

Mon très cher Père![Reisenberg,] *ce 13e de Juillet* 1781.²

I cannot write much because the esteemed Count Kobenzl³ is driving into town any moment, and so I must give him the letter to take with him if I want it to be delivered. It is an hour away from Vienna here where I am writing. [5] It is called Reisenberg. – I have already spent one night here, and now I am staying for some days. – The little house is nothing, but the surroundings!⁴ – the forest – in which he has build a grotto as if made by nature. It is splendid and very pleasant. I have received your last letter. For a long time now I have had in mind to move out from the Webers,⁵ [10] and that will happen too. – That I should have lodged at Herr von Auerhammer's:⁶ I know not a word of this, I swear to you. I should have *lodged* with the calligraphist Messmer,⁷ that is true. But in that case I prefer it at the Webers after all. Messmer has given *Righini*⁸ |: sometime *opera buffa* singer and currently *compositeur*⁹ :| *quarters* in his house, and is his great friend and protector [15] – yet his gracious wife¹⁰ even more so. – Until I have discovered a good, cheap and convenient *lodging*, I will not leave. And then I must present some lies to the good lady¹¹ – I have truly no reason for leaving. – Herr von <Moll¹²> has, I don't know why – I am particularly amazed in his case – a slanderous tongue – [20] and says he hopes I will reflect and soon move back to Salzburg again, for I here would hardly find anything so *well-suited* as in *Salzbourg*. – I am only here because of the women, he said. Fräulein von Auerhammer told me. But he gets strange answers to this everywhere. – I can just about imagine why he talks this way; [25] he is a particularly great *protector* of Kozeluch;¹³ – Oh, how simplistic! –

The story about Herr von Mölk¹⁴ astonished me greatly – I would have considered him capable of anything – but I would never have taken him to be a scoundrel. – I pity the poor

¹ This letter contains a word in "family code", marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "My very dear father! / [Reisenberg,] this 13th day of July, 1781."

³ "Hr: Graf". BD: Johann Philipp, Count [Graf] Cobenzl (1741-1810), nephew of the minister mentioned in No. 0069/3; from 1779 Vice-Court Chancellor and Vice-State Chancellor.

⁴ BD: Mozart's only statement ever of this kind, in which he notes the surrounding scene.

⁵ BD: Mozart had taken rooms with Frau Weber at the beginning of May, 1781 (cf. No. 0592/18). Mozart had met the family in Mannheim and developed a romantic interest in one of the daughters, Aloisia, who was now employed as a singer in Vienna and had married there. Mozart married another sister, Constanze. Leopold was keen for Mozart to move out of the house and away from what he saw as the bad influence of the family.

⁶ BD: Johann Michael (von) Auernhammer, (+1782). The daughter, Josepha, wished to become a professional keyboard player.

⁷ BD: Joseph Conrad Mesmer (1735-1804), school director at St. Stephan. A distant relative of the famous "magnetiser" Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer.

⁸ BD: Vincenzo Righini (1756-1812, Deutsch Bild No. 503), composer, from 1780 director of the Italian opera buffa in Vienna and singing teacher to Princess [Prinzessin] Elisabeth von Württemberg, who married the Emperor's nephew Franz. Mozart comments on him in No. 0620/25 ff.

⁹ = "Composer".

¹⁰ BD: Therese Mesmer, née Steiner, cf. No. 0299/9.

¹¹ BD: Frau Weber: Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793), married Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779) in 1756. They had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son.

¹² BD: Ludwig Gottfried von Moll (1727-1804), from 1788 Baron [Freiherr] von Moll, employed by the State of Salzburg from 1746 onwards, finally being named Actual Privy Councillor [wirklicher Geheimer Rat] in 1770. On his return to Salzburg, he spread gossip about Mozart and his relationship with a "woman", probably Josepha Auernhammer (cf. No. 0619/70). Mozart had no doubt reckoned with this and therefore informs his father of the situation voluntarily. It is also possible that Mozart is already covering up his relationship with Constanze. But Leopold did not recognise that the code "Asee" meant "Moll", cf. No. 0620/3-4.

¹³ BD: Leopold Anton Koželuch (1747-1818), a versatile musical figure active in Prague and then in Vienna.

¹⁴ BD: For reasons which have not come down to us, Franz von Mölk (c. 1748-1800) was ordered to leave the country by the Archbishop. He died in Dinkelsbühl in 1800. Eldest son of Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-

famille from my heart. – Be sure to write soon, with much news; I must close, for the Count is leaving; [30] may life go well for you; I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally your

Most obedient son,
Wolfgang Amadè Mozart