

Manheim,¹ 18th December,
1777

My dear husband,

Your letters have all reached us safely, so far not a single one has gone astray. But the post costs much more here than in Salzburg,² [5] we have to pay 12 kreuzers for each letter that we receive and which we send off and, if it is big, 18 kreuzers. Since we have been here we have already paid more than 6 florins for post, for here everything is already calculated by French standards. We now have incomparable lodgings,³ I have 2 beautiful beds and all due service. The Court Chamber Advisor⁴ is called Serarius, his wife is very courteous to us. [10] I dine with them every evening, and chat until half past 10 with the father and daughter. They want me to spend almost the whole afternoon with them. My son is appreciated by them so much that it is indescribable, they are only sorry that he cannot always be with them.

Today a distinguished-looking Lutheran called on us and invited Wolfgang, [15] with the greatest courtesy, to try out their new organ in the Lutheran church.⁵ All the music directors who are here will attend, at 3 in the afternoon it will be tried out. Wolfgang has so much to do that he does not know if he is coming or going. With composing and giving lessons, he does not have time to pay a visit to anyone. [20] So you see that we can comfortably stay here for the winter, and all of that was done by *Monsieur* Wendling,⁶ who loves Wolfgang like his own son. The landlord's bill⁷ has emptied our purse somewhat, he calculated 111 florins 50 kreuzers, and I gave 3 florins tip to the waiters and maids. Of course it would have been better if we had had other quarters sooner, [25] but they are very expensive here too. A furnished room costs 3 to 4 florins straightaway, afterwards one still has to procure other necessities, and the nature of our business here has always been that we did not know if we are leaving or staying, from one day to the next, so that it would not have been worth the trouble of moving out for the sake of 3 or 4 days. [30] I have had enough to worry about during this long time, and have had enough vexation from always living in uncertainty for such a long time and sitting around the inn. Every day I wished I could be in another house. Now, from all the money, we have 72 florins left. We took out 150 florins⁸ from Herr Schmalz,⁹ otherwise we would not have been able to pay the landlord with this money, [35] and we will have to cover the travelling expenses from what Wolfgang earns this winter, for in Paris one needs a lot of money, you know that already, and here one has expenses enough. Even if one does not have to pay anything for board and lodging, there is still laundry, which is very expensive here, and shoes, hair powder, pomade, and other bits and pieces [40] which do not all come to mind, which will cost money, so that one always has expenses enough. I do not know how I should live more

¹ Mannheim.

² BD: Cf. No. 0389/124-126.

³ BD: More details in No. 0394/39-50.

⁴ "herr hofCammer Rath". BD: Cf. No. 0388/53. Serrarius. Wolfgang and his mother moved into his house at the end of 1777. Cf. No. 0390/4 ff. His step-daughter, Therese Pierron, became Mozart's pupil (cf. No. 0390/7-8). He wrote for her the sonata for clavier and violin KV 296 (dated 11th March, 1778). This was in turn published, along with the sonatas KV 376 (374d), 377 (374e), 378 (317d), 379 (373c) and 380 (374f), as Op. II by Artaria & Co., Vienna, in 1781. This edition was dedicated to Josepha Auernhammer.

⁵ BD: The old Trinity Church (Trinitatis-Kirche), destroyed 1943. The organ had been built 1775-1777 by the Stumm Brothers from Sulzbach.

⁶ BD: Johann Baptist Wendling, flautist to the Elector [Kurfürst] in Mannheim and then in Munich. Wendling Franz Anton Wendling, younger brother of J. H. Wendling, violinist. Cf. No. 0056/27.

⁷ BD: For the initial period (30th October – 12th December) staying in the inn 'Pfälzischer Hof'.

⁸ BD: Cf. Nos. 0377/11; 0379/22.

⁹ BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz. Cf. No. 0373/81.

