

0451. MARIA ANNA MOZART TO HER HUSBAND, SALZBURG; POSTSCRIPT BY MOZART

¹*Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de S:A:R: /
L'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg. / par Augspurg / Strasbourg²*

My dear husband,

Paris, 29th May, 1778

Your letter³ of the 29th April reached us safely and we are happy to gather from it [5] that you, along with Nannerl, are in good health, the news lifted my spirits uncommonly. While I feel heartily sorry for the Auers' Sandl,⁴ on the other hand I do hope she will in the meantime have all her mental faculties again. As far as the Hafners' Sigerl⁵ is concerned, I laughed heartily, for I know the serving girl, she is a good acquaintance of our Nandl,⁶ [10] who deceived us so, and often called on her and is also related. She is a brewer's daughter from Uttendorff,⁷ but she cannot be more than 26 years old, she only looks old because she was worked to the bone at the colonel's.⁸ If he has married her, he has found a charming match, may God bless it for him. He has no reason for jealousy with her, for it is certain that no-one will fall in love with her. [15] Regarding war, not much is heard here, but I certainly believe what you wrote about the King in Prussia⁹ trying to find alliances, but it could be difficult, for it is not easy for Russia as far as the Turk is concerned, for the Turks are thoroughly inclined to war. The Swedes can do nothing, it is impossible, for the King of France has 30000 of them as auxiliaries and pays 12 million *livres* every year, [20] and with Denmark there is nothing either, for her entire strength is around 30000 men, and then the whole country would be empty, and do you think they are not shy of France, which is constantly busy cocking a snoot at the King of Prussia in front of all the great powers. That is why he is not grasping the bull by the horns: elsewhere he could never wait so long and always attacked right away [25] and didn't think about it so long. Here the whole town is firmly on the Imperial side,¹⁰ except the Lutherans, perhaps not all, but there are some, for the Emperor made himself very popular during his stay here.¹¹ Something for Na[n]nerl: tell her she should get hold of a dainty walking stick, for here the greatest fashion is for all women [30] |: except the maids :| to walk with sticks to the churches, on visits, strolls, wherever they go; on the streets, of course not in coaches, no-one goes on foot without a stick because it is so slippery walking here, especially after it has rained. Some time ago a woman sprained her foot, upon which a doctor said it would be better if women made use of sticks [35] and thus it at once became the fashion. By the way,

¹ BD: Address in Mozart's hand.

² = "Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. Via Augsburg / Strasbourg". – Cf. Leopold's instructions in Nos. 0446/127, 131-132; 0452/113-116.

³ BD: No. 0448.

⁴ BD: Susanna Auer, daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, resident in the Mozart's house. Dramatic scenes of derangement happened recently. Cf. Nos. 0382/60; 0448/7 ff.

⁵ BD: Hafner Sigerl: Siegmund Haffner jun., son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant. The story involves his marriage to a kitchen girl. (Cf. No. 0448/121).

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0448/11 etc.

⁷ BD: Cf. note on No. 0448/101.

⁸ "beyn oberisten". BD: Cf. No. 0448/99. 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.

⁹ BD: Frederick II ("the Great") (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

¹⁰ "Kaiserlich".

¹¹ "Kaiser". BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Joseph came to Paris on 18th April, 1777 (under the name of a Count [Graf] von Falkenstein), and left on 30th May. He expended great efforts to win support from the French. When not at Versailles, he visited the greatest buildings, art galleries, charitable foundations, educational institutes etc. and was pleased to receive acclamation from the people everywhere.

it is thoroughly expensive here: a £ ¹² of good butter costs 30 to 40 *sols*,¹³ the bad kind, which cannot be used, 24 *sols*. A £ beef 10 *sols*, veal 12 to 14 *sols*, a leg of lamb 3 *livres*,¹⁴ a young chicken 3 *livres*, the wine expensive and bad, all spoiled by the innkeepers. It is more expensive than in England when we were there. [40] With one *louis d'or*¹⁵ one cannot get further than with one Bavarian thaler in Germany, and with one thaler one does not get further than with 24 kreuzers at home. Everything is twice as expensive as it was before. Otherwise we are well, praise and thanks be to God, and would wish for nothing more than to have both of you here with us. [45] I will not forget to let blood,¹⁶ I must first look for a good barber. Here it is no longer so much in use as before; how all fashions change! To Herr Andretter the *cornet*¹⁷ we send our compliments; we are sorry that Herr Bullinger¹⁸ was ill, we are glad he is better again. We commend ourselves to him and to my dear Sallerl:¹⁹ [50] what, then, is she doing, does she still think of me? I and Wolfgang often speak of her, oh, how often do we speak of our acquaintances in Salzburg when we sit together to eat in the evening. *Adio*, keep well, both of you, I kiss you many 10000 times and remain your faithful wife Marianna Mozart. To all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, [55] all imaginable good wishes from us, I send greetings to Thresel.²⁰

