

0403.<sup>1</sup> LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de  
musique / à / Man[n]heim<sup>2</sup>*

Salzb., 12<sup>th</sup> January<sup>3</sup>  
1778.

My Dears!

[5] I did not write last post-day, and I will only write once a week if nothing special happens. Your letter<sup>4</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> has arrived; I am pleased that you are both well. With us it is likewise, only that Nannerl has had a discharge in her head for some days and I am not letting her go out. Many are ill here, and many have died. The 25<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Canon, [10] Canon Vollenhals,<sup>5</sup> is also close to death due to a raging fever, he has been given the sacrament and has received the last anointing. We have had no letter from Munich; perhaps he<sup>6</sup> does not know anything definite – perhaps he is diffident about writing. Nothing at all is known here, other than that the Emperor's Ambassador<sup>7</sup> who has arrived there is the Imperial Ambassador Baron Lehrbach, [15] Regional Commander of Ellingen,<sup>8</sup> an uncle of the Lehrbach<sup>9</sup> here. An officer with 28 men from the Taxis Regiment has entered Reichenhall. Cornet von Andretter<sup>10</sup> has written for money, but does not yet know where he will be ordered to go. Otherwise everything is quiet;<sup>11</sup> I hope it remains so. Missliwetcek<sup>12</sup> wrote<sup>13</sup> to me that he has composed 2 *concertoni*<sup>14</sup> at the request of the Prince<sup>15</sup> [20] and sent them to Brunetti,<sup>16</sup> but has received no answer. I replied to him<sup>17</sup> that he will not get anything for them, it will be counted with the previous payment, but he should write to Brunetti repeatedly until the latter becomes tired of paying 6 kreuzers<sup>18</sup> postal charge every time and expedites the matter. Major Count Überacker<sup>19</sup> has died not far from Regensburg<sup>20</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

<sup>2</sup> = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Mannheim".

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. lines 55-56.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 0400.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Antonius Vollnhals, also mentioned in No. 0406/189.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there. Recently informed Leopold about events surrounding the death of Maximilian III Joseph, cf. Nos. 0399, 0401.

<sup>7</sup> "Kaysl: Gesandte".

<sup>8</sup> "Reichsgesandte Baron Lehrbach LandComandeur". BD: Franz Sigmund Adalbert, Freiherr von und zu Lehrbach, from 1777 Imperial Ambassador in Munich, uncle of Franz Christoph.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Franz Christoph, Baron [Freiherr] (later Graf) von Lehrbach, Imperial Senior Master of the Hunt, Imperial Senior forestry master; later Court War Councillor [Hofkriegsrat]; gave Mozart a letter of recommendation to his uncle in Mannheim in 1777. Cf. Nos. 0379/67; 0401/150.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Siegmund von Antretter (1761-1800), Bavarian cadet, 1780 officer cadet Salzburg.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Referring to the fears of a military confrontation between Prussia and Austria over claims in Bavaria, cf. No. 0401.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris, cf. No. 0347/2. Other meetings with the Mozarts had been in Bologna (cf. Nos. 0172/14; 0202/34-35; 0216/31-32) and in Milan in 1770 and 1773 (cf. Nos. 0257/12; 0277/28; 0279/22; 0281/35-36).

<sup>13</sup> BD: No. 0402a, lost.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Compositions mentioned in No. 0369/22-23.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261. Cf. No. 0346/10.

<sup>17</sup> BD: No. 0402b, lost.

<sup>18</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>19</sup> "Major Graf". BD: Wolf Max Bernhart, Count [Graf] von Überacker (1737-1777), military officer and Chamberlain [Kämmerer], holder of the Grand Cross of the Chivalric Order of St. Rupert [Rupertiritterorden].

