

0610.¹ MOZART TO HIS SISTER,² SALZBURG

À Madame / Madame³ Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzburg

Ma très chère Soeur!

Vienne, ce 4 de Juillet 1781.⁴

I am very glad that the ribbons⁵ were to your taste; as far as the prices of the painted and unpainted ribbons are concerned, [5] I will find out, for at the moment I do not know because Frau von Auerhammer,⁶ who was so kind as to procure them for me, accepted no payment but asked me if I would pass on from her, although a stranger, her wishes for everything beautiful for you, with the assurance that it will always be a great pleasure for her to do any favour for you; I have also already given her compliments from you in return. [10] Dearest sister! I recently wrote⁷ to our dear father saying that – if there is something you would like from Vienna, whatever it might be, it will certainly be a genuine pleasure for me to be of service to you with it; and now I repeat it, adding that I would be most vexed if I had to learn that you had entrusted someone else in Vienna with the task. [15] It brings joy to my heart that you are in good health; I am well and content, praise and thanks be to God. – My only entertainment consists of the theatre;⁸ I would wish that you could see a tragedy here! Generally I do not know of any theatre where they perform all kinds of plays outstandingly, but here every role – [20] the least, simplest role is good, and with a reserve cast. Now I would also like to know how things stand with you and that certain befriended gentleman?⁹ Please write about it! Or have I lost your trust in this matter? In general I would ask you to write to me often – when you have nothing better to do, needless to say – for I am only all too keen to read news occasionally, [25] and you are of course the living Salzburg Diary, for you do indeed write everything down, and therefore simply write it down twice as a favour to me – but you should not be angry if I sometimes let you wait a long time for a reply. –

Concerning something new for the *clavier*, [30] I want to tell you that I will have 4 *sonatas*¹⁰ engraved, with those in C¹¹ and B^{b12} included, and only the other 2¹³ new ones. – Then I have written 3 *arias* with *variations*,¹⁴ I could of course send them, but for me it is not worth the trouble, I would rather wait until I have got something more together. Isn't it time

¹ BD: Original lost, owned by Aloys Fuchs in 1840. Copy c. 1858. Schieder mair II.

² BD: Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), (1751-1829).

³ BD: Mozart chooses the title "Madame", although his sister is unmarried.

⁴ = "To Madame Marie Anne Mozart in Salzburg / My very dear sister! / Vienna, this 4th day of July, 1781".

⁵ BD: Nannerl had obviously written in the meantime thinking him: No. 0609a, lost. The ribbons had been promised in Nos. 0606/4; 0607/5-6.

⁶ BD: Wife of Johann Michael (von) Auernhammer, (+1782). The daughter, Josepha, to whom Mozart dedicated KV 296, 376 (374d), 377 (374e), 378 (317d), 379 (373a) and 380 (374f), wished to become a professional keyboard player.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0606/8 ff.

⁸ BD VI, p. 74, lists plays Mozart could have seen in Vienna since his arrival in March. The translated titles are "Agnes Bernauer"; "The Dangers of Seduction"; "Adelaide, or Antipathy towards Love"; "Andromeda and Perseus"; "the Brother-in-Law"; "Who will get her?"; "The suspicious Husband"; "The secret Marriage"; "The Foundling"; "The little Poet, or There are plenty of these Insects".

⁹ BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain [k.k. Hauptmann], director of the page-training school in Salzburg. He added the "de" (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl – Wolfgang supported his romantic plans in 1781 (cf. No. 0625/24 ff.).

¹⁰ BD: KV 296, 378 (317d), 376 (374d), 379 (373a); cf. footnote to line 6.

¹¹ BD: KV 296

¹² BD: KV 378 (317d).

¹³ BD: KV 376 (374d); KV 379 (373a).

¹⁴ BD: KV 352 (374c); 359 (374a); 360 (374b).

for the marksmen's¹⁵ banquet? I ask *solemniter*¹⁶ for a toast to be drunk to the health of a faithful marksman; [35] when it is once again my turn to donate the first prize, please write to me, I will have a target painted. Now may life go very well for you indeed, dearest, best of sisters, and rest assured that I shall always be

your

true friend and sincere brother,

Wolfgang *Amadè* Mozart

[40]

¹⁵ BD: Mozart obviously still considered himself a member of this club. – The shooting of bolts from airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen’s company” or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would donate a first prize and then also pay for all food and drink consumed during the meeting.

¹⁶ = “Solemnly”.