

0414. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, MANNHEIM

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Man[n]heim*¹

Salzb., 2nd Febr.,
1778

My dear wife!

[5] Your letter² of the 24th January has reached me safely. Wolfg. will have been back for a long time now:³ I hope that he received a good present.⁴ You must have money on the journey, and I received 2 <tailors' accounts> at New Year, namely from Daser⁵ and from Amman,⁶ the first concerning Wolfgang's suit and waistcoats etc. for 15 florins, the second concerning yours [10] for 6 florins 24 kreuzers, and I <do not know how I will pay them>. They must <be paid> by the spring fair,⁷ of course, and now <Tresel⁸ also wants her wages> to buy herself something. Then the <house rent> is coming too, but I already know where I am going to get that from: but with the first, by God, I do not know! The sighing in Mannheim⁹ will probably become louder yet, for the Elector¹⁰ [15] will spend not only an hour in Munich for inspection and organisation, but also in the future perhaps even most of his time. From the letter from Herr von Heufeld¹¹ you will gather that recommendations, especially from great people, do more damage than good, which is certainly true, but Dr. Fauckin,¹² responding to my urgent letter, will certainly best know how to make sure that Wolfgang is remembered. [20] I have now sent off an answer to Heufeld, Esquire,¹³ and Messmer.¹⁴ At least Wolfg. knows a safe place¹⁵ if he happened, or wished, to come to Vienna today. Most importantly, convey my most obedient commendation to the wife of the Court Chamber Adviser, to her husband and Fräulein daughter, to Herr Hartig,¹⁶ Herr Wendling¹⁷ and all these gentlemen. [25] I think you should have been doing this

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Director of Music in Mannheim".

² BD: No. 0408.

³ BD: As foreseen in No. 0413/6.

⁴ BD: Present: cf. No. 0416/35-36.

⁵ BD: Johann Georg Daser, a Salzburg tailor. Cf. Nos. 0132/54; 0355/51.

⁶ BD: Thomas Amann, a Salzburg tailor.

⁷ BD: "Dult", the Salzburg fair on St. Rupert's day.

⁸ BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

⁹ BD: The Elector of the Palatinate has now become the Elector of Bavaria as well. The debate in Mannheim is whether he will be moving to Munich permanently. Cf. Nos. 0408/7 ff.; 0414/19 ff.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ BD: Letter No. 0407. Leopold had been seeking help for Wolfgang from Franz Reinhard (von) Heufeld (1731-1795), known to the Mozarts since 1770. Imperial official and playwright. Theatre director. Cf. No. 0163/23, 24, 26.

¹² BD: Dr. med. Xaver Fauken (1741-1794), cf. Nos. 0248/6-7; 0409.

¹³ BD: Ironic emphasis of the title.

¹⁴ BD: Joseph Mesmer, educationalist, was previously chief secretary to Archduchess [Erzherzogin] Maria Antonia of Austria, now Queen Marie Antoinette of France. Cf. Nos. 0288/25; 0407/81-82.

¹⁵ BD: As mentioned in No. 0411/22 ff., Wolfgang and his mother moved into the house of Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] Serrarius 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).

¹⁶ BD: Adam Franz, Count [Graf] Hartig (1724-1783), Imperial Ambassador [kaiserlicher Gesandter] in Munich. He later made the first contacts for Aloisia Weber's move to Vienna. This was probably a New Year's courtesy visit.

¹⁷ 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.

frequently, even if I do not put it in writing directly, just as I always do for both of you here. As far as old stockings, silk or otherwise, and whatever else of Wolfgang's is there and is not useable, in clothing or other things, you must bring them back with you,¹⁸ for he must be provided with good things; he would only throw them away, since he would not know what to do, especially at the beginning. [30] We, of course, can still get some use out of one or other of them. Just now, I received a letter from Rossi.¹⁹ The opera people have once again called off their visit:²⁰ it is all the same to me, and almost preferable, for I had the task of inducing them to perhaps feel inclined to extend the performances till after Easter, especially since they would then be alone, [35] since the actors' time will already finish with Carnival, and this inconvenience would then have lasted too long for me. Incidentally, it is disgraceful that the Archbishop²¹ let Rossi leave without declaring how much he would give for his person.²² This afternoon, Herr von Kleinmayr²³ has been sent off to Vienna. That certain Viennese gentleman in the Privy Chancery,²⁴ Cetti,²⁵ [40] has been sent with him as official secretary because he knows the residences and persons there. We are caught up in a not insignificant difficulty because of the salt which, because of the Austrian seizures²⁶ in Bavaria, passes through Austrian hands here and there on the way to other countries, and in some cases having to be taken over by them themselves, since they are now lords over many salt drying beds, [45] and they are probably being provided with their own salt. So where is our salt to go? – Or must we then sieve less? – then many people will have no bread, and our income will diminish. People are maintaining that the Emperor²⁷ himself will come to Regensburg²⁸ this month and attend a session of the Imperial Diet. Could it be true? – [50] We shall soon see. A week today, on the 9th, Herr von Schiedenhofen's²⁹ wedding will take place. The ceremony will be in the morning |: it is not known where |: , then they drive to Mattsee³⁰ with a few people, where they will probably not end the celebrations in less than a couple of days, because the wigmaker Hochreiter is also going. Herr von Schiedenhofen does not want to hold a public wedding, [55] he says he does not wish to live from anyone's favours. He is not entirely wrong! The first ball is to be on the 8th. In all the years that Salzburg has existed, there has never been so little talk

¹⁸ BD: At this point the plan was for Frau Mozart to return to Salzburg, and for Wolfgang to go on to Paris with three musician from Mannheim.

