

0531.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO MARIA ANNA THEKLA MOZART,<sup>2</sup> AUGSBURG

Salzburg, le 24 d'avril<sup>3</sup>  
1780

*Ma très chère Cousine!*<sup>4</sup>

You answered my last letter<sup>5</sup> so nicely that I do not know where to look for words with which to manifest adequately my statement of gratitude, [5] and at the same time to assure you anew of the extent to which I am, madam,

Your most obedient servant and  
most sincere cousin

[BD: ALMOST THE WHOLE PAGE IS LEFT BLANK UNTIL THE SIGNATURE COMES:]

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

I would have liked to write more, but the space, as you see,  
[10] is  
too *Adieu, adieu*  
restricted.

But now, in joking and earnest, you must surely forgive me this once for not answering your most treasured letter as it deserves, from one word to the next, [15] and allow me to write only what is most necessary; in the coming days I will try to improve my mistakes as much as possible – it is now 14 days since I replied<sup>6</sup> to *M<sup>sr</sup>. Böhm*<sup>7</sup> – my only concern is to know that my letter did not go astray, which I would greatly regret – for otherwise I know only too well that *M<sup>sr</sup>. Böhm* is only too busy every day [20] – be it as it may be, I would be so glib, my dearest squib, as to ask you to convey a thousand *compliments* – and I wait only for his say-so, and the finished *aria*<sup>8</sup> will be there. – I heard that Munschhauser<sup>9</sup> is ill as well; is that true? – that would not be good for *M<sup>sr</sup>. Böhm*. – Now, little cousin, you are sure to be going to the theatre every day, [25] even by storm and hail, because you have free *entrée*?<sup>10</sup> – there is nothing new I know of to write to you about, except that, sadly, *Joseph*<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Text (original) taken from p. 535-536 of BD IV.

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

<sup>3</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

<sup>4</sup> = "My very dear cousin!"

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 0530c, lost. The answer was No. 0530d, lost

<sup>6</sup> BD: No. 0530b, lost, an answer to No. 0530a, lost.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Johann Friedrich Böhm (1740/50 – 1792), director of a well-known touring troupe of actors. Toured throughout German-speaking areas. Involved in performances of Mozart works: a German version of *La finta giardiniera* (1780); 1787: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*; 1794: *The Magic Flute*. *Zaide* and perhaps a lost aria (No. 0531/22) may have been written for him.

<sup>8</sup> BD: It is unlikely that the new aria was for the German version of *La finta giardiniera* KV 196, which Böhm performed in Augsburg under the title *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* on 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1780 and in Frankfurt am Main under the title *Sandrina oder Die verstellte Gräfin*.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Actually "Murschhauser", cf. No. 0529/9.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Like the Mozart family in Salzburg, Mozart's cousin was obviously given free admission to performances by Böhm's troupe.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second of five sons of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792): Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

Hagenauer |: in whose business office you, my sister and I drank *chocolata*<sup>12</sup> :| has died – a great loss for his father – his brother *Johannes*<sup>13</sup> |: the married one :|, who was pretty generally accustomed to lazing around [30] because he could depend totally on his brother of blessed memory, now finds he is needed everywhere, which leaves a sour aftertaste in his stomach. –

Now, my dearest, best, most beautiful, most well-behaved and most lovable one, – the writing will soon be finished! My special request is all news in and out of the house – [35] about all the people whose compliments you sent, to whom twice as many in return – *Adieu* – next time a whole sheet; yet – before that, from you, my treasure, a whole book full – *adieu*. From my father Papa and my sister Squeamy<sup>14</sup> everything imaginable – the three of us, 2 boys and a girl, commend ourselves to your parents<sup>15</sup> 12345’’678987’654321 times, and to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, 624 *compliments* from me alone, from my father 1000 and from my sister 150, making together 1774 and *summa summarum*<sup>16</sup> 12345’’678987’’656095.

[BD: The next text should actually be No. 0525.]

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<sup>12</sup> BD: The visit to Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer by Wolfgang, Nannerl and his cousin must have taken place during the several weeks from the middle of January, 1779, when his cousin was staying with them in Salzburg.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Johannes Hagenauer: BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer and the member of the family most frequently mentioned in the letters. He took over the family business on the death of his father in 1792, but became so depressed after the death of his wife Maria Anna in 1794 (1748-1794; they married in 1775) that his aged mother then took over the business.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Mozart’s word “Zizibe” is still current in dialect and refers to a girl given to exaggerated sensitivity.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Leopold’s brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7. His wife was Maria Viktoria, née Eschenbach (1727-1808).

<sup>16</sup> = “Sum of the sums.” BD: The calculation is wrong, and clearly no serious attempt at accuracy was made.