

0473.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, PARIS

À Monsieur / Monsieur Le Chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart maître de Musique / à / Paris / chez M.^r Le Baron / de Grimm etc. / Rue de la Chaussée / d'Antin, près de Boulevard.²

My dear son!

Salzb., 3rd Augusti, 1778

[5] You will have received my letter³ of the 13th Julii, and the one with the blackpowder⁴ of the 20th safely under the address of your previous lodgings. I am writing to you to assure you of the well-being of myself and your sister because I believe that you live in constant concern for us, as we do for you. Your enclosure for our friend Bullinger⁵ reached me, [10] but very late, for this letter did not reach Salzb. until the 24th, when you had clearly already dated it the 9th and, to my amazement, I received a letter from Abbé Lendorffer⁶ the day before, the 23rd, which was written 4 days after your letter, namely on the 13th, and yet arrived one day before it; from it I also saw that Lendorffer called on you on the 12th, [15] when you had already written the letter and probably taken it to the post, otherwise you would have made some mention of him. This letter from Lendorffer went via Kehl.⁷ I would therefore like you to discontinue writing *par Strasburg* etc. on future letters, but simply to write, and moreover at the top, somewhat large and underlined, Haute Allemagne:⁸ [20] that was what was on *Baron Grimm's*⁹ letters. In your letter I would have wished to learn in somewhat more detail¹⁰ of the illness of your dear mother and especially of her funeral¹¹ and of the sad predicament in which you must have found yourself faced with all these arrangements; I hope to read something in your next letter. You will of course have had to turn to [25] *Msr. Henna*¹² or another friend for support: to these |: whoever they may be :| I send, with my compliments, my heartfelt thanks. As far as the illness itself is concerned, I know anyway that my dear, blessed wife neglected herself and as a result was also neglected, for she economised to the limit, she put things off from one day to the next. [30] She would take no medicine, and believed everything would get better again on its own. Her constipation, her beautiful red colour, too much so for an old woman, her frequent

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

² = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Knight, Music Director in Paris, c/o Baron von Grimm etc., Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, near the Boulevard”.

³ BD: No. 0464.

⁴ BD: Black powder, which Mozart had wanted to use to treat his sick mother, was sent with No. 0467 to the old address applying before Mozart moved into Grimm's house.

⁵ BD: No. 462a, lost. 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).

⁶ BD: Matthäus Kasimir Lendorfer, who letter (lost) is No. 0463.

⁷ On the Rhine near Strasbourg.

⁸ Upper Germany.

⁹ 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. He was living with the Marquise d'Épinay just mentioned. After his mother's death, Mozart moved into accommodation in the house shared by Grimm and Madame d'Épinay. Cf. lines 97; No. 0462/40.

¹⁰ BD: Mozart provided more in No. 0471/34 ff.

¹¹ BD: The burial followed a church service in St. Eustache in the Quartier des Halles on 4th July, 1778.

¹² BD: Franz Joseph (François-Joseph) Haina (1720-1780), born near Prague, husband of the music publisher Gertrude Haina, nee Brockmüller: they were the first publishers of KV 179 (189a); 180 (173c); 254; 309 (284b); 310 (300d); 311 (284c); 354 (299a), cf. No. 617/66-68. 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.

