

0406.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de
musique / à / Man[n]heim²*

Salzburg, 19th January,³
1778

[5] My news from Munich⁴ goes as follows: *Now the critical moment⁵ for Bavaria has come. It was decided on the 16th that the Austrians, with a corps of 10 000 men, will occupy the entire Inn and Danube river.* N.B. in Salzburg we have news that the troops must stop at the borders until there are further commands. Now to continue! [10] *His Electoral Highness⁶ has been very serious until now and has made one change or another which will not please our nobility much. No-one may enter his room without being called; in the afternoon, no one may be seen at court unless he is called. He does not wish to be constantly amongst the crowd, like the previous ruler; [15] and no minister, or whoever it may be, may go to him unless requested to do so. He has not held a banquet so far, except with the Electress⁷ and Duchess,⁸ and only a small marshals' banquet for the serving Gentlemen of the Chamber.⁹ The Elector works with the Chancellor¹⁰ alone, all messages are sent only from the hands of these 2 persons, no privy secretary has anything to do with it, and so courier after courier comes and goes, [20] and nobody knows whence or whither. Among the nobility, of course, there are despondent faces, but what the public says about it is shown by the little rhymes which were left in the Elector's cabinet on his arrival, namely:*

You, noble Regent, are beloved in this land;

[25] but if the plotting nobles gain the upper hand,

like Maximilian¹¹ sweet,

you'll have the hindmost seat.¹²

Baron Rumling has been declared Chief Page,¹³ and the Elector has made the one from Manheim¹⁴ the 2nd. The burial was on the fourth at three o'clock in the afternoon. [30] The

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

² = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Mannheim".

³ BD: Started on the 18th, cf. line 78.

⁴ BD: As in Nos. 0399/53 ff. and 0401/6 ff., supplied by Johann Baptist Becke. Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there. Cf. No. 0333/6.

⁵ BD: Cf. lines 79 ff.

⁶ "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. When he succeeded the childless Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria in December, 1777, the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate were re-united for the first time since the Treaty of Pavia in 1329.

⁷ "Churfürstin". BD: Surely not the wife of Karl Theodor, but the widow of the recently deceased Maximilian III Joseph (cf. No. 0311/8, 14): Maria Anna Sophie, daughter of Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony, wife of Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria.

⁸ "Herzogin". BD: Maria Anna, widow of Clemens Franz de Paula, Duke [Herzog] of Bavaria (1722-1770), cousin of the deceased Elector. (cf. No. 0050/16-17). She was very active in defending the territorial integrity of Bavaria and bought up all publications to the contrary produced by the Imperial Ambassador Count [Graf] Lehrbach and destroyed them.

⁹ "Cammerherrn".

¹⁰ "Canzler". BD: Wiguläus Alois, Baron [Freiherr] von Kreittmayr (1705-1790), the creator of a restructured civil and criminal law in Bavaria.

¹¹ BD: The recently deceased Elector [Kurfürst] Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria.

¹² Literally: Most serene Regent, your people think well of you:/ yet, if the nobility gains the upper hand,/ you, like Maximilian, will become the nobility's subordinate rooster.

¹³ "B: Rumling ... erster Cammerknab". BD: Wilhelm Ernst Sigmund, Baron [Freiherr] von Rumlingen (also Rumling) († 1825). Appointed chief page [erster Cammerknab], cf. No. 0406/28, in 1778; in 1799 appointed privy councillor [Geheimrat] with duties as deputy supervisor of the court music and music supervisor at the court theatre [deutsches Hoftheater]. He was also active as a composer. Cf. No. 0339/107.

