

0394. MARIA ANNA MOZART TO HER HUSBAND, SALZBURG; POSTSCRIPTS BY MOZART TO HIS MOTHER AND JOLY

¹*À Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de S:A:R: / L'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg*²

Man[n]heim, 20th December,
1777

My dear husband,

[5] I have just this minute received your letter³ of the 15th, and gather from it with pleasure that you are both in good health. Thanks be to God, it is likewise with us. Wolfgang is not at home, and will not read your letter until 11 o'clock this evening when he comes home. With the last post, dated the 18th, I wrote⁴ telling you that things are going well for us, and in these 2 days I have not been out of the house, [10] for the weather is wet, and cold as well. Tomorrow, Sunday, we – I and Wolfgang – dine with our landlord, Court Chamber Adviser Serarius,⁵ which is why I am writing today, for tomorrow we might be too late getting away, for the post goes at six in the evening. What you wrote about Confession⁶ has already taken place, at the Feast of the Conception of Maria.⁷ [15] But we seldom hear Masses during the week, for it does not become day until late, so we cannot get ourselves ready earlier, for the last Mass is at 11 o'clock and very far away from us. On Sundays and holidays, however, it is nearer to us in the parish church, but Wolfgang always goes to the Court Church⁸ on Sundays, to High Mass, in order to hear the music. I don't know of anything new at all that I could write, for nothing has happened for 2 days. [20] Hereafter I will write every week, which is more worth the trouble, for the letter always costs 12 kreuzers,⁹ be it large or small. Our writing days come so close together, namely Thursday and Saturday, that it is easier to write it all at once. The beard¹⁰ has still not been shaved, but only cut using small scissors. But nothing more can be done now, [25] very soon the barber will have to do his work. For Salle¹¹ we ask you to pass on all imaginable good wishes in return, as also for our best friend Herr Bullinger.¹²

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

¹ Address in Mozart's hand.

² = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg".

³ BD: No. 0391.

⁴ BD: No. 0393/49 ff.

⁵ "hofkammerRath". BD: Cf. Nos. 0388/53; 0393/9. 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.

⁶ BD: Leopold recently enquired about this. Cf. No. 0391/43-44. Wolfgang's reaction: lines 52 ff.

⁷ BD: 8th December.

⁸ BD: "Hofkirche": a Jesuit church built to Italian plans 1733-1755.

⁹ BD: 60 kreuzers = 1 florin. On postage costs cf. Nos. 0393/4; 0389/124-126.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0391/73-74.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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 calls him "his best of all friends" in line 61.

I wish you, dearest Papa, a very blessedly happy New Year, and that your health, so precious to me, will strengthen more everyday, which will be to the benefit [30] and to the joy of your wife and your children, to the pleasure of your true friends, and to the defiance and vexation of your enemies! – – I ask you to give me as much fatherly love in the coming year as you have done until now! On my part, I will apply effort and diligence to be more and more deserving of the love of such an outstanding father. Your last letter, [35] namely of the 15th December, made me most heartily content, because I gathered from it that, praise and thanks be to God, you are feeling thoroughly well. We, too, with God’s help, are both well. I can have nothing wrong with me, of course, because I certainly have enough bodily exercise. I am writing this now at 11 o’clock in the evening because I have no time otherwise. We cannot get out of bed before 8 o’clock, [40] for in our room |: because it is at ground level :| it does not become daylight until ½ past 8. Then I dress quickly. At 10 I get down to composing until 12 o’clock or ½ past 12, then I go to Wendling’s,¹³ there I continue to write a little until ½ past 1, then we sit down to the meal. In the meantime, it is 3 o’clock, when I have to go to The Court of Mainz¹⁴ |: inn :| to a Dutch officer,¹⁵ [45] give him lessons in the *galante* style and figured bass, for which, if I am not mistaken, I receive 4 ducats¹⁶ for 12 lessons; at 4 o’clock I have to go home to teach the daughter:¹⁷ there we never start before ½ past 4, because one waits for the candles. At 6 o’clock I go to Cannabich’s¹⁸ and teach Mad:^{selle} Rose;¹⁹ I stay there for the evening meal, then there is discussion – – or sometimes a game,²⁰ [50] but then I always take a book out of my pocket and read – – as I used to do in Salzburg.