cleverly. Since leaving Salzburg I have had one single bonnet made, not one pair of shoes, I have never drunk any wine in the inn, except when Wolfgang ate there, when we had a glass together, [45] and despite all that the bill came to such a sum. For the room, fire and light alone, it came to 30 florins for the 6 weeks that we were here, and it was a room under the roof with two miserable beds where I did not have warm feet the whole day and sat in my fur and felt shoes. Now you can imagine the good it is doing me to be lying comfortably for once [50] and to have a fine, good, warm room, praise and thanks be to God. I hope that our dear God, who has provided everything so well, will yet give us the rest of what we wish when it is profitable to us; everything has come together so well when we least expected it. I have promised a Holy Mass at the Holy Child of Loreto, as well as at Maria Plain,¹⁰ [55] so I ask you to arrange for these to be read: at the Loreto Child right away, but at Maria Plain when it becomes warmer so that Nannerl can go out with it. These two are my protection on our journey, I have complete trust in them, they will certainly not abandon me. Regarding news I know nothing except what you already know, only that the English have been terribly defeated by the Americans [60] and an entire regiment taken prisoner.¹¹ The new opera by Schweizer¹² is being rehearsed daily, Wolfgang does not like it at all,¹³ he says there is nothing natural in it and everything exaggerated and not set well for the singers. How it will turn out on stage we shall have to wait and see. I wish you and Nannerl happily blessed days of Christmas and New Year. [65] I must write sooner because you always get the letters so late. Keep yourselves in the best of health and contentment until I have the joy of seeing you again.¹⁴ I ask for my compliments to be passed on to all good friends, especially to *Monsieur* Bullniger¹⁵ and *Mademoicelle* Sallel,¹⁶ while from here I have compliments to pass on from our acquaintances, those you know and those you don't. [70] *Adio*. I kiss you many 100 000 and remain as always your faithful wife to my dying day,
Marianna Mozart

I send my best greetings to Thresel.¹⁷

Little Pimpes¹⁸ will of course still be keeping well: has he ever inclined to biting since then, or has he had a touch of distemper? [75] Today I stayed at home the whole day because I have a severe catarrh and only ate a soup which Herr Danner¹⁹ sent. I hope to go out again tomorrow, God willing. *Adio*, I kiss you both once again.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

¹⁰ BD: Loreto in Salzburg with the famous figure of the Christ Child; Maria Plain is a pilgrimage church just outside Salzburg. Cf. Nos. 0036/47-48; 0032/79.

¹¹ BD: The battle of Saratoga, turning point in the War of Independence.

¹² BD: The opera *Rosemunde* by Anton Schweitzer (1735-1787), text by Christoph Martin Wieland, but the première, in Mannheim, was delayed until 20th January, 1780, following the death of the Bavarian Elector Maximilian III Joseph. Cf. No. 0377/62.

¹³ BD: Wolfgang's comments in No. 0383/50 ff. and No. 0402/44 see some good in the work.

¹⁴ BD: They never saw each other again.

¹⁵ 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).

¹⁶ BD: Rosalie Joly.

¹⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

¹⁸ BD: The family dog in Salzburg, cf. No. 0291/37.

¹⁹ BD: Presumably the young Danner, where Frau Mozart usually took her meals: Christian Franz, son of Johann Georg Danner (1722-1803), court musician (violinist) in Mannheim. Cf. No. 0360/23-24.

Quickly, in the greatest haste. The organ which was tried out in the Lutheran church [80] today is very good, both at full organ and in the single registers. Vogler²⁰ played it. He is, so to speak, nothing more than a conjurer. As soon as he wants to play something majestic, he lapses into dryness, and one is thoroughly glad that he at once gets bored and that it therefore does not last long; but what follows afterwards? – – an incomprehensible wish-wash. [85] I listened to him from a distance. After this he started a fugue with six repetitions of the same note and *Presto*. At that I went up to him. In fact, I preferred to watch him than to listen to him. There were a great number of people there, including, from the court music, Holzbauer,²¹ Cannabich,²² Toeschi²³ etc. A *quartetto*²⁴ for the Indian Dutchman,²⁵ for the true philanthropist, will also be ready soon. [90] *Appropós*.²⁶ Herr Wendling said to me yesterday that he had written²⁷ last post-day. *Addio*. My compliments to all Salzburg. I kiss your hands 100 000 times, and embrace my sister with my whole heart. Oh, beautiful handwriting.

I am, sir, your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

[95] The other day, at Wendling's, I had to conduct the opera with all the violins in place of Schweizer, for he was in a very poor state.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ BD: Ignaz Jakob Holzbauer (1711-1783), from 1753 senior music director [Oberkapellmeister] in Mannheim, composer.

²² BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich.

²³ BD: Carlo Giuseppe (Karl Joseph) Toeschi († 1788 in Munich), violinist, pupil of Joseph Stamitz, in the Royal Mannheim Orchestra [Hoforchester] from 1752, leading ballet composer.

²⁴ BD: Probably KV 285, whose autograph is marked "Mannheim il 25 dec^{re} 1777". Cf. No. 0388/49.

²⁵ BD: "M. de Jean" [Dechamps?], cf. No. 0398/11. Dutch merchant with connections to the West Indies. Mozart did in fact write two concertos and three quartets for him, cf. No. 0423/47; in No. 0494/60-61 he mentions only three quartets and a flute concerto. Possibilities are the quartets KV 285 (cf. No. 0393/88-90); KV 285a; Anh. 171 (285b); the concertos KV 313 (285c) and KV 314 (285d).

²⁶ (Here) = "By the way".

²⁷ BD: 0392a.