

0601. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

|: *de vienne* :| *À Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart Maitre de la / Capelle de S: A: R: L'ar = / = cheveque de et à / Salsbourg*¹

*Mon très cher Père!*²

[Vienna, between 26th May and 2nd June, 1781]

Two days ago Count *Arco*³ sent someone to say that I should go to him at 12 o'clock, he would be waiting for me. [5] – he has frequently sent such messages to me, and *Schlaucher*⁴ too, but because I hate discussions where almost word one has to listen to is a lie – I therefore duly – did not go; – would have done the same this time if he had not additionally let me know that he had received a letter⁵ from you. – So I duly went; [10] – writing out the whole discussion, which passed quite calmly, without becoming heated |: because that was my first request :| would be impossible. – in short, he presented everything to me in the most friendly manner, one would have sworn that it came from his heart;⁶ – for his part, I think, he could not swear that it came from my heart; – with all possible calmness, [15] politeness, and the best manner in the world I said to him, in reply to his true-sounding utterances – the purest truth. – and he – could not say a word against it; the upshot of it was that I wanted to give him the *memorandum*⁷ and the travel money – |: both of which I had on me :|. – But he assured me that it made him too sad to get involved in this matter, would I simply give it to a personal valet. [20] – and he would only take the money when it was all over. – here the Archbishop⁸ belittles me to everyone, and is not so wise as to see that this does not gain any honour for him, for here they value me higher than him. – He is known as an arrogant, conceited cleric – who holds everyone here in contempt – and me – [25] as an affable person. It is true, I am proud, when I see that someone wants to treat me with contempt and *en bagatelle*.⁹ – and that is how the Archbishop is towards me. – but – with good words¹⁰ – that way he could have me any way he likes. – This is also what I said to the Count, among other things: that the Archbishop is not worth as much as you think of him. [30] And the conclusion: – what benefit would it bring if I should go home now? – in a few months I would after all |: without being insulted :| apply for my release, for at this salary I will not – and cannot remain in service. – But why not, then? – because |: I said :| because I can never live contentedly and pleasantly in a place where my pay is such that I constantly have to think: [35] Oh, if I were in that place! If I were in the other! – but when my pay is such that I do not need to think about other places, I can be content. And if the Archbishop will pay me like that, I am ready to leave today. –

And how glad I am that the Archbishop does not take me by my word, [40] for it is your and my good fortune that I am here. You will see. Now may life go truly well for you,

¹ BD: Address not in Mozart's hand, again presumably to hide his authorship.

² = “(From Vienna) To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / My very dear father!”

³ “Graf”. BD: Karl Joseph Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1743-1830), son of Count [Graf] Georg Anton Felix Arco, held various offices in Salzburg, including High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister]. Played a role in the dismissal of Mozart as described in No. 0604/4 ff.

⁴ BD: Personal valet to the Prince-Archbishop.

⁵ BD: No. 0600, lost.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0604/10-11.

⁷ BD: Petition, cf. Nos. 0592/15; 0604/28.

⁸ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁹ = “as insignificant”.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0604/38-39.

dearest, best of fathers! Everything will turn out well. – I am not writing in a dream – for my entire success is of course dependent on it. *Adieu.*

I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dearest sister from my heart and I am, sir, eternally

[45] *P.S.* My compliments
– to all good friends.

your most obedient son,
Wolfgang Am[a]dè Mozart