

[Salzburg, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1780]

Here is the suit,<sup>1</sup> such as it is. I had to have it patched quickly, for the whole *taffeta* lining in the *camisole* was torn to shreds.<sup>2</sup> I am writing this on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> at half past 9 in the evening, [5] for today Herr Esser<sup>3</sup> gave his *concert* in the theatre. No less than 40 florins were left over for him, he is travelling with this *diligence*<sup>4</sup> and will call on you without delay. He is a spirited, old, clownish fellow. But he plays |: when he plays seriously :| with the most secure and astonishing execution, and yet also has a beautiful adagio, which few strong *allegro* players have. Now, when he gets into having fun, however, [10] he plays only on the G-string with the greatest dexterity. With a little piece of pencil wood he played pieces beating on the strings with astonishing speed and accuracy. His playing on the *viola d'amour* is charming. And what touched me and astounded me, although apparently a piece of childishness, was his whistling with his mouth, where he whistled a *recitative* and *aria* to defy any singer [15] with all the expression, slides, *détaché*, trills etc., in short astonishingly, and accompanied himself *pizzicato* on the *violin*.

He called on us daily, <mad as a goose like Johann Hus>, but has at the same time a skilful genius that earns much money – and <yet never has money>. *Addio*, we both kiss you, on Monday I will write to you again, take care of yourself! [20] I am your faithful father

Mzt

Salzb., 9<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1780.

The 2 trumpet *sordini*<sup>5</sup> are in with the suit.

Yesterday Count Ernst's spouse<sup>6</sup> received the Last Holy Anointing. Today she made her Testament.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0555/8 ff.; 0557/2 ff.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Leopold's "fexen" [clowns] instead of "fetzen" [shreds] could be intentional.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0556/19. Karl Michael Esser (\* c. 1735, untraceable after 1791). He is not mentioned in the travel notes for Mainz.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Large coach, often used for the regular mail routes.

<sup>5</sup> = "mutes". BD: Cf. Nos. 0545/26 ff.; 0555/24 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Maria Antonia, Countess [Gräfin] Lodron, née Arco, wife of Hereditary Marshal Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron. It was for her and her two daughters that Mozart wrote the concerto for 3 keyboards KV 242 in 1776.