<sup>20</sup> Regensburg.

on a country estate [25] where he had already been with his sister<sup>21</sup> for some time. The Knight, commander in the castle,<sup>22</sup> could die any moment. Lackner the tanner,<sup>23</sup> the city councillor, has received all the holy sacraments and is laid out, with his life in the greatest danger from the feverish illness. There will only be 5 or 6 balls at the town hall. The actors<sup>24</sup> are deplorable, are drawing small audiences, are to be pitied. [30] We have not yet seen anything of them. After Easter, the Archbishop is apparently prepared to have the *opera buffa* come from Munich and, for his part, to give them 50 ducats<sup>25</sup> per person. May God grant that we do not have any other, more terrifying operas<sup>26</sup> in the neighbourhood, since here there is <news from Linz that apparently ten thousand men are on the march, that 15 munitions carts are underway etc., [35] that on the Eger side soldiers are also marching> etc., and other wild things of the kind, which I will not write down because much of it cannot be true, and it is not without reason that all people here are greatly worried. I was about to hazard a guess, but where you are, you will notice it more easily and quickly, namely whether the [40] <Prussian troops are making a move in the Cleves area, towards Julich and Bergen<sup>27</sup>>? – – if this happens, I have guessed right. God protect all honest people! I hesitate to write down my speculations; one could quite undeservedly expose oneself to evil suspicions. His Excellency the Royal High Steward<sup>28</sup> has informed me that His High Princely Grace<sup>29</sup> had ordered him to speak to myself and Haydn<sup>30</sup> [45] about whether we perhaps know a really good organist,<sup>31</sup> but he must also be a first-rate clavie player, furthermore of good appearance and able to present himself well in order to give lessons to the ladies. What, said I, did His Highly Princely Grace name me as well? – Yes – – you in particular! and laughed. – I replied: I know of no-one who has all these qualities. [50] If there is perhaps one in Manheim,<sup>32</sup> he can make his fortune here. Walter's room at the Andretters<sup>33</sup> was reserved by the Prince for an Italian secretary<sup>34</sup> and heated for a week, but he only came as far as Roveredo,<sup>35</sup> where he could already smell the Salzburg air, which gave him such a hefty fever that he turned back again and although he was only away for 3 days, he looked so terrible that, as the letters said, [55] he was no longer recognisable. I wrote all of this yesterday, the 11th. This morning, the 12th, Lackner the tanner did in fact die. Yesterday I won the first prize<sup>36</sup> and also shot my way to 29

<sup>21</sup> BD: Maria Theresia von Bernclau (\* 1741).

<sup>22</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>23</sup> “Rathsherr”. BD: Georg Lackner, city councillor [Stadtrat].

<sup>24</sup> BD: There had been difficulties getting a troupe of actors to come to Salzburg. Cf. Nos. 0380/125 ff.; 0392/151.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Between 225-250 florins, depending on the exchange rate.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0401/41.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Karl Theodor, Elector of Bavaria, was also Duke [Herzog] of Jülich and Berg (cf. Nos. 0400/12 etc.; 0402/6-7). Prussia also laid claim to these territories.

<sup>28</sup> “S: Exc: der Obersthofmeister”. BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

<sup>29</sup> “S: Hochf: Gden”. The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg

<sup>30</sup> BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Since the death of Adlgasser, the post has been vacant. Cf. No. 0401/110 ff.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Meaning Wolfgang? But Wolfgang also describes 2 terrible organists in Mannheim, cf. No. 0363/58 ff.

<sup>33</sup> BD: 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. Cf. No. 0533/15.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>35</sup> Rovereto, now in Italy.

<sup>36</sup> BD: The shooting of airguns at round, decorated 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.