attacks of catarrh, and that certain coughing of hers were sure signs that an internal inflammation was always to be feared. I had already written to both of you in May¹³ that she should not put off the bloodletting, since the climate and air in Paris is more feverish than in Salzburg, [35] and she nevertheless postponed¹⁴ it until the 11th *Junii*, and she would perhaps still not have had her blood let if she had not noticed the extreme necessity of it. On the day of the bloodletting her movements were altogether too hefty, she came home tired and hot, and they had probably let too little blood. [40] Finally, the *medicus* was called much too late, for as soon as the fever and shivering with diarrhoea was there, there was already great danger, but she did not say much – remained quiet – It's going to get better. You had your tasks to do, were not at home the whole day, and because she did not make very much of it, you took it lightly as well. In the meantime, [45] the obvious danger was drawing nearer, and only then did the *medicus* come – and it was far too late. If her constitution were not so outstandingly good, she would not have been able to last a fortnight. Enough! It is over, God willed it thus. The unbreakable chain of Divine Providence gave to your mother, who bore you, her life, even if her life was in the [50] greatest danger on the occasion of your birth¹⁵ and they considered her already almost lost – but she had to sacrifice herself for her son in another way, she was quite willing to leave Salzb. with you and, at a time when I was already hoping to have her back in Salzburg from Mannheim, always carried out as in my letters the arrangements that you both had to make, had even already written to my brother in Augsp.,¹⁶ [55] and then a letter¹⁷ came from you both which set me in amazement, in confusion and dismay and she declared¹⁸ in the same letter, without your knowing about it, that for good reasons, out of love for you, she was willing to travel with you to Paris: so all of this had to happen because the days of her life were numbered by Divine Providence and were now at an end – she had to die in Paris because she would not have died in Salzburg. [60] Let us worship the most holy Divine Ordinance and His most holy will in the deepest humility. What I withstood when both of you left surpasses all previous griefs in my life, the most terrible thing on top of that was that I took care of the packing of loading while miserably ill,¹⁹ always had to be busy down at the coach [65] while numb from anxiety and pain, and could not even discuss anything about your journey with both of you alone before your departure. – And yet I was seeing my good wife for the last time!

Now comes the news of her death – this is now the second, even harsher blow²⁰ – Now the eternal anxiety for your well-being, for my health, my son! [70] – and for – I do not know myself – – One more such blow, then I am finished! – Now something else!

You cannot know *Abbé* Lendorff, you were not born. He applies for a position of organist in Salzburg. I hear an outline of his life. He is the son of a Lutheran butcher from Augspurg. He ran away from his parents and became Catholic, [75] and that was in Augspurg. Now, I do not know which clergyman attended to him, they had him study and learn music. He came to Salzb. as a student, the choirmaster at St. Peter's²¹ always used to be a secular priest and was at the same time organist. He died, and Lendorffer applied for

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0448/230.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0453/135.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0022/23-25.

¹⁶ BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augspurg; cf. No. 0006/7.

¹⁷ BD: No. 0416.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0416/152.

¹⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0472/22.

²⁰ BD: The first was hearing Wolfgang's veiled (marriage?) plans hinted at in 0416/54.

²¹ Ancient Benedictine foundation in Salzburg.

his post, got it, and became a priest. He was always with Eberlin²² of blessed memory [80] and daily in the company of Adlgasser,²³ Meissner²⁴ and a certain clown named Steinheil²⁵ |: who also drank himself to death :|. They caroused around at night and Lendorffer was drunk every day. Other little matters arose, he had to worry about his post at St. Peter's, there were debts too – he accordingly looked secretly for a place as a choral vicar in Augsburg or [85] some other benefice, and got it, went there, conducted his life in the same manner, frequently incurred debts – and ran off –. Now the word was that he had become Lutheran again, then they discovered that he had gone to Stutgard.²⁶ It was the will of blind fate that a position as chaplain at the court in Württemberg was just vacant, he got it because of his skill in music. – [90] But it did not last long at court, I don't know why, and he was put out in the country. Now no-one heard anything more of him for 14 or 15 years, so he was assumed dead and no-one thought about him any more; so you can imagine how very taken aback I was to see a letter from him. As I opened the letter²⁷ with trembling and read *Paris, 13th Julliet*²⁸ at the top, [95] I threw it away and thought a third person wanted to write something dismal about you: Nannerl read it and then I had to laugh, and you would also laugh if you were to read it. He begins: after I came back from Britain to Paris on 23rd Juin²⁹ etc: etc: Great as my joy was to see your dearest, esteemed son, incomparably greater was the pain over the loss etc. [100] whom I can still vividly imagine as she was 27 years ago with her rose coloured cheeks; comfort yourself *avec les Nuits de Young, traduits de l'angloise par Mr: Le Tourneur.*³⁰ etc. That is Young's book *Night Thoughts on Life, Death and Immortality*. Then he writes that you will have to compose according to French etiquette in Paris, [105] and that the French raise a master up to heaven today and down to hell tomorrow, and other such laughable expressions. <Now you see what kind of man this Lendorffer is. He is a light-headed man>, whose company <is not for you>. If Herr Lendorffer should call on you, you can tell him that I have not got a reply ready, [110] nor will I get one so soon, for here everything becomes endlessly drawn out and finally turns out to be nothing. As soon as I can, I will immediately write to him. *News!* *Ferlendis*³¹ resigned 3 days ago, and had already concluded his service with the *ultimo Junii*.³² This was all the more unexpected and painful inasmuch as the Archbishop,³³ especially in the last two months, [115] always gave him a present of one or 2 *ducats*³⁴ every time he played a concerto, he was the favourite among the musicians, has also really learnt a great deal

