

0438. LEOPOLD MOZART TO WIFE AND SON, PARIS

¹*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique
à / Paris / chez Mr: Mayer² / Marchand fripier / Ruë bourg l'abbé*

My dear wife and dear son!

Salzb.,
16th March,
1778.

[5] You will have arrived, with God's help, safely in Paris. I have been very anxious since yesterday, the 15th, as we had so much snow and very cold weather. I was always thinking about Mama because of the journey, so cold and toilsome; and as I thought it over and calculated that you will not take much money with you to Paris, [10] if you have not sold the chaise,³ and as I furthermore could not make any arrangements to send money, since everyone in the house of Hagenauer⁴ had their hands full because of the Lent market,⁵ I then spoke to Herr Franz Gschwendner,⁶ whose esteemed brother⁷ is in Paris at Messrs. Körman, banquiers; he will write to his brother with the Thursday post on the 19th, asking him to give you some [15] *louis d'or*⁸ on my account. Since, however, this letter will not reach Paris before the 27th or 28th, I am very anxious because you might be left short until then, and decided to write the present letter in anticipation today and send you his address according to the last letter from his brother: [20] he is chez Messieurs Körman Banquiers Rue St. Martin,⁹ and thus not far away¹⁰ from you. Now, I do not know if Herr Gschwendtner¹¹ will give you anything before seeing the letter from his esteemed brother. In an extreme urgent case, I would indeed hope that he will do it, for he does know us, that we are honest people. I ask you to convey my most obedient compliments to him. I cannot write to titled Baron von Grimm¹² before the 19th, [25] or rather bring the already started letter¹³ to an end: it is nothing less than a description of my entire life. I commend myself to him most submissively, and I am sure that when he knows precisely and in detail about all the oppression, persecution and tyranny that we have been subjected to in Salzburg for the

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, director of music in Paris at Msr. Mayer, bric-à-brac merchant, Rue Bourg-l'Abbé".

² BD: Paris agent for the Augsburg/Frankfurt merchant Arbauer (cf. No. 0422/181). Mozart and his mother stayed with him after their arrival in Paris in 1778 (cf. Nos. 0422/183; 0425/65; 0439/95).

³ BD: The family chaise with which Wolfgang and his mother travelled from Salzburg to Mannheim.

⁴ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁵ BD: The traditional spring market in Salzburg.

⁶ BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner (1740-1800), city councillor and merchant in Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Properly: Karl Gallus Gschwendtner (1751-1818), younger brother of Franz Xaver Geschwendtner (cf. No. 0102/144-145). He dealt in iron in Salzburg, but was often away on business (cf. No. 0467/35-36). The forename "Vital" was probably taken from his uncle, who assumed this name on taking vows in the Benedictine monastery in Niederaltaich.

⁸ A gold coin worth approx. 11 florins.

⁹ = "c/o Messrs. Körman, bankers, Rue St. Martin".

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0433/14-15.

¹¹ BD: The brother Vital, see above.

¹² "Titl: H: Baron von Grimm". 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.

¹³ BD: No. 0442, lost.

last six years,¹⁴ this will arouse his compassion and move his heart to help us. [30] – He can surely not have exchanged his tender heart in Russia¹⁵ for the heart of a Muscovite. The Senior Master of the Kitchen, Baron Pranck,¹⁶ became a colonel¹⁷ in place of his brother,¹⁸ and a Baron Dückher,¹⁹ currently in Austrian service, became a major.²⁰ Never were such astonishing preparations made for war²¹ as in Austria at this moment; [35] everyone is going to Königsgrätz and Olmütz. The Emperor will take the field with an escort of 6000 men, namely 3000 Hungarian noblemen, and of the other 3000, some will be sharpshooters from Tyrol. Laudon²² is the field marshal.²³ I could not write down here all the most significant preparations about which Herr Gscheider,²⁴ who knows this in detail from his superior, has written from Vienna. [40] The King of Prussia²⁵ has sent a very mocking and sensitive letter²⁶ to the Emperor²⁷ regarding the Austrian demands and the lands of the Bavarian Elector.²⁸ Today, memoranda reached the merchants here concerning fake, valueless Prussian thalers, minted this year and with which they have just paid for the horses [45] which the Prussians arranged to purchase partly within Turkish territory and localities and partly on Polish soil. I hope to hear something good from both of you soon. Read this news to Herr Gschwendner. I and Nannerl kiss you both a million times and I am, as always, your

Mzt

¹⁴ BD: 6 years since Hieronymus became Archbishop: 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.

¹⁵ BD: His most recent official journey. Cf. No. 0427/14-15.

¹⁶ “Oberstküchenmeister Baron Pranck”. BD: Andrea Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Pranck (1720-1793), brother of Franz Xaver Gottlieb. Studied with support from his godfather Andreas Jakob, Count [Graf] Dietrichstein, the Archbishop of Salzburg 1747-1753. After a military career, occupied various positions at court, including master of the kitchens. Later, after his brother, city commander [Stadtkommandant] of Salzburg.

¹⁷ “Oberster”.

¹⁸ BD: Franz Xaver Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Pranck (1719-1777). Had a military career in Salzburg, from 1765 Military Adviser [Kriegsrat]; from 1766 City Commandant [Stadtkommandant] in Salzburg. Not related to the Leopold, Count [Graf] Pranck of No. 0346/22.

¹⁹ BD: Ferdinand Dück(h)er, Freiherr von Haslau (1740-1814), from 1778 in charge of the Salzburg police, member of the war council [Hofkriegsrat]. After a long military career, he received his pension in 1806.

²⁰ “Major”.

