

0433. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM

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

Salzb., 28th Febr., 1st and 2nd March,
1778.

Dearest wife and dearest son!

[5] Your letter² of the 22nd reached me safely; praise God that Wolfg. is better once again:³ on journeys, one's main concern must be for one's health. If Mama does not have enough black powder⁴ with her, she would probably find some sooner in Mannheim – than in Paris. I am still looking for the name of the German doctor who is, I believe, [10] *medicus* to the Swiss Guard, and who came to us when Wolfg. got the dangerous catarrh during the night; I keep thinking he was called Herschwand⁵ or suchlike. I would have been so glad to find that name so that you could have enquired about him: often one does not know when one will need such people. The *diligence*⁶ stops, as far as I am informed,⁷ in the *Rue St. Denis*. [15] There you must take a *fiacre* and drive to the *Bourg l'Abbé*; now it is only a question of whether it is better to take all your baggage with you right away or leave it to the meantime at the post-coach office: I would think it would be better to take all your things away with you immediately, especially if the large *coffre*⁸ is not there and is coming on afterwards with wagoners. [20] N.B. In particular, before the two of you leave Mannheim, you must have a note glued firmly onto all chests and cases, or a piece of card, with the letters W. A. M. on it, or written out: *à Msr. Wolfgang Amadé Mozart*, so that in all events everything is marked and if a misfortune occurs, from which God preserve us, enquiries can be made concerning everything. [25] You must now drive to the *Rue Bourg l'Abbé*, to the inn *Au Lion d'argent*. The *Rue Bourg l'Abbé* is not far away, it is between the *Rue St. Denis* |: where you alight from the diligence :| and between the *Rue St. Martin*. In this *Rue Bourg l'Abbé* there also lives *Msr. Mayer, Marchand Fripier*,⁹ whose house is only a few houses away from the inn *Lion d'argent* |: The Silver Lion :|. [30] This *Msr. Mayer* would be called a bric-a-brac dealer in our tongue, and rents out rooms. But you know that there are bric-a-brac dealers in Paris who have many of the most valuable clothes and other things. Count Wolfegg¹⁰ stayed with him, and had a beautiful room, for which he paid 1 *louis d'or*¹¹ per month. That was very fair, and with one room both of you would also have enough, and be with German people too. [35] Now, esteemed Count Wolfegg |: who goes there only under the name Herr von Waldburg :| reminds me that the *madame* was somewhat interested in one point and always liked people to buy something from her. He told me that specifically as a piece of information that I should pass on to you both. Herr Mayer always corresponds with Count Wolfegg, for you know that he himself [40] always has something to do with furnishings and has brought some things here and done business. Enquiries about Herr Arbauer of Augspurg¹² can be made at Herr Mayer's, perhaps he is

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, music director in Mannheim".

² BD: No. 0428.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0428/3-6.

⁴ BD: Pulvis epilepticus niger.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0081/28.

⁶ BD: Large coach, often used for regular mail services and also capable of taking passengers.

⁷ BD: Leopold's information is accurate.

⁸ = "Chest".

⁹ = "Mayer, merchant of bric-a-brac". BD: Agent of the Augsburg merchant Arbauer, cf. No. 0425/64-65.

¹⁰ "Graf Wolfegg" BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Wandsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, high official. Supposedly Provincial Director, under the name "Prunelius", of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge "Apollo". Cf. No. 0053/24-25.

¹¹ BD: 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

¹² BD: Joseph Felix Arbauer, merchant, probably resident on the "Brotmarkt" in Augsburg; cf. No. 0425/64.

