

*Monsieur*  
*mon très cher Père!*

[Mannheim, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1778]

Today we received no letter from you, but we hope that there is no reason for this other than that the post could not get through entirely properly because of the atrocious weather, [5] or that you simply did not write. Your last letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> *Feb.<sup>ro</sup>* reached me safely. I am most indebted to you for taking so much trouble with the arias.<sup>2</sup> They are quite obviously accurate in every way. Papa comes next after God:<sup>3</sup> as a child, that was my motto or axiom, and I still stand by it even now. [10] You are of course right when you say: Once you have learned something, you can do it.<sup>4</sup> By the way, apart from your trouble and much going to-and-fro, you need regret nothing, for *Mad.<sup>selle</sup>* Weber certainly deserves it. I would only wish that you could hear her singing the new aria of hers,<sup>5</sup> of which I told you recently; I say, of hers, because I wrote it entirely for her. A man like you, [15] who understands what singing with *portamento* means, would certainly feel deeply satisfying pleasure in it.

Once I arrive safe and sound in Paris, and our circumstances, as I hope, with God's help, are good, and we are all freer of cares and in a better humour, I will write to you about my thoughts in more detail, [20] and ask you to do me a great favour.<sup>6</sup> Now, however, I must tell you that I was so alarmed and had tears in my eyes when I read in your last letter that you <have to go around so badly dressed<sup>7</sup>>. My dearest Papa! This is certainly not my fault – as you know. Here we are <saving> as much as is possible. Board and lodging, fuel and light, [25] have <cost us nothing here<sup>8</sup>>, that is all that one wishes for. Concerning clothing, you are of course aware that one <cannot have a plain appearance> where one is not known. There must always be something of an outward show. I have now set all my hopes on Paris, for the German princes<sup>9</sup> are all grumblers. I will work with all my strength so that I soon have the pleasure of <helping you out of your current sorry circumstances>. [30] Now, about our journey. A week today, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we shall leave here. As far as selling the chaise is concerned,<sup>10</sup> it is going very badly for us. Until now, not one person has come. If we get 4 *louis d'or*<sup>11</sup> for it, we can be satisfied. It is true that they are advising us here that if we cannot find a taker for the chaise, [35] we should take a hired driver as far as Strassburg and go with our own chaise, for we could sell it more easily in Strassburg, but, because it is cheaper with the post-coach, I will leave the chaise and make sure of people to inspect it. Only I must furthermore inform you that because this is not a commercial town, no wagoners go to Paris; rather, everything is sent by post-coach. [40] From here to Strassburg, as I have been told, it costs half a *louis d'or* per person, so I believe that, in all, it will not come to a total of more than 15 guildens for us. In the meantime, take especially good care of yourself. Let us hope in God, he will certainly not

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

<sup>2</sup> BD: Various scenarios had been requested by Wolfgang, largely with Aloisia Weber in mind. Cf. Nos. 0419/120; 0430/39 ff.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Leopold had recalled Wolfgang's childhood phrase in No. 0429/141.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0430/66-67.

<sup>5</sup> BD: “*No so, d'onde viene*” KV 294; cf. No. 0431/27 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Presumably the same favour concerning Aloisia Weber as outlined to Abbé Bullinger in No. 0475/45 ff.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0430/71 ff.

<sup>8</sup> “Fürsten”.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0390/8-10. In the home of Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] Serrarius. Wolfgang and his mother moved into his house at the end of 1777.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Wolfgang and his mother travelled to Mannheim in the family chaise, which was now to be sold. Cf. Nos. 0426/86-87; 0431/105 ff. By 11<sup>th</sup> March (No. 0436/26-27, 62-63), it had been sold for 40 florins.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Can be taken as 1 *louis d'or* = 11 florins; i.e. a total here of 44 florins.

abandon us. Before I leave, I will yet write you one or even 2 letters. If only I were already in Paris; [45] the journey there is so completely vexing to me. Wendling<sup>12</sup> wrote that he had quite terrible *ennui* on the journey. Now I must finish so that there is still space left for Mama. *Addieu*. I kiss your hands 100 000 times and am your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Mozart

