

0467. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, PARIS

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart / Maître de
Musique / à / Paris / Rue du Gros chenet / vis à vis celle du croissant à
l'hôtel / des 4 Fils aimont¹*

Salzb., 20th Julii
1778

[5] My dear son!

I am extremely concerned about your health and have to wait so long until I receive a letter from you since you will not be writing until you have received my letter² of the 13th. Herr Bullinger³ could not write to you on that occasion because the post already leaves at 5 o'clock and I alone was able to finishing writing my letter in time, [10] from which you gathered that he had carried out your commission very well. He will of course write to you another time. At Arco's⁴ the whole house is full, since Countess Podsdatsky⁵ – the Bishop of Königsgraz – the father and mother of young Count Leopold,⁶ – and Canoness Teresia Arco⁷ are staying there. You really could have written to me sooner: [15] we are all having to live in anxiety on your account. The sympathy and sorrow in the whole town was indescribable and general: your dear, blessed mother was known from her childhood and popular everywhere, for she was friendly to all and insulted no-one. The Hagenauers,⁸ the Rubinis,⁹ Schöpfer,¹⁰ other merchants, Mitzerl¹¹ etc. and even Frau von Peregrini,¹² the old widow of a professor and who no longer believed in life, had Holy Masses read for Mama. Concerning all our very close, good friends, I will say nothing, and regarding the violence I have to do to myself to get it out of my mind I will remain entirely silent. Your sister raises my spirits, and now my anxious thoughts are with you – [25] You see that I am sending you black powder¹³ by post: God grant that it finds you in good health; write to tell me how much you have had to pay for it. One takes 2 large, heaped knife-tips full. So where are you

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, knight, music director in Paris, Rue gros chenet opposite the house of the crescent at the hotel of the 4 sons of Aymon.”

² BD: No. 0464.

³ 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. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

⁴ BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward (Obersthofmeister). Cf. No. 0004/86.

⁵ BD: Josepha, Countess [Gräfin] Podstatsky, née Arco (1730-1790), spouse of Count [Graf] Alois Arnold Joseph Felix Podstatsky-Liechtenstein (1723-1793).

⁶ BD: Leopold Ferdinand III, Count [Graf] Arco (1764-1832), son of Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Leopold Julius Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, one of the younger court gentlemen. Probably a pupil of Leopold Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0347/203; 0337/111.

⁷ BD: Theresia Maria Josepha Felizitas Walpurga (* 1740), daughter of the Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Count [Graf] Georg Anton Felix Arco.

⁸ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁹ BD: The family of factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). The family was in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0016/67.

¹⁰ BD: Mentioned in No. 1023/46. The merchant Johann Baptist Schöpfer from Klarenbrunn († 1782).

¹¹ BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

¹² BD: The widow († 1786; cf. No. 0964/13) of Johann Dominikus Peregrini (1687-1748).

¹³ BD: Wolfgang mentioned that he lacked this in treating his mother, cf. No. 0458/10.

now? I suspect at Baron von Grimm's,¹⁴ in his house. All of blessed Mama's clothes – underclothes – and her watch – ring and other jewellery you will hopefully have kept safely. [30] All of this must afterwards be packed safely, with good protection and quite properly in a case or chest and sent here. But this must be done via some kind of coachman who is used by the merchants for sending their wares and, I believe, a merchant must be commissioned with the task. [35] Baron von Grimm or the Electoral Saxon Ambassador¹⁵ will know how to advise you, or Herr Vital Gschwendner,¹⁶ who is to be found at Messieurs Korman etc: Banquiers, Rue St. Martin. You can include in it the concertos by Schrötter¹⁷ |: of which I know only one, in E^b :| and the sonatas by Hüllmandl¹⁸ |: who is completely unknown to me :| – then the French violin school.¹⁹ If you can bring us joy with something by yourself, then do it! [40] When will such a comfortable opportunity to send us something come again? – – let us rather have a little patience. The words you slipped into your letter amid the events of the most sad departure of your dear mother, whom I had relinquished completely for your sake – and for my peace, where you make the request that no-one should enquire into the thoughts that you have in your mind [45] before the time comes:²⁰ this cannot in any way do anything to calm me, for I always believed you should treat me more like your best friend rather than a father, since you have a hundred proofs that in my life I have been more concerned for your happiness and pleasure than for mine; I thought you ought to consult me, [50] since I can think the matter through better and find the paths which could be taken N.B. without making me ill. – And surely you are not going to cast your father aside? – and were you are unable to dare a step which would have put you under crossfire? – You know how you have often been deceived by the opinions which you form so quickly in your head. Consider what is more profitable – [55] to listen to me, your father and friend – or to think up castles in the air – and, by realising them, to kill your father? We both kiss you and I am your sincere father, Mzt

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0462/39-41. Grimm was living with the Marquise d'Epinau, cf. No. 0458/40-41. 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.

¹⁵ BD: The Saxon ambassador was Johann Hilmar Adolf von Schönfeld. But Leopold possibly means Karl Heinrich Joseph, Count [Graf] Sickingen zu Sickingen, Palatine Ambassador (1777-1791) and patron of music in Paris.

¹⁶ BD: Properly: Karl Gallus Geschwendtner (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.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0458/100, 101. Johann Samuel Schrötter (1752-1788). The concertos were probably 6 *concertos for the harpsichord pianoforte* with accompanying parts for two violins and bass, opus 3, published in Paris around 1775. Mozart wrote cadenzas to 3 of his concertos: KV 624-626a Anh. [= KV⁶: II] D, F, G, H.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0458/100, 101. Nicolas-Joseph Hüllmandel (1751-1823). Nephew of Jean-Joseph Rodolphe, cf. No. 0449/101. Settled in Paris in 1776, published various sonatas for keyboard and violin and for keyboard alone, dedicated to the Duc de Guines (cf. No. 0440/13).

¹⁹ BD: The French version of Leopold Mozart's *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* (1756). Wolfgang had mentioned seeing it in a Paris music shop, cf. Nos. 0451/71 ff.; 0452/176 ff.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0458/80-88.