first vigil was on the 7th, then the 3 sermons and 3 requiems etc. on the 8th, 9th and 10th, where the Elector, with the whole court retinue, processed through the streets each time. In future, Mass and sermon in the Royal Chapel will begin on the stroke of 10 – vespers and litanies at 5 o'clock. Mass and sermon must not last more than half an hour each. [35] For the musicians, the weekly rotas have been abolished, those on probation have been dismissed, and for every duty every person of the music and chapel must appear. Before, all our people at court were free republicans, but now this ruler is showing us that we are servants: many cannot really believe it. I find that it is fair and that we are losing nothing thereby, other than our exaggerated comfort. [40] On his arrival, His Electoral Illustriousness¹⁵ found the Electress¹⁶ ill and inconsolable. He encouraged her and said she had lost nothing except a spouse, and she was always Electress and was to give orders in all things. She was free to choose as she pleased; whenever she wished, he was also prepared to arrange a daily banquet for her of 20 and 24 courses. [45] He furthermore asked the Electress¹⁷ whether she might perhaps wish to see one of her relatives? – She answered, The Elector of Trier¹⁸ could comfort me a little. The Elector immediately wrote to him, and sent off a courier, and on the 9th the Elector of Trier was already there with Princess Kunigunde.¹⁹ [50] Count Castelbarco²⁰ came to Munich to hear Monza's opera,²¹ for it was he who had arranged for him to get the scrittura.²² The Count left here again after the exequies, and Monza, who had received 300 ducats²³ for his scribbling and yet was not really satisfied, was meant to leave with him, but contracted the fever and remained behind! N.B. The Court Music Director,²⁴ however, that most sensible of men, thought it was a pretence and intrigue [55] in order, after the first turmoil, to test via Count Daun²⁵ if he might now have hope of becoming Music Director in Munich after Bernasconi.²⁶ *C'è un Italiano, e questo basta.*²⁷ On the death of Count Berghemb²⁸ the most appalling things were written. Since during his lifetime one could not speak to him without bribing his favourite and often him personally, the following was hung on his house door as his body lay in state on the funeral bier: [60] Today Count Perghem can be seen free of charge for the first time. Immediately after that came these words in another hand:

Here lies in peace Count Perghem, who caused Bavaria's pains,

¹⁴ BD: Peter, Count [Graf] Mantica.

¹⁵ "S^c: Chf: DI:"

¹⁶ BD: Widow of the deceased Elector of Bavaria, as in line 16.

¹⁷ BD: Widow of the deceased Elector of Bavaria, as in line 16.

¹⁸ "Churf: v Trier". BD: Clemens Wenzel, Prince [Prinz] of Saxony (1730-1812), Elector [Kurfürst] of Trier 1768-1802.

¹⁹ "Prinz: Kunigunde". BD: Sister of Clemens Wenzel.

²⁰ "Graf Castelbarco". BD: Conte Cesare Castelbarco. Mentioned in Nos. 0218/49; 0246/52-54; 0247/22; 0277/29.

²¹ BD: *Attilio Regolo* by Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801), church music director to the Duke of Milan, composer. Leopold records meeting him and his brother in Milan in 1770. Cf. No. 0166/19.

²² = Contract to write an opera.

²³ BD: 1350 florins.

²⁴ BD: Leopold himself; cf. Wolfgang's phrase in No. 0398/57.

²⁵ "Graf Daun". BD: graf daun: BD: Karl Wilhelm Stanislaus, Count [Graf] von und zu Daun, master of the stables [Oberststallmeister], Knight of the Order of St. George [Ritter des Georgsordens], major general [Generalmajor] and city commandant [Stadtkommandant] in Munich. Cf. No. 0400/60.

²⁶ Cf. No. 0401/49. Andrea Bernasconi (1706-1784), from 1753 deputy music director [Vizekapellmeister] in Munich, in 1755 succeeded Giovanni Porta as court music director. His stepdaughter was the singer Antonia Bernasconi (1741-1803), who sang *Aspasia* in the première of *Mitridate* KV 87 (74a) in 1770. Cf. note on No. 0125/134.

²⁷ = "He's an Italian, that's all there is to it."

²⁸ 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.