[50] Mannheim, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1778

MARIA ANNA MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

My dear husband, first of all I must tell you that we always receive your letters on Tuesday and Saturday,<sup>13</sup> so we will not be able to receive any more on the coming Saturday, because the post-coach is already leaving at 6 o'clock in the morning, and we do not receive the letters until 12 noon, [55] but if you write next Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, they will send it on to us in Paris. We have not yet received the arias during these past weeks, so we are expecting them in the coming weeks. The coach sets us in great consternation, there is no sign of anybody who even wants to look at it. Here people want to have everything for next to nothing, [60] and one has to pay them everything threefold. That Baron von Grim is in Paris is an inordinate joy to me, and is my only comfort. We can rely confidently on him, that he has sincere intentions towards us and is our true friend. Wolfgang will undoubtedly bring him honour so that he does not need to regret it if he takes up his cause. [65] In the last weeks I have been astonishingly busy so that I don't know if I am coming or going, until everything is put in order. Everything depends on me alone, and I have enough to think about, as you can imagine. Yet I hope, with God's help, everything will start well and that we will arrive well and safe in Paris. This long journey will indeed be very burdensome to us, [70] but in God's name, because God wishes to have it so, it must be done. *Adio*. Keep well, both of you. I kiss you many 1000 times and remain your faithful

wife, Maria Anna Mozart

To all our acquaintances every imaginable good wish, especially to Monsieur Bullinger<sup>14</sup> and Mademoiselle Sallerl,<sup>15</sup> [75] likewise to Herr Deibel<sup>16</sup> and others besides.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

*Ma très chère sœur!*<sup>17</sup>

With all your strength, my dearest sister, you must imagine it to be as if I had specially written a separate letter to you – –

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<sup>12</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. The original plan was for Wolfgang to travel to Paris in one coach with the musicians Wendling and Ramm and the dancer Lauchéry, while his mother was to return to Salzburg. Cf. Nos. 0383/58 ff.; 0427/12-13.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Leopold had guessed Wednesday and Sunday, cf. No. 0433/170.

<sup>14</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>15</sup> BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as "Sallerl", was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [Konfektmeister] Mathias Joly.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0063/84. Franz de Paula Deibl (? 1698-1783), oboist, also violinist, in Salzburg.

<sup>17</sup> = "My very dear sister".

I am here to express to you my thanks for the 50 florins,<sup>18</sup> so kindly lent but so urgently needed, [80] and also to proffer you herewith my congratulations and my unspeakable joy over your kind heart. I very much regret that I have been placed in the predicament of having to rob you of 50 florins for a short time, but, as truly as I am your sincere brother, I shall not rest until I have reimbursed you for everything that you, with such a kind heart, have done for me. [85] Happy the brother who has such a kind sister. Only remember always that not everything goes as one wishes, or, at least, not always entirely as one would wish. Everything will yet turn out well. Just be truly diligent, and do not forget your play in the *galante* style [90] in the effort of getting your fingers round the scoring-reading,<sup>19</sup> so that I do not become a liar when you are heard by people to whom I have praised you so much, for I have always said that you play with more precision than I do. *Addieu*, then, dear sister. I hope that we will very soon have the consummate pleasure of embracing each other. I hope in God, I ask Him for what I believe is of advantage to me and all of us, [95] but always add: Lord, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. We humans often think, That is ill-fortune, and in the end – it is in fact good. God always knows best how it must be. *Addieu*, best of sisters. I kiss you 100 000 times and am, until death, your faithful and sincere brother, Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

ON THE ENVELOPE:

[100] Now I am even more happy to be travelling to Paris because our dear friend Grimm is there; he has all my trust, I will also be guided by him in all matters in which he, as such a good friend, will advise me.

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<sup>18</sup> BD: The merchant Joseph Hagenauer would be extending credit by 50 florins on the basis of a promissory note belonging to Nannerl. Cf. No. 0430/114 ff.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0374/70 ff.; 0430/89 ff.