

Munich, 8<sup>th</sup> January,  
1779*Mon très cher Père!*<sup>2</sup>

I hope you have received my last letter<sup>3</sup> safely, the one I wanted to send off with the hired coachman,<sup>4</sup> but which, because I missed him, I have handed in at the post; [5] I have received all your missives, and thus also your last one<sup>5</sup> of the 31<sup>st</sup> *Dec.*<sup>bre</sup>, via Herr *Beckee*;<sup>6</sup> – I let him read my letter and he let me read his; –

I assure you, my dearest father, that I am now entirely looking forward to you |: but not to Salzburg |: because I have now been assured by your last letter [10] that you know me better than before! – There never was any other cause for the long delays in travelling home – for the sadness which, because I opened my whole heart to my friend *Beckee*, I could no longer conceal – than this doubt; – what other reason of any kind could I have? – I know of no guilt for which I would have to fear accusations from you [15]; – I have done no wrong |: for what I call a wrong is what is not fitting for a Christian and honest man |: – in a word, I have joyful expectations; and already feel confident of the most pleasant and happiest days – but only in the company of yourself and my dear sister; –

[20] I swear to you upon my honour that I cannot tolerate Salzburg and its inhabitants |: I am speaking of the Salzburg natives |: – for me their language – their manner of living is entirely unbearable; – you would not believe how I suffered during *Mad.*<sup>me</sup> *Robinig's*<sup>7</sup> visit here; – for I have not spoken to such a clown for a long time; – and, to my yet greater misfortune, [25] the simplistic and especially stupid *Mosmayer*<sup>8</sup> was with her – Now to continue; – yesterday I went to the Electress<sup>9</sup> with my dear friend *Cannabich*<sup>10</sup> and presented my sonatas; she lives in quarters here just like those which I will quite certainly have sometime – just like a *private* citizen, very pretty and dainty, except for the view, which is *miserable* – [30] we were with her for fully half an hour, and she was very gracious; – Now, I have already arranged for her to be informed that I will depart in a few days so that I may receive my settlement soon – as far as Count *Seau*<sup>11</sup> is concerned, you need not worry, for I do not believe the matter will go through his hands, and if it does, he need not grumble; – Now, short and sweet: believe me when I say that I am on fire with longing to embrace you and my dear sister again [35] – if only it were not in *Salzbourg*; –

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

<sup>2</sup> = “My very dear father!”

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0516.

<sup>4</sup> BD: The coachman makes an appearance in No. 0516/46-47.

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 0515.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there.

<sup>7</sup> BD: (Maria)Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts'. Cf. No. 0016/67.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Perhaps a Munich resident acquainted with the Robinigs via business.

<sup>9</sup> “Churfürstin”. BD: Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Married Karl Theodor, her cousin, in 1742. The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l), published in Paris by J.G. Sieber, are dedicated to her.

<sup>10</sup> BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter Rosa.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Seeau's role in any possible gifts to Wolfgang in Munich was mentioned in No. 0515/62-63. 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. 0300/11.

but since there is so far no other way of seeing you except by travelling to *Salzbourg*, I set off with joy –

I must hurry, the post is leaving; – my little cousin<sup>12</sup> is here – why? – to please her cousin? – that is of course the reason given! – but – Well, we shall speak further of this in [40] *Salzbourg*; – for this reason I very much wish <that she> might come to *Salzbourg* with me! – You will find something in her own hand<sup>13</sup> added on to the fourth page; – she would be happy to come; – accordingly, if it would be a pleasure for you to have her with you, be so kind as to write immediately to your esteemed brother<sup>14</sup> so that everything is organised – [45] you will certainly be pleased with her once you see and know her – everybody likes her; – Now take very good care of yourself indeed, dearest and best of fathers; – I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister with my whole heart, and am eternally, sir,

*Mad. Hepp, née Tosson*<sup>15</sup> [50] died just yesterday during confinement;  
– she too has had her life  
ended by the *doctors*; –

your most obedient son,  
W A Mozart

MARIA ANNA THEKLA MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

*Monsieur mon très chér oncle*<sup>16</sup>

[55] I hope that you, sir, along with *Mademoselle my cousin*,<sup>17</sup> are in good health; I had the honour of finding that gentleman, the honourable son,

WRITTEN BY MOZART ABOVE "SON":

cousin

MARIA ANNA THEKLA, IN MOZART'S HAND:

in very good health indeed in Munich, his wish is that I should go with him to Salzburg, but I do not yet know if I will have the honour of seeing you:

INK-BLOT; BELOW IT TWO LINES IN MOZART'S HAND:

[60] my cousin's portrait; / she is writing in shirt sleeves! –

MARIA ANNA THEKLA, IN MOZART'S HAND:

but my cousin is a proper clown, as you see: I hope, *Mon cher oncle*,<sup>18</sup> that you are enjoying the best of health, 1000 compliments to *Mademoiselle my cousin, je juis de tout mon coevr*<sup>19</sup>

IN MOZART'S HAND:

[65] *Monsieur*  
*votre invaiable Cochon*<sup>20</sup>

MARIA ANNA THEKLA, IN MOZART'S HAND:

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<sup>12</sup> BD: His "bäasle", Maria Thekla Mozart from Augsburg, frequently in correspondence with Mozart. She had obviously taken up Wolfgang suggestion's (No. 0511/11) to come to Munich to see him. She may have stayed with the couple Tavernier mentioned in No. 0364/51.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Lines 53 ff.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Maria Anna Thumbacher (1757-1779), known as Maria Anna d'Hosson after her mother remarried. In 1777 he married Johann Philipp Rasso Johann Nepomuk von Hepp (1753-1798). As Mozart mentions in No. 0333/60, the Hepp family was among the most respected patrician families in Munich.

<sup>16</sup> = "Monsieur, my very dear uncle".

<sup>17</sup> BD: Nannerl.

<sup>18</sup> = "My dear uncle".

<sup>19</sup> = "I am with all my heart".

<sup>20</sup> BD: Should be "votre invariable cochon" [= "Your unchanging pig"]. "Cochon" [pig] resembles "cousin".

Munich, the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>e</sup> moi.<sup>21</sup>  
1779:

Miss Mozart

IN MOZART'S HAND:

where the latter has not yet shit —

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<sup>21</sup> = "1st month" (January).