living there, for this Mayer is, as Count Wolfegg says, Herr Arbauer's representative. Letters have been sent to both by Count Wolfegg, who recommends you both most highly and has asked Herr Mayer to give you a room if he has one to spare, [45] or, if not, to procure one for you. He wrote that mother and son need only one room and two beds, that he will be surety for everything, since the father is music director in Salzburg, a respected man and a good friend; I read the letter myself. He adds: you will arrive there during Lent. A similar letter of recommendation also went to Herr Arbauer, but this was sent to his commercial premises in Augsp., since it was impossible to be sure that circumstances might not arise such that he would no longer be in Paris: this was done so that he would be more sure to get the letter, for if he is still in Paris, it will be sent to him there from his office; if, however, he is in Augsp. or some other place, [55] he will receive the letter this way and send a recommendation for you shortly after your arrival in Paris, as one would guess, and this is how matters must be thought through for greater security. If I knew the area precisely, I would advise you to drive straight to Msr. Mayer on alighting from the post-coach and there, since he or his wife will certainly be in the *boutique*,¹³ [60] to enquire if he has received the letter from Herr von Waldburg? – if he can give you lodgings in his home? If he can? then you are already there; If he can't? – then you drive the few paces further to the inn. Should it then happen, if he has a room for you both, that he makes it too expensive for you, it is only a matter of a month, since agreements are for one month anyway. – If he has nothing – fine, [65] then you go to The Silver Lion, and then Herr Mayer will surely go with you to help to get one. Count Wolfegg tells me that he ate at The Silver Lion for a *livre*, that is 20 sols, and apparently always had bread and a certain portion of wine with it. N.B. This is only to pass on the information. – I have looked up our bill from Paris, when we were in the *Hôtel de Beauvais, Rue St. Antoine*, [70] and found that for all 4 of us together the waiter brought a meal for only 2 *livres* and 8 *sols*,¹⁴ and consequently we paid only 4 *livres* and 16 *sols* for midday and evening. If, now, I calculate one livre as 24 kreuzers in our money, then a 6 *livre* thaler comes exactly to 2 florins 24 kreuzers, and that is the most comfortable way of calculating it. [75] Our German kreuzer would then be not quite 5 pfennigs, or, rather, one *sol* would be not quite 5 pfennigs, and the *louis d'or*, at 4 wreath thalers, à 2 florins 24 kreuzers, would be 9 florins 36 kreuzers. But if you wish to calculate one *louis d'or* to 8 florins, one *livre* is 20 kreuzers, the *sol* is 1 kreuzer, and thus the wreath thaler 2 florins *netto*. Count Wolfegg says there are also *traiteurs*¹⁵ nearby. He also says that you could perhaps come to an agreement with Frau Mayer [80] for a place at their meal table, but I see an objection because you would tie yourselves down too much and also pay if one is not at home, and because these people have their fixed time for meals, which is precisely what cannot always be the case with you or, rather, will seldom be. I think that, initially, you should have food brought at low cost; [85] one can always move upwards. I would try initially with only one *livre* or 20 *sols*. One must not be too softhearted with such people, they do everything if one says: If you don't want to do it, there are *traiteurs* enough in Paris, we will go to another. Count Wolfegg says one must not yield too easily. If one does not open one's mouth, one must open one's purse. They try to fleece the foreigners. [90]

¹³ = "Shop".

¹⁴ BD: In No. 0505/56 ff., Leopold takes *louis d'or* = 11 florins. Here he uses 1 *louis d'or* = 9 florins 36 kreuzers (line 76) and 1 *louis d'or* = 8 florins (line 77). In No. 0430/145 he takes the wreath thaler [Laubenthaler] as 2 fl. 45 kr, here he takes it as 2 fl. 24 kr. There was at that time, of course, no standardised exchange rate.

¹⁵ Caterers delivering to the house.