kreuzers<sup>37</sup> for Mama. This afternoon, the brother of the choir conductor in Laufen,<sup>38</sup> Fehlacher,<sup>39</sup> an Imperial field trumpeter, must audition because he is applying to become a court trumpeter. [60] N.B. Wolfg. ought to laugh: the Fehlacher<sup>40</sup> from Lauffen has also handed in a memorandum wishing to become court organist. Today, the name-day of Count Ernst,<sup>41</sup> the nobility will have a sleigh ride in the evening, then supper and a ball at Prince Breiner's<sup>42</sup> in the Cathedral Deanery. Countesses von Lodron<sup>43</sup> and Kühnburg<sup>44</sup> will not take part. [65] Herr von Schiedenhofen<sup>45</sup> will marry before the end of Carnival; the Senior Equerry<sup>46</sup> has been refused permission, but he will not give up, because he is seeking to get to Vienna. Rust<sup>47</sup> does not leave his house, he is setting *Parnasso confuso*<sup>48</sup> for the consecration of the new Archbishop of Ollmütz<sup>49</sup>, but he is mostly making use of arias from scores he has already written, as Spi[t]zeder<sup>50</sup> and the copyists tell me. [70] Franz Barisani<sup>51</sup> will not travel home until Lent. The whole Barisani household is dissatisfied and its glory very much diminished;<sup>52</sup> even Fräulein von Mölk,<sup>53</sup> who called on us recently and commends herself, is very incensed over it because of gossip, arrogance and contempt shown towards her. Now to finish. [75] We kiss you both a million times. Nannerl is now in better health – and we are both, as always, your  
Mzt

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<sup>37</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Laufen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop's autumn residence.

<sup>39</sup> BD: Joseph Fehlacher, selected as the ninth court and field trumpeter on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1778.

<sup>40</sup> BD: Sebastian Franz Fehlacher († 1813, aged 74), church organist in Laufen, unsuccessfully applied for the position of court organist in Salzburg in 1778.

<sup>41</sup> "Graf Ernst". BD: Hereditary Marshall [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779).

<sup>42</sup> "Fürst Breiner", "domdechaney". BD: Franz Xaver, originally Baron [Freiherr], later Prince [Fürst], Breuner (\* 1723). He received the rank of Prince so that he could retain his rank as Bishop of Lavant after being appointed Bishop in Chiemsee, a post he held 1786-1797. Cf. No. 0340/93.

<sup>43</sup> "Gräfin". BD: Cf. No. 0395/96. 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, KV<sup>6</sup>: 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.

<sup>44</sup> BD: Friederike Maria Anna, Countess [Gräfin] Kuenburg, née Komtesse Waldstein (1742-1802), wife of Leopold Joseph Maria, Graf Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain, Privy Councillor, from 1764 Chief Master of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. 0868/37.

<sup>45</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. In frequent contact with the Mozarts. Marriage plans: cf. No. 0348/25.

<sup>46</sup> "Oberbereiter". BD: Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables. Widower since 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1777, but currently without permission to marry from the Archbishop (his employer). Cf. No. 0354/5, 7, 8.

<sup>47</sup> BD: Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741 1786), first studied in Naples, later in Rome. Several of his operas were performed in Venice 1773-1776. 1776-1777, he was music director in Salzburg. He fell ill and left Salzburg for Venice in 1778, where he continued composing. In 1783 he accepted a post in Barcelona, where he died. Had strained relations with Michael Haydn. Cf. Nos. 0331/96, 100, 102; 0362/38-39; 0382/10, 143 ff.

<sup>48</sup> BD: Libretto by Metastasio. Set by Gluck in in 1765 for the marriage of Joseph II and Maria Josepha of Bavaria.

<sup>49</sup> BD: Anton Theodor, Count [Graf] Colloredo-Mels und Wallsee, a cousin of the Salzburg Archbishop. Bishop of Olmütz 1777-1811.

<sup>50</sup> 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).

<sup>51</sup> BD: Ernst Franz Barisani (1751-1789), one of the sons of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. Cf. No. 0374/103. At that moment in Italy.

<sup>52</sup> BD: No details are known of these events.

<sup>53</sup> Maria Anna Barbara von Mölk (1752-1823), daughter of Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776), a friend of Nannerl's. Cf. No. 0158/5.

Everyone – especially Herr Bullinger,<sup>54</sup> sends compliments. *Addio!*

ON THE ENVELOPE:

Herewith I send you a leaf of the sonata<sup>55</sup> so that the letter does not become so thick, and thus I will send it bit by bit. [80]

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<sup>54</sup> 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).

<sup>55</sup> BD: The clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) was dedicated in 1777 to Rosa Schulz, née Cannabich, daughter of Christian Cannabich. Mozart had been sending single pages of it to Salzburg for copying. Cf. Nos. 0381/87-88; 0383/48. Leopold was doing the copying himself.