¹⁹ BD: Letter No. 0413c, lost.

²⁰ After the disappointment of an unsuccessful visiting theatre troupe, Salzburg had been trying to encourage an ensemble from Munich to come and perform opera buffa.

²¹ 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.

²² BD: cf. No. 0411/51, a "contribution" for the opera troupe.

²³ BD: Franz Thaddäus von Kleinmayr(n) (1733-1805), from an old Salzburg family. Studied law and wrote several publications. An important administrative official. Briefly shared a room with Mozart in Vienna in 1781 (cf. No. 0583/28-29).

²⁴ = "in der geheimen Canzley".

²⁵ BD: Franz Burkard Cetti from Vienna, chancellery clerk [Kanzlist] in Salzburg. Married the already ailing Louise von Robinig in 1785. Cf. Nos. 0414/39; 0838/75.

²⁶ BD: Under Karl Theodor (cf. line 14), the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate were united in December, 1777. Austria laid claim to parts of Bavaria. Acting through his ambassador in Vienna, Karl Theodor approved, on 4th January, 1778, a contract with the Imperial government, in which the greater part of Lower Bavaria was ceded to Austria. It was ratified on 14th January, 1778. Austrian troops entered the relevant area on 16th January, 1778. Popular resistance led to the War of the Bavarian Succession, which ended on 13th May, 1779, after Prussian intervention.

²⁷ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790.

²⁸ BD: Regensburg was the seat of the Perpetual Diet of the German Empire.

²⁹ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Maria Anna Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

³⁰ BD: Mattsee, 23 km north of Salzburg.

about the Town Hall Balls as this time; so far, no-one has heard a word! But no wonder! Merchants and the city authorities are very despondent, since plans are being made for a special tax on the merchants, [60] since the Archbishop is not happy, although the tax was organised in such a way that a noteworthy sum was left over for the parliament of the estates on top of all the annual expenses, even though he did not pay the annual 30 000 florins from Chancery.³¹ Everyone is depressed! When I seal the letter, I will probably enclose everything that I have to send³² to Wolfg. at one go. [65] I think it will be just as good, and perhaps better, to pay a high charge for one letter rather than two, for I cannot let it be left to depending on the 3rd letter: you would not receive it, even if it arrived punctually, before the 15th.³³ Moreover, I have is better than If I had.

I have indeed prepared something³⁴ for your little cousin³⁵ – but I have had no safe opportunity to send it yet, [70] and I thought, regardless of whether she has it sooner or later, that I could send it to her safely with the merchants at the market,³⁶ and at no cost. She sent Wolfgang her portrait,³⁷ as he had always been asking³⁸ her to do. Why was it necessary to put her to all this expense? – in the end it will be simply a tiny miniature picture and, for example, probably not even a good likeness. [75] Nannerl kisses her mother's hands, embraces her brother from the bottom of her heart. We kiss both of you, and, since we are, praise God, in good health and wish and hope you are well, I am as always your Mzt. – How, then, will you come home? – I will write another letter to Herr von Grimm,³⁹ and address it to Rüe neue Luxembourg.⁴⁰
[80] Nannerl asks you not to forget a fashionable bonnet.⁴¹

³¹ “Cammer”.

³² BD: Leopold was sending Wolfgang copies of pages of his sonata KV 309 (284b) page at a time. Cf. Nos. 0405/46 ff.; 0411/28 ff.

³³ BD: The departure date foreseen in No. 0405/50.

³⁴ BD: Requested by Wolfgang in No. 0363/90ff.

³⁵ BD: Mozart's cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in the letters as the “Bäsle” [“little cousin”], cf. No. 0358. No. 0353/181: “too familiar with clerics”: Wolfgang protested against this suggestion in No. 0355/159-160. Leopold's suspicions proved true some years later when the “Bäsle” bore an illegitimate child fathered by an Augsburg cathedral canon (cf. No. 0848/83 ff).

³⁶ BD: “Dult”, the Salzburg fair on St. Rupert's day, regularly attended by merchants from Augsburg.

³⁷ BD: Probably Deutsch Bild No. 281

³⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0371/14.

³⁹ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

⁴⁰ BD: There had been a question of the right address (cf. No. 0408/27). This is the “old” one.

⁴¹ BD: Cf. No. 0395/74.