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I am, praise and thanks be to God, quite tolerably well; otherwise, however, I often do not know if I am being clubbed or stabbed – I feel neither cold nor hot – nothing brings me much joy; but what most lifts me up and keeps me in good spirits is the thought that you, dearest Papa, and my dear sister are well [60] – that I am an honest German, – and that, even if I am not always allowed to speak – I am indeed at least allowed to think what I like. But that is also the only thing. Yesterday I was at esteemed Count von Sückingen's, the ambassador of the Electoral Palatinate,²¹ for the second time²² |: for I have already dined there once with Herr Wendling²³ and Raaff²⁴ |:; he is, [65] I don't know if I have already written saying this, a charming gentleman and a passionate lover and true connoisseur of music.

¹² Symbol for pound weight (lb).

¹³ BD: 1 sol = 1 kreuzer; 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

¹⁴ BD: 1 livre = 24 kreuzers, 3 livres = 1 florin 12 kreuzers.

¹⁵ BD: 1 louis d'or = 11 florins (as a general rule). 1 thaler = 1.5 florins.

¹⁶ BD: Leopold had reminded her of this in No. 0448/230.

¹⁷ "Cornet". BD VIII: Siegbert [not Siegmund] von Antretter (1761-1800), Bavarian cadet, 1780 officer cadet Salzburg. Son of the Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler] Johann Ernst von Antretter, cf. Nos. 0288/50; 0450/263; 0403/16-17.

¹⁸ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, now based in Munich.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: Thresel: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household.

²¹ H: graf v: Sückingen khurf: Pfälzischen gesandten". BD: Karl Heinrich Joseph, Count [Graf] Sickingen zu Sickingen, Palatine Ambassador (1777-1791) and patron of music in Paris. Cf. No. 0439/14, 21-22. Wolfgang had been recommended to him by Otto, Baron [Freiherr] von Gemmingen. Cf. No. 0439/21-22.

²² BD: The first time is indicated in No. 0439/13 ff.

²³ 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.

²⁴ BD: Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich. Cf. No. 0120/54.

There I spent 8 hours, entirely alone with him. We were at the *clavier* the whole time, morning and afternoon until 10 o'clock; went through all kinds of music – praised, admired, reviewed, discussed and criticised. [70] He has around 30 opera scores. Now, I must tell you that I have had the honour of seeing the French translation of your violin school.²⁵ I believe it must be at least 8 years ago that it was translated. I was just in the music shop to buy an *œuvre* of sonatas by Chobert²⁶ for a girl pupil. [75] But I will go there at the next opportunity and look at it more closely so as to be able to write to you about it in more detail, the last time I was in too much of a hurry. Now take the best of care of yourself. I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister with my whole heart. *Mes compliments à tous mes amis, particulièrement à M.^{sr} Bullinger.*²⁷

²⁵ BD: *Methode raisonnée pour apprendre à jouer du violon*, Madermann et Mme Le Menu, Paris, 1770. It was translated by Valentin Roeser (1735?-1782), musician to the Duke of Orleans; Roeser and a 12 duos and a caprice of his own composing at the end of the work. It was first advertised in May, 1770. Ignaz Pleyel later produced a new edition.

²⁶ BD: Johann (Jean) Schobert (c. 1740-1767), from Silesia. Keyboard player and composer, in Paris from 1760. Presented a copy of his engraved sonatas to the Mozart children in Paris. He, some family members and friends died from mushroom poisoning. Leopold's assessment of him in No. 0080/153-154 is unfavourable, but Mozart drew on his material, notably his op. XVII No. 2 as a model for his pasticcio concerto KV 39.

²⁷ = "My compliments to all my friends, especially to Monsieur Bullinger". Bullinger: cf. line 48.