

0391.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM; POSTSCRIPT BY JOLY

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique /
à / Man[n]heim at The Palatine / Court.*²

Salzb., 15th Decemb.

*Mon très cher Fils!*³

1777

[5] In God's name! Patience! There is nothing else I can say. The matter must now lie in the past – not as I write this – but as you read it,⁴ for then it will no doubt already be the 21st. May the Almighty grant that it has gone well according to his most holy Will. <If you are not to stay, you will certainly have received good travelling money>: [10] you will of course have detailed your <expenses at the inn> item by item? <Getting a place in Manheim⁵ would have been what I most preferred at the moment>. If I were in your place, I would still <have continued teaching the children⁶ the Rondo⁷ and the Variations⁸>. Even if <the Elector⁹ had not given you any great salary now>, it would certainly <soon have got better>. [15] Enough! One must leave oneself to the Will of God, but also always do everything one can, and therefore always <think ahead>. Have you then <already written Herr Cannabich's ballets¹⁰>? I would have left myself plenty of time for that. From the first moment that you gave me news of the matter, I was of the opinion, and still am, [20] that there is no other way by which the matter can come to an end and resolution, and now I hope it has done, than by means of <the children>, or rather by means of the <governess¹¹> and the <opportunity to speak with the Elector himself there>, for even if <Count Salvioli¹²> means well with you, of which one is never sure in this wicked world, <he does not always have the opportunity,> [25] nor also the heart, to speak of the matter so often. Now I have nothing more to write to you. Yesterday the esteemed paymaster¹³ donated the target.¹⁴ On the target was Nannerl at the clavier, as she sits and plays, little Pimpes¹⁵ sitting in front of her on the clavier and waiting attentively. All very beautifully painted, natural, even Nannerl's clothing exactly right, and little Pimpes as well. [30] There were no verses on it, but now I will write something on it afterwards. I got the first prize again, and won 13

¹ This letter contains some family code, marked by angle brackets < >.

² To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Master of music in / Mannheim at The Palatine / Court. [An inn, 'Im Pfälzischen Hof'].

³ = "My very dear son!"

⁴ BD: The letter of 10th December, 1777 (No. 0388) had not yet arrived.

⁵ BD: In No. 0375/133-134 Leopold preferred Munich.

⁶ BD: The natural children of the Elector [Kurfürst], cf. No. 0363/88.

⁷ BD: The final movement of the sonata dedicated to Cannabich's daughter. Cf. No. 0381/79.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0381/61, 65. Probably *VI Divertimenti di camera a Cembalo e Violino* (c. 1777) by Joseph Schuster (1748-1812), since 1772 Electoral music director in Dresden; studied with Padre Martini. Four string quartets initially attributed to Mozart (KV Anh. 210-213; KV⁶: Anh. C 20.01-20.04) have in the meantime been identified as works by Schuster.

⁹ "Churfürst". 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. Cf. No. 0363/30.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0386/19 ff. Mozart was making keyboard arrangements of some of Cannabich's ballet pieces.

¹¹ BD: Cf. No. 0381/63 ff.

¹² "graff salvioli". BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court in Mannheim. Mozart was presented to him by music director Holzbauer on 4th November, 1777. Cf. No. 0363/55.

¹³ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ BD: The Mozart's dog in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0291/37.

kreuzers¹⁶ for Mama because I had the shot drawn for her by lot. I feel sorry for you, my dear wife, that you have to put up with so much cold for 24 kreuzers fuel money¹⁷ per day, and now it must be even worse, since we have had the most astonishing cold for some time now. [35] If I were in your place, I would visit someone who has a warm room and at home I would sit in bed, lean my back on the pillows and cover half of my body up, then in this position read or knit, or sew, or even sleep, or with the cards reveal my future fortune or misfortune. [40] If someone chances by, one says: I have something of a headache etc. or something else etc. I would certainly do this, and not suffer the cold. – Now you have been away from us for 3 months, which is quarter of a year. To me it already seems to be a year. May I ask if Wolfg. has perhaps forgotten <about Confession¹⁸>? – – God has priority before everything! [45] It is to Him that we must look for our temporal happiness, and always be concerned about our eternal happiness: young people do not like to hear that kind of thing, I know, I was young, too; but, thanks be given to God, I always came back to myself despite all my youthful clownish scenes, fled from all dangers to my soul, and always had God and my honour, and the consequences, [50] the dangerous consequences before my eyes. There is nothing new at all here just now. We commend ourselves, along with all good friends, kiss you both a million times and are in constant – patient expectation,