²¹ BD: In the War of the Bavarian Succession, the Austrian Emperor [Kaiser] did not heed any of the notes and warnings about the use of military force given to him by his mother Maria Theresia. He took up position in Königgrätz and Gitschin with 200,000 men (cf. No. 0448/153-154), while field marshal [Feldmarschall] Laudon advanced as far as Reichenberg on the Saxon border with 75,000 men.

²² BD: Gideon, Baron [Freiherr] von Laudon (Loudon) (1717-1790), Deutsch Bild No. 515. A Russian officer until 1739, joined the Austrian army in 1743. Conquered Belgrade in 1789 during the Turkish war. Mozart wrote funeral music (KV 594), apparently heard in a “mausoleum” erected for Laudon in 1791 (Deutsch Bild No. 516).

²³ “Feldmarschall”.

²⁴ BD: Mentioned in No. 0163/27-28, but otherwise nothing is known about him.

²⁵ “Der König von Preussen”: Frederick II (the Great).

²⁶ BD: At the urging of Maria Theresia, who sought all possible means of avoiding war, the Austrian Emperor Joseph II wrote to Frederick II of Prussia. Frederick's reply was in a mocking tone and presented unjustified demands. Frederick communicated this correspondence to the King of France, Louis XVI.

²⁷ “Kayser”. BD: Joseph II.

²⁸ “Churbayr Lande”. 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. There followed the War of the Bavarian Succession, which ended on 13th May, 1779 after Prussian intervention.

[50] *Msr. de Voltaire*²⁹ is in Paris; but whether *Msr. Noverre*³⁰ |: who has now also received, as newspapers reported, membership of the Order from the Pope³¹ |: is in Paris I do not know for certain. If you do receive an opportunity to write counterpoint³² or something of the kind for the *Concert Spirituelle*,³³ work it out most painstakingly, and listen beforehand to what they do there, what they most like. You will find the basses there very strong and splendid. [55] You must be very thorough in your writing, as it is occasionally engraved in score. Addio

Checco Barisani³⁴ will travel home on the 18th, he commends himself. The architect Hagenauer³⁵ set off with the Bishop of Gurk³⁶ to extend the palace in Gurk – but will not come back again, [60] the Archbishop treated him atrociously, like a boy, and has now made him a present of 10 thalers.³⁷ As a result, he has received for everything, for all the time he has been here, 14 thalers and 4 ducats.³⁸ After Easter, the esteemed Senior Equerry³⁹ will marry⁴⁰ Fräulein Antonia Barisani,⁴¹ without a gracious money gift.⁴²

Herr Geschwendner's sister, Miss Nannerl,⁴³ will marry Herr Nicolodoni,⁴⁴ [65] with whom Herr Spangler⁴⁵ formed a company and who had his daughter.

²⁹ BD: Voltaire (really François-Marie Arouet, 1694-1778), lived in Ferney near Geneva from 1760. In a letter of 26th September, 1766, he states that the Mozarts never visited him. For Leopold's reaction to his death cf. No. 0457/222.

³⁰ BD: Jean Georges Noverre (1727-1810), internationally active (Stuttgart, Milan), ballet master in Vienna 1755-1774. The Mozarts met him in Vienna in 1773. He became composer and master of ballet at the *Académie royale de Musique* and director of festivities [“*Directeur des Fêtes de Trianon*”] in Paris in 1776. His memoirs mention Mozart aged 12; they certainly met in 1778 in Paris, where Mozart wrote part of the music for *Les petits riens* KV Anh. 10 (299b). Cf. Nos. 0293/51; 0430/182.

³¹ BD: Probably not from the Pope. Noverre received the Order of the Golden Spur from the King of Naples in 1771, given in recognition of his contribution to the marriage celebrations of Archduke Ferdinand and Maria Beatrice d'Este, for which Mozart had written *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111.

³² BD: A form already recommended in No. 0417/194-195.

³³ BD: The *Concert spirituel*, the first commercial concert series in Paris, was founded by Anne Danican-Philidor in 1725. It featured a chorus and orchestra and performed in *Les Tuileries*.

³⁴ BD: Ernst Franz Barisani, son of royal physician Dr. Barisani.

³⁵ BD: Not the sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer, but his brother, Johann Georg Hagenauer (1748-1835), later a director of works in Gurk and Passau.

³⁶ BD: Joseph Franz Anton, Count [Graf Auersperg] (* 1734), 1763-1771 Bishop of Lavant; 1772-1783 Bishop of Gurk; 1783-1795 Bishop of Passau; member of Salzburg cathedral chapter.

³⁷ BD: = 27 fl. 30 kr. (at the exchange rate 1 thaler = 2 florins 45 kreuzers used in No. 0430/145).

³⁸ BD: 1 thaler = 2.75 florins, 1 ducat = 4.5 florins. The total here is 38 fl. 30 kreuzers + 18 fl. = 56 fl. 30 kr.

³⁹ “H: Oberbereuter”. BD: Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables. Widower since 23rd October, 1777.

⁴⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0403/65-66.

⁴¹ BD: Maria Anna Constantia Barisani (1754-1778), the daughter of the Prince-Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. She married the widower Weyrother in April, 1778, but died the same year (cf. No. 0509/72 ff.).

⁴² Presumably without a present from the Prince-Archbishop, who had objected to the marriage.

⁴³ “Jungfer Nannerl”. BD: Maria Anna, daughter of the iron merchant Johann Markus Geschwendtner and sister of the Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner named above.

⁴⁴ BD: Anton Nikolaus Nicolodoni (c.1733 – 1806), city councillor and merchant. His first wife was Elisabeth, daughter of his business partner Spangler.

⁴⁵ BD: Franz Anton Spangler, merchant.