

[Paris, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1778]

I received your letter<sup>3</sup> dated 25<sup>th</sup> December some days ago, Monsieur, and I was preparing to reply when the letter<sup>4</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month was brought to me. It is quite true that I passed through Augsburg on the day<sup>5</sup> that your esteemed son gave his concert.<sup>6</sup> [5] I was at this concert, and was quite ready to make myself known, but neither he nor Madame, his mother, recognised me; and as I was very much in haste and was due to leave the same night, and since I had only stopped because of the concert, I did not wish to make myself known, and, having learned that our Amadeo was due to go to Paris, I reserved our meeting for this time. [10] I shall be very glad to see him again, but I am sorry that he is coming without you. As he must be on the road at this moment, I am expecting to see him arrive from one day to the next, and I would then know what I could do to be of service to him. He is in good hands, being with Msr. Wendling,<sup>7</sup> who could be very useful to him, but no one can replace a father. Three months ago I returned from my journey to Russia, [15] but I do not yet know if that will be the last one. When you saw me, I was not expecting to become such a great runner; it is time to think about a rest. Below, I send you my address, so that your letters do not risk going astray. I am overwhelmed with business and paperwork and consequently a very poor correspondent; [20] but when Monsieur your son is here, he will be my secretary,<sup>8</sup> and we will keep you abreast of developments. Meanwhile, do not be concerned. I believe your son to be so wise in his conduct that you need not fear for him amid the dangers of Paris. If he were inclined to libertinage, he could doubtless run some risks, but if he is sensible, he will keep himself safe from everything detrimental without having, in return, to lead the life of a hermit. [25] I beg you to give a thousand compliments on my behalf to Madame Mozart, whom I believe to be on the way back, or at least close to Salzburg. I hope that Mademoiselle Mozart still remembers me. I am indeed sorry that you are stuck in Salzburg. Adieu, Monsieur, you know the sentiments that I have avowed to you, and I beg you to consider them as unchangeable. [30]

Paris, the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1778.

STAMP:

*Monsieur le Baron de Grimm*, Plenipotentiary Minister of Saxony-Gotha, *Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin*, near the Boulevard. [35]

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<sup>1</sup> Letter entirely in French.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0397, lost.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 0421, lost.

<sup>5</sup> BD: 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1777; cf. Nos. 0355/2; 0362/114 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: In the concert room of the Counts Fugger.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> BD: For communications with Leopold.