I wrote that your last letter²¹ caused me great joy: that is true! Only one thing vexed me a little – – the question of whether I might have forgotten about Confession?²² – – But I have nothing to say against that. [55] Only please allow me one request, and that is: Do not think so very badly of me! I like to have fun, but rest assured that despite all of these things, I can be serious. Since I have been away from Salzburg |: and in Salzburg itself, too :| I have met such people that I would have been ashamed to speak and act like that, although they were 10, 20 and 30 years older than me! – – [60] So I ask you once again, and most submissively, to have a better opinion of me. To Herr Bullinger, the best of all my friends, I ask you to convey my compliments and the most friendly wishes for New Year. My compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. N.B. to Father Dominicus.²³

MOZART’S POSTSCRIPT TO ROSALIE JOLY AND HIS SISTER:

¹³ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786), both of whom met the Mozarts in 1763, cf. No. 0057/2-6. Their wives and daughters were also musicians and are mentioned several times in the correspondence up until 1790 (No. 1138/21-22). Both brothers came from Alsace and both died in Munich. For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368. He also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling.

¹⁴ BD: “Mainzischer Hof”, landlord Johannes Bernhardt.

¹⁵ BD: Ferdinand Guillaume Duval de la Pottrie, from Lausanne; cf. No. 0398/27.

¹⁶ BD: = 18 florins. Leopold refers to this in No. 0429/42-43.

¹⁷ BD: Serrarius’ stepdaughter; cf. line 11.

¹⁸ 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. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart’s in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13.

¹⁹ BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her. Cf. No. 0363/13.

²⁰ BD: A card-game; Mozart obviously does not participate.

²¹ BD: No. 0391.

²² BD: Leopold recently enquired about this. Cf. No. 0391/43-44. Frau Mozart’s reaction: lines 13 ff.

²³ BD: Kajetan Rupert (Father Dominicus) Hagenauer, 4th son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. Cf. No. 0103/169.

[65] Most treasured Sallerl, my dearest,
most treasured Nannerl, my nearest!

I have to say a thank you for greetings on my birthday,
and here are some from Mozart, to make today a mirth-day.
I wish you joy and gladness, if such things there may be,
and as your Wolfgang loves you, I hope that you love me.
[70] he holds you high in honour, and what I say is true,
for you he'll runn throo fyer if you meeerely ask him to.
(I feel I have to spell it the way he makes it sound.)
He has a love that's special, and doesn't cast around,
but keeps it all for Sallerl, and for his sister dear.
[75] Come, let us form a circle, and dance into next year.
Long life to all and sundry, to Papa and Mama,
to sister and to brother, hey-yup, hey-yo, hey-ya,
and also Wolfgang's mistress, and to the boy himself,
and that so long and longer than he has health and wealth.
[80] As long as he can piddle and pee with might and main,
With Nannerl and with Sallerl, unbeaten shall they reign.
A trio grand and splendid – ah, pardon, I implore:
a dreamy isle is waiting to charm me while I snore.

[85] Wolfgang Amadè Mozart
Marie Anna Mozart

[MORE LITERALLY:

My dearest Sallerl, my little treasure,
[65] My dearest Nannerl, my little sister!
I am simply thanking you for your good wishes, angel,
and here you have one from Mozart, the coarsely unique scamp.
I wish you happiness and joy, if these things exist,
and hope you will love me as your Wolfgang loves you.
[70] I can truthfully tell you that he holds you in honour,
he would run into the fire for you if you wished it.
My view is I must write it the way he usually speaks.
I have it so clear in my mind's eye, the love that she cherishes
for his Sallerl Joli and for his sister Nannerl.
[75] Ah, come here quickly, my dear ones, let's just have a dance.
Long life to all, to Papa and Mama,
to sister and to brother, hey-yup, hey-yo!
and also to Wolfgang's mistress, and to the boy himself,
and that so long, long, – so long as he can crawl around.
[80] As long as he can still piss and shit gallantly,
he and Sallerl and his dear sister will be out in front.
A splendid rabble – alas, I must immediately seek fool's paradise,
and it's almost midnight, people are already asleep there.]