your husband and father, Mzt
your daughter and sister, Nannerl

Regarding Haydn's journey¹⁹ everything has gone silent again.

ON AN ENCLOSED LEAF:

[55] Will you be able to work out Sallerl's²⁰ spelling in her New Year's wish?²¹ – – – We still have time to send New Year's wishes to both of you. May God above all keep you in good health, which is also the main thing you should be concerned about. We are, thanks be given to God, in good health, and everyone was amazed that I have recovered again so well. [60] I am still taking the sago daily,²² but for a long time now only once a day, namely roughly at half past 5 in the evening, whereas I was previously taking it twice a day over 4 weeks. Nannerl goes to the 7 o'clock Mass at Holy Trinity²³ every day in *negligée*, and Tresel²⁴ goes with her, and now Miss Sandl²⁵ too. They lock the door of the servant's room with a padlock, [65] and no-one can come up Mizerl's²⁶ stairs because it is now locked on the inside with a bolt. – At just this minute Nannerl has come in |: at half past 3 in the

¹⁶ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

¹⁷ BD: For heating. Cf. No. 0386/46 ff.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0394/13-14, 52 ff.

¹⁹ BD: With the purpose of recruiting good musicians in Italy, cf. No. 0385/134-137.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ BD: From line 75 onwards.

²² BD: One of Leopold's household remedies.

²³ BD: A Salzburg church frequently mentioned in the correspondence, cf. No. 0330/4.

²⁴ BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household);

²⁵ "Jgf. Sandl". BD: Maria Clara Susanna Auer (* 1742), daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, Franz Christoph Auer. Taken into the Mozart home in December, 1777. Cf. No. 0379/60; No. 0382/60.

²⁶ 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. Cf. No. 0283/24-25.

afternoon :| from the Hagenauers,²⁷ where she met Father Dominicus,²⁸ who has asked her to write a recommendation for him. Nannerl is busy the whole day unpicking gold and silver, and is therefore always at home. [70] Just now Fräulein von Schiedenhofen²⁹ has sent a message asking us to come up to her for a game of cards: this is now the first time that we go anywhere, except we were at the Hagenauers twice for an evening meal. *à propos!*³⁰ – will the beard be cut off, – burnt off, or even shaved off?³¹ –

ROSALIE JOLY'S POSTSCRIPT:

- [75] Most excellent Wolferl,
Now the New Year's coming, when I would usually greet
you with good hopes and wishes, and scrawl them on this sheet.
But I refuse to do it, for wishes and goodwill
do nothing for us humans, neither good nor ill.
- [80] All I want to tell you – this is a simple task,
feel free to share the secret if anyone should ask –
that I am glad you're healthy, I love you from my heart,
and often send you blessings, although so far apart;
the same I send your mother, and never miss a day.
- [85] I never have forgotten how often I did play
with you as child, and later we'd laugh and sing and chat,
and share a game together, as round the fire we sat.
I'm still the girl I once was, will always stay the same
until we all have many grandchildren to our name.
- [90] May heaven keep you ever, pour health and blessings down:
forget me not, your Joly, your ever-faithful clown
or clown-ess, Salell

²⁷ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

²⁸ BD: Kajetan Rupert (Father Dominicus) Hagenauer, 4th son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. Cf. No. 0103/169.

²⁹ BD: Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen (1760-1831), sister of Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen, who made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0143/29.

³⁰ (Here) = "By the way".

³¹ BD: Cf. No. 0394/23-25.