

0607. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart Maître de Chapelle / de et à /  
Salsbourg*<sup>1</sup>

*vienna ce 20 de Juin  
1781*

*Mon très cher Père!*<sup>2</sup>

[5] I have received the package<sup>3</sup> safely, and hope that you will by now have received the portrait<sup>4</sup> and the ribbons.<sup>5</sup> – I do not know why you did not pack everything together in a chest or a box straight away; if one sends the things bit by bit, one must pay for each trifle, whereas it would not amount to so much all at once. – [10] That the court crawlers will look askance at you: I believe willingly it, but why should you be concerned about such a miserable rabble? The more hostile these people are towards you, the more you must look on them proudly and contemptuously.

<sup>6</sup>As far as *Arco*<sup>7</sup> is concerned, I need only consult my reason and my heart and certainly do not need any lady or person of high standing in order to do what is right and fair, [15] which should be neither too much nor too little; – The heart makes a nobleman, and even if I am no Count,<sup>8</sup> I have perhaps more honour innate to me than many a Count, and anyone who insults me, be he house servant or Count, is at once a scoundrel. – At the beginning I will quite reasonably outline to him how badly and vilely he has done his job; [20] – at the end, however, I must of course give him a written assurance that he can confidently expect from me a foot in his arse and a couple of blows around his ears as well; – for if anyone insults me, I must avenge myself; and if I do not do more to him than he did to me it is only revenge and not yet a punishment, and I would furthermore be placing myself on his level, [25] and I am in truth too proud to compare myself with such a stupid simpleton.

Unless something necessitating writing occurs, I will write to you only once a week because I am currently too busy. I will close, for I still have *variations*<sup>9</sup> to finish for my pupil.<sup>10</sup> *Adieu*. [30] I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally<sup>11</sup>

<sup>12</sup>Your most obedient son W. A. Mozart

<sup>13</sup>As far as young *Marchand*<sup>14</sup> is concerned, I could have told you long ago. – Take care of yourself. More soon.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Address not in Mozart's hand. The true sender of the letter is once again to be hidden.

<sup>2</sup> = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director of and in Salzburg / Vienna, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1781 / My very dear father!"

<sup>3</sup> BD: Presumably including the clothes requested in No. 0606/82.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Diplomatic skills were apparently required to coax the artist into parting with this family portrait. Cf. Nos. 0537/87; 0585/96; 0599/66; 0606/4; 0608/5 ff.

<sup>5</sup> BD: As promised on several occasions, cf. Nos. 0604/81; 0606/4, 5; 0610/3 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The following lines suggest that in the meantime a letter from Leopold had arrived (No. 0606a, lost).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> "graf".

<sup>9</sup> BD: Probably those named in No. 0605/10-11: KV 352 (374c); also possible are KV 359 (374a) or KV 360 (374b).

<sup>10</sup> BD: Marie Karoline, Countess [Gräfin] Thiennes de Rumbeke, Mozart's first pupil in Vienna. Cf. No. 0606/29.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Signature cut off.

<sup>12</sup> BD: This signature, included among the fragments as No. 1203/1, probably belongs here.

<sup>13</sup> BD: This postscript, included among the fragments as No. 1203/6, certainly belongs here.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand. He had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe ("Gretl") joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784. (No. 0665/13).