

0525.¹ MOZART TO MARIA ANNA THEKLA MOZART,² AUGSBURG

De Salsbourg / a Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marie / Anne de Mozart
ph.³ / a / Augsburg / In Swabia. / To be delivered in / Jesuits' Lane / Par Munic⁴

Dearest, best,
[5] most beautiful, most lovable,
most charming,
though harnessed by an unworthy
cousin,
little bass.⁶
[10] or
little violoncello!

Salsbourg, 10th May
1709⁵
Blow into my behind.
– : –
That's good!
Your health!

Whether I, *Joannes Chrisostomus Sigismundus Amadeus Wolfgangus Mozartus*, will conceivably be capable of appeasing, calming or allaying the anger which is surely raising your enchanting beauty |: *visibilia* and *invisibilia* :|⁷ by the full height of a slipper-sole [15] is a question which I do however also wish to answer: – allay⁸ means as much as to lay someone literally in a litter – I am by nature very given to peaceful reasoning, and I also enjoy a touch of seasoning, especially with beef – it is therefore quite correct with Leipzig, although *M:^{sr} Roughfig*⁹ will certainly wish to affirm, or rather assolid,¹⁰ that this pastry will never rise [20] – and I can of course not possibly believe that – nor would it even be worth the trouble of bending down for it – yes, if it were a bag full of *Convention* kreuzers¹¹ – that would be something that one could finally glean, lift or hand on up. – So, as I said, I could not let it go for less, that is the nearest price – I will not negotiate, because I am not a woman; [25] and herewith Watch Out! Yes, my dear little violoncello! Such is the wheeling and dealing in this world, one man has the bag and the other has the money, and whoever does not have both has nothing, nothing is as much as very little, and little is not much, consequently nothing is always less than little, and little is always more than not much, much is always more than less, and – that is how it is, [30] and that is how it will be. Make an end of this letter, close it, send it away where you stay and to its goal – *Feigele*.¹²
your most obedient, most submissive servant, Ma'am,
Latus over *V.S.*¹³ your arse is not a Viennese bum.

¹ BD V, p. 587: This letter should be dated 1790 and belongs after No. 0531; cf. fn. 4 below on the dating.

² BD: Mozart's cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in Mozart's letters as his "Bäsle" ["little cousin"].

³ BD: or "ps:".

⁴ From Salzburg to Mademoiselle Marie Anne de Mozart ph: in Augsburg in Swabia. To be delivered in Jesuits' Lane via Munich.

⁵ BD: The reference in line 35 to the Böhm troupe's presence in Augsburg dates the letter to after May, 1780; cf. note on No. 0509/36. The date 1709 enables a rhyme with the next line in Salzburg dialect (here rendered "nine"/"behind").

⁶ BD: the diminutive "bässchen" can be understood as "little cousin" or as "little bass".

⁷ All things visible and invisible.

⁸ In the following lines Mozart plays on the words "besänftigen" (allay), "sanft" (gentle), "Sänfte" (litter, Sedan chair) and "Senf" (mustard).

⁹ BD: "Feigelrapèe", presumably a reference to Karl Bernhard von Feigele, who was later to fall in love with Maria Anna Thekla (cf. line 35; No. 0523/3). [Feige = fig].

¹⁰ BD: The German "behaupten" (affirm) contains the word "haupt", meaning "head"; Mozart then replaces "haupt" by "kopf", another word for "head", and creates a verb "beköpfen".

¹¹ Coinage established in the Holy Roman Empire by the Convention of 1753.

¹² Cf. fn. 8.

¹³ BD: *V.S.* "vertatur subito" = "turn at once". Mozart's "latus hinüber" = "Seite hinüber" = "side/page over".

P.S. Has Böhm's troupe left already? – tell me, best of souls, [35] I implore you for the sake of heaven! Ah! – – – They will now be in Ulm, won't they? Oh, convince me of that, I solemnly adjure you by all that is holy – the gods know that I mean it sincerely.

Is Thüremichele¹⁴ still alive? –

Blow into my hole.

[40] How did Vogt get along with his wife¹⁵? –

Surely they both got deeply into strife?

We face only questions in life.

A Tender Ode!¹⁶ –

[45] Your image sweet, oh cousin,
floats ever round my gaze,

But I am sadly tearful
That – – this is not yourself.

[50] I see it when the evening
is falling, when the moon
is bright, I see – lamenting –
That this is not yourself.

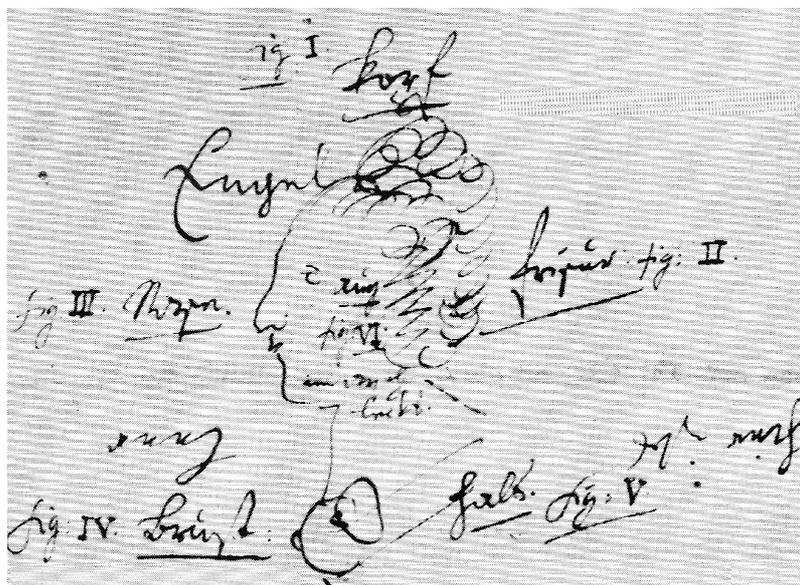
By all the valley's flowers,
which I will pluck for her,
By all the myrtle's branches,

[55] which I will weave for her,
I charge you, mere chimera,

Arise and be transformed,
Transform yourself, chimera S. V.¹⁷

Into my cousin's self. P. T.¹⁸

[60] *finis coronat opus*,¹⁹ Lord von PigPrick.



[fig. I: Head. fig. II: Coiffure. fig. III: Nose. fig. IV: Breast. fig. V: Neck. fig. VI: Eye.]²⁰

¹⁴ BD: the "Tura Michele", a St. Michael figure on the Perlachturm tower in Augsburg which appeared every hour on St. Michael's Day.

¹⁵ Peter Vogt was the ballet master for Böhm's troupe, his wife an actress and singer in the same troupe.

¹⁶ BD: almost entirely following Klopstock's *Ode an Edone*.

¹⁷ BD: S.V. "salva verecundia" – modesty being preserved.

¹⁸ BD: P.T. "pleno titulo" – with full title.

¹⁹ = "The end crowns the work".

²⁰ Cf. larger facsimile of whole page in 0525 fac.

Compliments from myself and from all of us to your esteemed Herr Procreator and Frau Procreatrix

– namely to the one who took the trouble to create you and to one who let it to be done to her. *Adieu – Adieu – Angel.*

My father sends you, madam, his unclly blessing, and my sister sends you [65] a thousand *cousinly* kisses. And your cousin sends you what he is not allowed to give you.

Adieu – Adieu – Angel.

With the next *regular* post I will write more, and it will be something most sensible and necessary, and that is the way it must remain until further notice. [70]

Adieu – Adieu – Angel –

ON THE ENVELOPE:

Adieu – Adieu – Engel