

0581. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MUNICH

Salzb., 22<sup>nd</sup> January,  
1781

*Mon très cher Fils!*

Herr *Varesco*<sup>1</sup> was with me just a moment ago; this voracious, money-addicted clown cannot wait to get his money, but I told him he must be patient [5] until *Madame von Robinig*<sup>2</sup> comes, who will bring it with her for him. This fellow, complete with his good income, is loaded with debts. He said they could of course send it to him by post-coach and wanted to disguise it as if Herr Schachtner<sup>3</sup> had spoken to him on the subject: yet, since Herr Schachtner had in fact not only never called on me but, on the contrary, [10] when I raised the matter with him myself, said to me that he found Herr *Varesco*'s persistence disconcerting and he<sup>\*4</sup> has never reckoned with anything other than that he would not receive the money before\* our return from Munich.

The\* book-keeper, clerk or shop assistant, *salvo titulo*,<sup>5</sup> to Frau\* von *Robini* could have taken it with him, the one who came ahead and\* is already here. [15] But you could not have known this.

Haven't\* you handed in the money to Frau von *Robini* yet? -- you\*) must not keep it in your hands so long, -- If it were to be stolen from you! Count S[e]eau<sup>6</sup> writes in his letter to *Varesco che habbia Consegnata la Cambiale al Sgr Maestro di Capella*.<sup>7</sup> The word *Cambiale* means bill of exchange. [20] If it were only a bill of exchange, you would have had to send it to me in a letter in order to draw the money here and to be able to give each his due. But since this has not happened, I suspect and must believe that it is cash. -- Here it depends on the exchange rates again. Enough! Once I am finally in Munich myself, I must make arrangements for each to receive his due separately. [25] *Varesco mi a seccato i cuglioni*:<sup>8</sup>

Now Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> is the date fixed for our departure. Since I no longer have a *chaise* of my own, we are forced to take a horse-hirer or hired coachman. We therefore cannot arrive earlier than the evening of Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, and indeed not easily before 8 o'clock in the evening, since the weather has now worsened [30] or, rather, the roads. -- But should any quite extraordinary occurrence, which I cannot consider probable, hinder our departure, you would find a letter at the post office arriving with the Salzburg post in Munich on Friday evening, the same day as our arrival.

So you have nothing more to write me about: nor have I for you; [35] we shall deal with the other matters in person.

<sup>1</sup> BD: *Abbate Giambattista Varesco* (c. 1736-1805), court chaplain in Salzburg from 1766, wrote the texts for *Idomeneo* KV 366 and *L'oca del Cairo* KV 422. The latter was his response to Mozart's request for an opera buffa for Vienna.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> BD: Schlachtner: BD: Cf. No. 0089/73. Johann Andreas (he called himself "André") Schachtner (1731-1795). Became Salzburg High Princely Court and Field Trumpeter [Hochfürstlicher Hof- und Feldtrompeter] in 1754. He also played violin (cf. No. 1210/99) and violoncello. He published a book of poems in 1765, dedicating it to Johann Christoph Gottsched. Probably contributed texts to KV 42, 50 (46b), 196; 345 (336a), 344 (336b), the German version of KV 366. In 1792 gave Nannerl detailed information on Mozart's early years, cf. No. 1210.

<sup>4</sup> BD: The words marked with an asterisk were damaged by a tear and made up in the margin by Nissen.

<sup>5</sup> BD: = "in ignorance of his proper title."

<sup>6</sup> "Graf". BD: 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.

<sup>7</sup> BD: = "that he had consigned the bill of exchange to the worthy music director".

<sup>8</sup> BD: = "Boring the balls off me, getting on my nerves".

This I must tell you about, for it is much too curious. The old Privy Councillor *Amand*<sup>9</sup> will marry – he is approaching 70. – and whom, then? – Countess von *Wallis*<sup>10</sup> chambermaid. The young, flighty girl from Bohemia. – Just imagine how everyone is laughing. And just imagine what kind of faces all his worthy sons are making. [40] – Commend us everywhere, we both kiss you and I am your sincere father

L Mozart

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<sup>9</sup> “geheimde Rath” BD: Franz Anton von Amann (†1785), privy councillor [Geheimer Rat], tax inspector.

<sup>10</sup> “Gräfin” BD: Countess [Gräfin] Maria Franziska Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop, a leading supporter of Mozart’s return to Salzburg. Married to Olivier, Count [Graf] Wallis (1744-1832), she lived in one wing of the Archbishop’s residence, kept her own court, and was to a certain extent the female representative of the Archbishop’s court.