²² BD: Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762). School in Augsburg; university in Salzburg 1721-1723, but took a position with the court music without finishing studies. From 1749 in charge of music at court and in the cathedral. Cf. No. 0036/60.

²³ BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings. Cf. No. 0041/17. He died on 22nd December, 1777. His last hours are described in No. 0395/20 ff.

²⁴ BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Niklas Meissner (c. 1691-1760). Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

²⁵ BD: Nothing known.

²⁶ Stuttgart, traditionally predominantly Protestant.

²⁷ BD: No. 0463, lost.

²⁸ = "July".

²⁹ = "June".

³⁰ "with Young's *Nights*, translated from the English by Msr. Le Tourneur". BD: *Night Thoughts on Life, Death and Immortality* by Edward Young (1683-1765), published in 1744/46. A German translation appeared in 1751.

³¹ BD: Oboist in the Salzburg court music.

³² The last day of June.

³³ BD: 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. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

³⁴ BD: 1 or 2 ducats = 4.5 or 9 florins.

from *Besozzi*³⁵ since he has been here. That is now followed by another story which only I know. *Ferrari*³⁶ will take leave of us at the end *Augusti*. These 2 stories will also break *Brunetti's*³⁷ staff – the Italians are now losing favour. [120] Now everyone is turning against them, Count *Arco*,³⁸ Count Lodron's wife,³⁹ the 2 *Starnbergs*,⁴⁰ the Bishop of *Königsgratz*⁴¹ etc., and I shrug my shoulders and say nothing. *Ferlendis'* pretext is that the air does not suit his wife. Now I will have to advertise for hunting horn players, oboists, – tenors, violoncellists, violinists, and – No – not for an *organist*. – [125] They are always waiting for something from me, but they are waiting in vain: you can be sure, and confidently believe, my dear son, that I will die sooner without you, and that I would live many years longer if I could have the pleasure of having you with me, for I am, with the exception of my ailing soul, in good health, praise God. Only the matter must be done well [130] – profitably, and reputably. Given that, the location here,⁴² as a point in the middle between Munich, Vienna and Italy would always be very advantageous – for Manheim has been transferred.⁴³

*Seau*⁴⁴ has already been presented in Manheim, and the court will soon come to Munich again. It seems to me we will, if possible, lay down a new foundation of male and female singers and instrumentalists, [135] the Archbishop has already charged me with some such commissions. Describe the Rotfischer⁴⁵ fellow to me, but truthfully, without partiality. Your sister kisses you a million times, she is astonishingly industrious, and is in truth taking complete care of me. I commend us both to *Baron von Grimm* and *Mdme. D'Epinau*,⁴⁶ I send most obedient thanks [140] for all the graciousness that you enjoy there. – Take care, my son, of your health, I must close, the post is leaving.

Mzt

You no longer need me to send me *Vogler's* book,⁴⁷ we can get it here. Are Ekard⁴⁸ – and Hannauer⁴⁹ still alive?