Now I turn to something else. For Wolfg. I must draw a picture or a purpose-made sketch of Baron Bache or Bagge¹⁶ |: I don't know myself how he writes it :|. He is, as far as I know, a poor Baron from Prussia or those parts, and married a very rich hat-maker's daughter in Paris. [95] Afterwards, all kinds of quarrels arose between them, and after we went back home, the two marriage partners fell into such displays of odiousness towards each other and court proceedings that, I heard, the wife has apparently even been put away in a convent. He is a passionate lover of music. [100] He has always given concerts in his house, and is perhaps still doing so; for that he always has some people, such as 2 hunting horn players |: Henno¹⁷ among them :| 2 oboists, a contrabass etc., whom he paid the whole time, but gave them little: but they could do it because it is something steady. Otherwise he drew on all the free virtuosos, who all came to him, [105] since, in a strange city, they could seek advice from him and make further acquaintances in his home. Even the Parisian virtuosos often go there, some when they have something new, in order to try it out there, others to hear unknown pieces of music, because he is very active in acquiring new music, and, finally, they also go there to have the opportunity [110] to hear virtuosos newly arrived from elsewhere. All that he did for us was to find takers for tickets for our concert,¹⁸ into which he was pushed by Herr von Grimm,¹⁹ and, at our last concert,²⁰ to send his musicians to us at his expense. We therefore only had to pay the singer Piccinelli,²¹ and *Msr.* Gavinié,²² who would not accept anything. [115] What I noticed about him is that he most readily pays something for a good composition. One must accordingly exercise restraint and, my dear Wolfgang, you must initially do nothing other than put on the best of music there so that you immediately gain a reputation. – Forward – Victory! Now I need write nothing more! Baron von Grimm is in Paris! – I have just this moment received a letter from him, [120] but in it, at the same time, something of the usual inattentiveness you both display: Wolfgang may have been busy, and is shortsighted,²³ but didn't Mama see our friend Grimm at the concert in Augsp.²⁴ – – where, after all, he placed himself in full view of you. – I will write out his letter²⁵ here in German, or at least that excerpt from it. He writes: [125] I received your letter of the 25th Decemb. only a few days ago and, just as I wanted to answer, received your 2nd letter²⁶ of the 9th of this January.²⁷ It is absolutely true that I was in Augsp. when Herr Amadeo gave his concert, I was to have travelled on again – but I was even in the concert and placed myself in view in such a way that he and Mad^{me}. Mozart could see me, [130] but neither he nor Mad^{me} sa mere²⁸ recognised me, and as I was in great haste to travel onwards and everybody said to me that they were on their way to

¹⁶ BD: Karl Ernst, Baron [Freiherr] von Bagge af Boo (1718 or 1722-1791), from 1750 on in Paris: on the one hand mocked as a laughable dilettante, but on the other hand in contact with Gossec, Gavaniès, Boccherini, Duport etc. Cf. No. 0074/34.

¹⁷ BD: Probably François Haina, husband of the music publisher Gertrude Haina. Horn player to Baron Bagge, later trumpeter in royal service. Friend of Mozart in Paris in 1778, especially during the last days of his mother's life. Cf. No. 0084/18.

¹⁸ BD: Probably that of the 10th of March, 1764, in the private theatre of Msr. Félix.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: On the 9th April, 1764, again in the private theatre of Msr. Félix.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0084/74. Clementine Picinelli. Sang at the Italian theatre in Paris 1761-1766. Wolfgang met her again in Milan in 1770, cf. Nos. 0158/53-54; 0166/18.

²² BD: Cf. No. 0074/17. Pierre Gaviniès (1728-1800), violinist, at that point enjoying great fame.

²³ BD: Mozart was shortsighted, but never used eyeglasses.

²⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0427/4.

²⁵ BD: No. 0427.

²⁶ BD: No. 0421, lost.

²⁷ BD: Actually February.

²⁸ = "His mother".

Paris, I decided to remain unrecognised, since we would see each other in Paris. It will be a very great pleasure for me to see him again, but I regret very much that he is coming without his father. According to your letter, [135] he will now be on the way, and I am hoping to see him from one day to the next, and then I will learn and see from him everything that I can do for him. Although he is in good hands, since he is with Msr. Wendling,²⁹ who can be of valuable service to him, no-one can truly take the place of a father: | *mais personne ne peut remplacer un pere*³⁰ |. [140] It is now three months since I came back from my travelling, and I nevertheless do not yet know if this most recent journey to Russia will also be my last one. *il seroit tems de songer au repos. je vous envoie ci joint mon adresse, pour que vos Lettres ne risquent plus de s'egarer. je suis accablé d'affaires et d'écritures et par consequent bien mauvais correspondant; mais lorsque M: Votre Fils sera ici, il sera mon secretaire, [145] et nous vous tiendront au Courant. en attendant n'ayez point d'inquiétude. Je crois Votre Fils d'une Conduite assez sage pour ne pas redouter pour lui les dangers de Paris. s'il étoit enclin au Libertinage, il pourrait sans doute courir quelques risques; mais s'il a de la raison, il se garantira de tout inconvenient sans mener pour cela la vie d'un heremite etc: etc: je suis bien [150] fâché que vous soyez cloué a Salzbourg, a dieu, Monsieur, vous connaissez les sentiments, que je vous ai voués, et je vous prie de les regarder comme invariables. Paris le 21 febr: 1778.*³¹

A printed address was enclosed:

