

0395. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM; POSTSCRIPTS BY NANNERL AND LEOPOLD

My dear wife and
dear son!

Salzburg, 22nd Decemb.,
1777.

Regarding the journey to Paris, I have already given you my opinion in the letter¹ sent with the last post, and I note with pleasure [5] from your letter² of the 14th December that you have left the inn³ and are well provided for in every way for these two months. But you should surely have given me the name of the street where you live or the name of the house etc., so that I could include it in the address on the letter. Yet you will now probably collect the letters yourself from the post. Herr Wendling⁴ pre-empted me with his letter,⁵ [10] as I just wanted to write to him this post-day and would have written to him on the previous post-day, but I lacked the time, since I also had to write⁶ to Padré Maestro Martini⁷ in order simply to give him the information about the portrait⁸ which had already been sent off. Count Pergheim,⁹ Prime Minister in Bavaria, has died suddenly, [15] and sank into the arms of Prince Zeil¹⁰ amidst the whole company. By this sudden death, the poor man has taken a lot of baggage with him to be unloaded in eternity.

I wrote the preceding yesterday, Sunday the 21st, after the Divine office, where your Mass in B^b¹¹ was performed and the castrato¹² sang incomparably well. [20] There was no airgun-shooting¹³ in the afternoon. – Now here comes a very sad and unexpected occurrence. I went to Vespers because today, Monday, we keep the Feast of St. Thomas in the church. Herr Adlgasser¹⁴ was playing the organ. The *Dixit*¹⁵ went well. In his instrumental conclusion to the first Psalm, his fingers wandered around quite horrifyingly and he could not reach an end. [25] After the second Psalm it got even worse, so that at the end he held the pedal one tone lower, and with the right and left hands flayed around as if a dog were walking over the organ. At the third Psalm, he could not play with the fingers of the left hand at all any more, but always laid his clenched fist on the keys. [30] For a long

¹ BD: Cf. No. 0392/54 ff.

² BD: No. 0390.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0390/4.

⁴ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786). 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.

⁵ BD: No. 0392a, lost.

⁶ BD: No. 0396.

⁷ BD: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784), specialist in the theory and history of music. Taught Mozart during his stay in Bologna in preparation for admission to the Accademia filarmonica. Cf. No. 0171/20.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0380/110, 112.

⁹ “primier Minister”. BD: Maximilian Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Berchem († 1777), Actual Privy Councillor [Wirklicher Geheimer Rat], in charge of the Bavarian Elector's palaces. Cf. Nos. 0345/22; 0399/108 ff.; 0406/57 ff.

¹⁰ “Fürst Zeil”. BD: Perhaps Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee, a life-long supporter of Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0138/48; 0261/6.

¹¹ BD: KV 275 (272b).

¹² BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

¹³ BD: The shooting of airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen's company” or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for everything consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

¹⁴ BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings. Cf. No. 0041/17.

¹⁵ BD: Psalm 110 (Vulgate 109), the first Psalm at Vespers.

time I could not persuade him to get down from the organ and let Herr Spizeder¹⁶ play, while, in the meantime, I took his left hand off and Herr Spizeder supplied the bass, as well as he could, to what Adlgasser was still playing with the right hand. Finally we got him away, yes, almost carried him, and put him on the bench where the trombonists play. [35] His wife¹⁷ was in the seats by the sacristy, she came up, as did barber-surgeon Braun,¹⁸ who was downstairs, an altar-boy with water, and Seelos¹⁹ from the choir. His eyes were rolling like a drunken man; he said that we should simply let him sit down, became astonishingly pale, and finally vomited astonishingly, but nothing other than water or wine, and N.B. no husks at all. [40] After the barber had of course felt his pulse and now saw the spewing, he went away and considered it a severe intoxication, as we therefore did too, since he otherwise could speak quite clearly and sweated during the spewing, as happens in such upsets of the stomach. Then we performed the *Magnificat* and stayed for the Rosary, since we could not get past without treading in the vomit, [45] and everyone was gathered round him. During the Rosary he was taken down into the large sacristy and they sent for a sedan chair, which arrived still during the Rosary, and he was carried away even before the Benediction. So he had already been taken away as I and Herr Spizeder came down from the choir loft. You could easily imagine the spectacle, [50] as the whole church was full of people at Divine Office. As we came out of the church, Frau Hagenauer²⁰ and others came to us, everyone spoke about this event, for everyone looked up to the choir loft to see what was happening, they saw the chair brought into the sacristy and carried away, and everyone believed that Adlg. had overdone it with drinking. I went to Hagenauer with them, [55] where Herr Johannes²¹ came up and said to me that in that very moment Count Castelbarco²² had arrived at the Ship Inn. I went there immediately, but learned that he had briefly gone out and would travel on further in an hour in order to surprise his brother,²³ the officer, in Schwanenstatt²⁴ and show off his wife²⁵ to him, and that he would come into Salzburg again in 5 or 6 days and would then stay for a time, [60] I need only tell him my name; when I then told him, the servant answered me: *Oh la conosco; il Padre di quel Giovane, che ha Scritto tré opere in Milano. Non mancherò di presentare i suoi rispettetti ed attenzione al mio Padrone.*²⁶

¹⁶ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

¹⁷ BD: Maria Anna Fesemay(e)r, received a scholarship to study singing in Italy; sang at the Salzburg court from 1765 onwards. Sang in performances of KV 35 in 1767 and of KV 51 (46a) in 1769. She married Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), Salzburg court organist and composer, as his third wife; Leopold and Wolfgang Mozart were both witnesses at the wedding. Cf. No. 0082/14.

¹⁸ BD: Franz Xaver Braun, proprietor of the "Bad am Markt" [Bath/Barber's shop/Surgery at the marketplace].

