

0521. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MUNICH

à Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart maître de musique / à / Munic¹

Salzb., 11th January,
1779

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

[5] From my letter³ which I dispatched to Msr. Becke⁴ on the 7th, and since this was accompanied not only by an enclosure⁵ for Herr Geschwendner⁶ but also by some lines⁷ written to yourself so as not to have to lay too many letters together one inside the other, you will have seen that I wish you to make efforts to leave with Herr Gschwendner, since I requested this of him in the letter and [10] you could not find a more comfortable opportunity, and at the same time one more advantageous for your purse, since his chaise is very comfortable, and even if I had to pay half of it, you can go by post-coach, but I still would not need to pay much. – He will probably not take anything at all. – But you must suggest it to him: and always join in paying for the meals. [15] I therefore insist that you seize this opportunity, and, since he is leaving earlier than Md.^{me} Robini,⁸ arrange all your affairs accordingly if you do not wish to insult me most gravely. Should Herr Gschwendner, as is his custom, leave on the 14th or 15th, we can then go to the first evening ball here on the 17th. Now, you wrote to me, dated the 8th, that my niece⁹ is in Munich; [20] that you wish that she might go with you to Salzb., – That she would like to go –, that if it were a pleasure for me to see her, I should write to my brother about it. – I have already invited my niece a number of times: but I also wrote her that in Salzb. the winter is not as beautiful as the summer. She furthermore wrote to me that she would come, [25] since the post-coach in Munich is always at her service thanks to a friend. But you cannot stay on in order to wait for an answer from my brother in this matter, for I insist that you leave with Herr Gschwendner, I have told everyone that you are coming with him, and you will surely not take things to extremes and make a permanent liar of me. [30] If my niece wishes to honour me with her presence, she can come on afterwards with the post-coach on the 20th, since we would in the meantime have to arrange a room for her, the one where Mitzerl¹⁰ used to be, since you are well aware that the other room at the front cannot be heated because of the terribly large stoves. The conducteur¹¹ of the post-coach, who is a solid man, [35] will take care of all your needs and I shall certainly speak to him so that he pays for everything on the journey. But you must not stay on, and I hope you will have made your arrangements, following the instructions of my letter of the seventh, in such a way that nothing holds you up, – that you hand over your baggage |: what you do not need |: to the post-coach on the 13th and can set off with Herr Gschwendner, [40] for he will certainly not

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, music director in Munich”.

² = “My very dear son!”

³ BD: No. 0517.

⁴ BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there.

⁵ BD: No. 0519, lost.

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

⁷ BD: No. 0518, lost.

⁸ 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.

⁹ BD: Wolfgang’s cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in the letters as the “Bäsle” [“little cousin”], cf. No. 0358.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ = “driver”.

refuse you this favour. Now you have understood me. The present from the Electress¹² cannot keep you, since the sonatas were presented on the 7th, thus everything, if one will only pursue it actively, will be over in a week: there is no excuse here. You have also seen the *opera* and therefore done everything that you wanted to. [45] I therefore expect you with Herr Gschwendner without fail and, kissing a million times with your sister, I am your loving father,

Mzt

Herr Ignatz Hagenauer¹³ von Triest was here for a fortnight, he wanted to leave before Christmas; when I gave him hopes at the time that you could arrive by then, [50] he stayed on over the feast-days as well because he wished most longingly to see you. He asked me to pass on 1000 compliments to you. Herr *Bullinger*¹⁴ etc. commend themselves.

I and my daughter commend ourselves to our young [55] cousin and here I enclose a letter to my brother so that she can then immediately put it in the post if she wants to come on afterwards with the post-coach on the 20th. [60]

¹² 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) are dedicated to her. Cf. No. 0383/84-85.

¹³ BD: Ignaz Joachim Hagenauer (1749-1824), fifth son of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. He set up the branch of the business in Trieste. Cf. Nos. 0389/114; 0713/52. Johann Lorenz Hagenauer was for a long the Mozarts' landlord and supporter.

¹⁴ 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).