³⁵ BD VIII: Carlo Besozzi (1738-1791), son of Antonio Besozzi (1714-1781), oboist and composer of oboe concertos and wind quintets. Served in Dresden 1755-1792. His uncles are mentioned in No. 0411/64-65. Cf. No. 0450/122, 134. He had been in Salzburg in May, 1778.

³⁶ BD: Antonio Ferrari, leader of the cellos in the court music and violinist at the cathedral. Cf. 337/59.

³⁷ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

³⁸ BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), Royal High Marshall [Obersthofmarschall].

³⁹ BD: Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780), wife of hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. For her name-days (13th June) in 1776 and 1777, Mozart composed divertimenti: in 1776 KV 247, in 1777 KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H). In February, 1776, he furthermore wrote for her and her two daughters, Aloisia and Giuseppina, the concerto for three claviers KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, "Pepperl") was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.

⁴⁰ BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1748-1819), cathedral canon in Salzburg, and Gundacker Franz Xaver, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1747-1804). Cf. 0399/13, 30, 32.

⁴¹ BD: Another member of the Arco family, Joseph Adam, Count [Graf] Arco.

⁴² BD: Salzburg. Leopold continues his efforts to bring Wolfgang back to Salzburg. Cf. No. 0457/12 ff.

⁴³ BD: The Palatine Elector (in Mannheim) had now become the Bavarian Elector as well (Munich).

⁴⁴ BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0471/219-220.

⁴⁵ BD: Paul Rothfischer (1746-1785), violinist. Mozart met him during his Mannheim stay. Cf. No. 0416/11, No. 0462/210 ff.

⁴⁶ BD: Louise-Florence-Pétronille Tardieu d'Esclavelles, Marquise d'Epinau (1726-1783), divorced since 1749. Hostess to such figures as J.J. Rousseau, Grimm (see above; she had a liaison with him 1755-1778), Diderot. Visited Voltaire. Author and collaborator in Grimm's *Correspondance littéraire*.

⁴⁷ BD: Georg Joseph Vogler (1749-1814). Mannheim deputy music director. Also active as teacher and theorist. Mozart usually spoke disparagingly of him. Wrote *Tonwissenschaft und Tonsetzkunst* ["The science of tones and the art of combining tones"], Mannheim, 1776, dedicated to the Palatinate Elector. BD: Cf. No. 0365/13.

⁴⁸ BD: Johann Gottfried Eckard (1735-1809), keyboard player, settled in Paris and died there. Cf. No. 0087/7.

[145] On the 4th July your Cassation for Lodron⁵⁰ was performed in the street by Kolb⁵¹ in front of the Andretters' house.⁵²

On the 9th *Julii* at Herr von Mayer's,⁵³ in front of his house, night music by Kolb, one of your *Finalmusik*⁵⁴ pieces, and your *Concerto* for Kolb:⁵⁵ we heard it delightfully across the water in our rooms, for we knew nothing about it.

⁴⁹ Leontzi Honauer (*1735), keyboard player and composer in Paris. Cf. No. 0080/150, No. 0444/49.

⁵⁰ BD: One of the two possible Cassations: KV 247, in 1777 KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H). Cf. note line 120.

⁵¹ BD: Mentioned in No. 0446/90. This is probably the merchants' factor and city councillor Johann Anton Kolb, cf. Nos. 0088/191; 0337/58. It is known that Mozart wrote a violin concerto for Kolb (cf. No. 0473/148). Possibilities include KV 207 or 271a (271i). But perhaps Franz Xaver Kolb, who was administrator of the Order of St. Rupert [Ruperti-Ritterorden] and for the Chancellor of the Salzburg Parliament of the Estates, Johann Ernst von Antretter(n).

⁵² BD: Mozartplatz 4, home of Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house. Cf. No. 0533/15.

⁵³ BD: Joachim Rupert Mayr von Mayrn (1732-1796), seneschal and financial administrator of the Salzburg workhouse. Lived in Griesgasse 4.

⁵⁴ Music for festivities marking the end of the academic year in Salzburg.

⁵⁵ BD: Cf. note on line 145.