¹⁹ BD: Jakob Seelos († 1798), from Swabia, from 1754 cathedral chorister in Salzburg. His son joined the choir in 1777. Cf. No. 0335/31.

²⁰ BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer († 1800) (cf. Nos. 0006/5, 0805/11), wife of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. They were friends of the Mozarts; he was their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

²¹ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 that his aged mother then took over the business.

²² BD: Conte Cesare Castelbarco. Mentioned in Nos. 0218/49; 0246/52-54; 0247/22; 0277/29.

²³ BD: Not traced.

²⁴ BD: Schwanenstadt, near Vöcklabruck in Upper Austria.

²⁵ BD: Mentioned in No. 0247/22.

²⁶ = "Oh, I know you; the father of that young man who has written three operas in Milan. I shall not fail to present your respects and attention to my lord."

MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

Since things are now so favourable and busy for you that you cannot write to me,²⁷ [65] you will not have time to read some lines from me either. With your permission, then, I take the liberty of conversing entirely with Mama alone, since it is women's talk anyway. I hope you are both well and content. Mama was so kind as to tell me in her letter²⁸ that the hairstyles and bonnets in Manheim are much more beautiful [70] and the women much more tastefully dressed than in Salzburg. I believe that at once. Certainly, if I have the good fortune to see Mama here in two months,²⁹ I would ask her to be so kind as to observe exactly how the hair is done and to bring a toupee cushion³⁰ and whatever else is necessary. Also, if possible, a new fashionable bonnet and whatever Mama likes. [75] If I could earn a little more with pupils, as I did some time ago, my joy would be to have my garnet-coloured dress made into a polonaise³¹ and to garnish it with fine woollen cloth. There it might be possible for me to get a cheaper fine cloth from Manheim. But I must banish such new fashionable things from my mind. I am glad that you now have a good room, [80] and I hope it will no longer be so cold for Mama as at the inn. I must stop, otherwise there is no room left for Papa. I wish you both continuing good health and kiss Mama's hand and embrace my brother.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I was just now making my way home when, at the market fountain, [85] I met young Victoria Adlg.³² in tears as she ran to the apothecary for spirit of hartshorn and said to me that her father is not opening his eyes and only lies there snoring. I was now convinced that he had had a stroke. Dr. Barisani³³ came at quarter to 5, for before that he was still having his afternoon nap. They used every means possible: rubbing, pinching, massaging, [90] letting blood, vesicants etc. He did not open his eyes again, continued rolling around, and died at quarter to 7. I was there today: you cannot imagine the lamentation and weeping. Frau Adlgasser is calling the whole world to come and help, she absolutely fell around my neck. It was quite terrible. Tomorrow evening, the 23rd, he will be buried; the church service is in St. Sebastian's on the 24th. [95] Now what kind of organists do we have? – – who teaches in the Kapellhaus?³⁴ – – and for the daughters of the Countess?³⁵ – – I am glad that Nannerl and I were never there. Now she will soon be looking for an opportunity to speak to me. His Excellency the Royal High Steward³⁶ had

²⁷ BD: Cf. line 111. Nannerl and Leopold respond to No. 0390/11-12.

²⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0388/132 ff.

²⁹ BD: Nannerl and Leopold thus expect the stay in Mannheim to last until February, 1778. See line 6. Cf. Nos. 0396/26; 0398/21-22.

³⁰ BD: The hair is built up on top of it.

³¹ BD: Polonaise: an outer dress, usually in Indian taffeta.

³² BD: Viktoria Adlgasser, daughter of Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), Salzburg court organist and composer. See line 22 etc.

³³ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Cf. No. 0270/28.

³⁴ BD: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music. Leopold taught violin here.

³⁵ "Gräfin". BD: Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780), wife of hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. Mozart composed *divertimenti* for her: in 1776 KV 247, in 1777 KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H). In 1776 he furthermore wrote for her and her two daughters, Aloisia and Giuseppina, the concerto for three claviers KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, "Pepperl") was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.

³⁶ "S": Ex: Obersthofmeister". BD: Salzburg Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Graf Firmian (1712-1786). Member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8).

me called up to him after the lesson at the Arcos,³⁷ and that was in order to speak to me [100] because he was so fond of you and if he might be permitted to propose you as an organist when conversing with the Archbishop.³⁸ I thanked him for this favour and refused it, and said to him it would no longer be possible to contemplate that, further explaining everything to him with the circumstances.³⁹ He said he was now satisfied and this was a weight off his heart. You will easily appreciate that I must continue to owe a reply to Herr Wendling⁴⁰ [105] [: to whom I most devotedly commend myself :], since the developments with Adlgasser hinder me. I must go and support these people and also make arrangements for music for the church service, for on Wednesday, at the same time, there is also the Thursday Office. The reason why I only took one leaf for your letter yesterday was that I wanted to enclose the letter to Herr Wendling. [110] Now *addio*, stay well, both of you, God keep you. Mama should write a lot to us, Wolfg. little, he has so much to do. Nannerl plays the sonata⁴¹ with the greatest expression. We kiss you both a million times and I am, together with Nannerl, as always your
Mzt

Herr Bullinger⁴² and all Salzb. commends himself.

³⁷ BD: Leopold taught Leopold Ferdinand III, Count [Graf] Arco (1764-1832), son of Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Leopold Julius Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, one of the younger court gentlemen. Cf. Nos. 0347/203; 0337/111.

³⁸ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9.

³⁹ The story of the dismissal of Wolfgang and Leopold starts with No. 0328.

⁴⁰ BD: Leopold did in fact send an enclosure for Wendling with No. 0399. Cf. No. 0400/5.

⁴¹ BD: KV 309 (284 b), written for Cannabich's daughter. Cf. Nos. 0373/33-35; 0389/8.

⁴² 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. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).