⁶ BD VIII: Daughter of the court kitchen supervisor.

³⁷ BD: Father Rupert Carl Joseph von Gutrath (1723-1777). Joined the Benedictine monastery of Saint Peter in 1741; from 1752-1777 professor in various branches of theology. Died on 21st November, 1777.

[110] On the 3rd or 4th December, the *copia*³⁸ of your portrait, which has turned out incomparably well, will leave for Botzen³⁹ with Herr Triendl,⁴⁰ and from there to Bologna. Your portrait has already been mounted in a black frame with a well-gilded edge.

On the target at the last airgun-shooting⁴¹ there was the Ritzen Bogen⁴², Gilowsky's surgery,⁴³ [115] and Catherl⁴⁴ looking out of the window, a tall person sending his compliments up to her, another, smaller person slipping in under his arm and also bowing before her. Out of the mouth of one of them come these words: Your most obedient servant, my angel! The other one says: Your most submissive servant, my treasure! All very nicely done. [120] I wrote in addition:

Our Cathy at the window receives the greetings due,

From valets, stewards, nobles, and humble students, too.

On Tuesday, on her name-day,⁴⁵ the tall and proud are there;

The small man slips through deftly, and wins her fair and square.

[125] They are expecting bad actors any day now from an outlying quarter of Vienna. The principal⁴⁶ had already lost his licence this summer because he was too bad, but since Wahr⁴⁷ and Schopf⁴⁸ have cancelled, they have had to ask even people like this that they previously did not want; and although they considered them too bad, they now have real trouble getting them.

[130] Yesterday evening, at 8 o'clock, a chancery clerk from the War Office in Vienna came to us to give us news of Herr von Prean.⁴⁹ He went on his way again this morning with the post-coach to Insprugg⁵⁰, his set destination. Prean now has a salary of 1500 florins and is Permanent Registrar. Herr Grill⁵¹ has 1000 florins and is Junior Registrar.

³⁸ BD: Here "copia" is not "copy", but "original". The portrait of Mozart as Knight of the Golden Spur, painted by Salzburg painter for Padre Martini in Bologna in August-September 1777. Cf. Nos. 0325; 0362/92.

³⁹ Bozen, Bolzano.

⁴⁰ BD: Anton Triendl (1721-1796), brother-in-law of Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787). He took over the firm Haffner in 1787. Cf. No. 0374/83.

⁴¹ BD: The shooting of bolts from airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would donate a first prize and then also pay for all food and drink consumed during the meeting.

⁴² The Ritzenbogen, an archway, still extant, leading through the house Sigmund-Haffner-Gasse 10 to the Universitätsplatz.

⁴³ BD: Probably a room in the house just mentioned and suitable for the work of barber/surgeon.

⁴⁴ BD: Catherl: Maria Anna Katharina Gilowsky, as above.

⁴⁵ BD: 25th November.

⁴⁶ BD: Unknown.

⁴⁷ BD: Karl Wahr (1745- after 1791). After a time with the wandering theatre troupe, he started his own troupe in Vienna Neustadt. They played at Esterhazy's, Bratislava, Salzburg (first performance of Hamlet), Pest, Bratislava again, Prague. One of the best theatre directors of his time.

⁴⁸ BD: Andreas Schopf (1751-1821). For a time, his troupe (jointly led by Therese Schimann) included Emanuel Schikaneder and Schikaneder's future wife, Maria Magdalena ("Elenore") Arth.

⁴⁹ BD VII: Franz de Paula Prean von Zallhausen, official in the War Ministry. Cf. No. 0288/43.

⁵⁰ BD VII: Michael Grill, official in the War Ministry, known to the Mozarts since 1773. Cf. No. 0288/43. His 1000 florins p.a. exceed the 800 florins paid to Mozart as "Kammermusicus" from 1787.

⁵¹ Luxembourg.