Monsieur le Baron de Grimm Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Saxe=Gotha.
[155] Rüe de la Chaussé d'Antin, près le Boulevard.³²

Under these circumstances, then, I believe you should both go straight to The Silver Lion, and then, if you arrive late, go to Baron von Grimm the following morning. Who knows, perhaps you can stay somewhere nearer him. Just at this moment I cannot find the *Rue de la chausse d'Antin*. [160] By the way, I will reply immediately to Baron von Grimm. I have made arrangements for you to be able to take out 4 or 5 *louis d'or*³³ from Herr Schmalz³⁴ in Manheim, by order of Noker and Schidl.³⁵ Now, even if you sell the *chaise*³⁶ for only 5 *louis d'or*, you will once again have 100 German guldens.³⁷ Since you did not have more than 140 florins³⁸ when you wrote to me on 19th February, [165] I can

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ = "But no one can replace a father".

³¹ = "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 documents and consequently a very poor correspondent; but, when your son is here, he will be my secretary, and we will keep you abreast of developments. Meanwhile, do not be disquieted. I believe your son to be wise enough in his conduct that you need not fear for him amid the dangers of Paris. If he had libertine inclinations, he could without doubt 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. I am indeed sorry that you are confined to Salzburg. Adieu, Monsieur, you know the sentiments that I have avowed to you, and I beg you to consider them as unchangeable."

³² = "Monsieur le Baron de Grimm, Plenipotentiary Minister of Saxony-Gotha, Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, near the Boulevard".

³³ BD: The following calculations are approximate if one takes 1 louis d'or = 9 fl. 36 kr. (as in line 76) or = 11 florins. But here Leopold takes the exchange rate of 10 florins obtained in Mannheim (cf. No. 0505/69).

³⁴ BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz. Involved in credit for Wolfgang in Mannheim. Cf. No. 0373/81.

³⁵ BD: Nocker and Schiedl, bankers, Augsburg.

³⁶ BD: The possible sale had been discussed in various letters. Cf. Nos. 0426/86-87; 0431/105 ff.

³⁷ BD: Guldens and florins had the same value.

³⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0426/85-86.

clearly see that Wolfg. earned nothing for himself with pupils, and that it was hot air once again. I recommend that you leave soon; I hope to hear of that in your next letters. I will hardly write anything more, for I now believe I have taken care of everything. From pure speculation I am forced to conclude that the post-coach goes to Strasburg on Sundays and to guess it from your letters, [170] and that you receive the letters from us on Wednesdays and Sundays;³⁹ I must simply imagine this to be the case, since you should of course long since have written all such things, which it is very necessary to know, to me in 2 words. Now it is up to both of you and your sound commonsense and thoughtfulness to act on all of this, and in such important matters each must avoid stubbornly maintaining his own opinion, [175] but rather reflect reasonably with a cool head, and on no account put off until tomorrow what can be done today just as a favour to others but to one's own detriment and loss; rather, grasp the moment, and do not rest until everything has been done. Twice⁴⁰ I received the information that Wolfgang intends to publish duets for the clavier⁴¹ [180], but never about where this is to happen, in Manheim or in Paris? Now he can do it in Paris; once he is there, I will send him an indication, from my own calculations, of what the costs are. *Addio*, we kiss you both a million times, Nannerl and I wish good luck on the journey, God keep you, *addio* Mzt

[185] Fräulein Stockammer⁴² was taken to the Ursulines⁴³ in a sedan chair by night because of her acquaintance with the Starmberg lackey,⁴⁴ just as she was getting dressed for the ball.

³⁹ BD: Actually Tuesdays and Saturdays.

⁴⁰ BD: In Nos. 0402/70 and 0423/58-59.

⁴¹ BD: Cf. No. 0423/58, 60. Of the six sonatas later dedicated to the Electress [Kurfürstin] Elisabeth Auguste (cf. No. 0363/84-85), those written in Mannheim were: KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 305 (293d).

⁴² BD: Maria Anna Elisabeth von Stockhammer, daughter of Franz Christoph von Stockhammer († 1769), Royal Chamber Comptroller [Hofkammerprokurator].

⁴³ BD: Convent near the Klausentor gate. She had thus been forcibly put in the convent.

⁴⁴ BD: Louis Handl (cf. No. 0457/87), lackey to cathedral canon Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (cf. Nos. 0399/13, 30, 32).