

0621. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de
S: A: R: / l'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg.

Vienna ce 5 de 7. bre
1781

Mon très cher Père!¹

[5] I am now writing to you in my New Room. On the Graben, N:º 1175 on the 3rd floor.² – From the way you received my last letter³ I unfortunately see – that you |: as if I were an arch-villain, or a simpleton, or both :| trust the chatter and scribbling of other people more than me, and consequently put no trust in me at all; [10] but I assure you that all of this does not disturb me at all – people may write the eyes out of their heads – and they may give them as much approbation as you like, I will not move a hair's breadth, and remain the same Honest fellow as always. – And this I swear to you: If it had not been you that wanted me to take other lodgings, [15] I would certainly not have moved out; – for to me it is like a person leaving his own, *comfortable* travelling coach and taking a seat in a post-coach. – Yet let us be silent about that – for it is after all pointless – for the foolish ideas that God knows who has put in your head are still outweighed by my reasons;⁴ – I ask only this of you: if you write to me with something about me that you object to, or which you think could be better – and I then write back to you with my thoughts about it – then I always consider this to be something that is discussed between father and son, thus a secret and not something that others should know too – therefore I ask you, leave it at that and do not turn to other people, for, [25] by God, I do not offer other people a finger-length of accountability for what I do and do not do, be it the Emperor himself. – Always trust me, for I deserve it. – I have enough cares and worries here regarding earning my keep; reading annoying letters is not an activity for me at all. – From the beginning of my time here, I have had to make my living entirely on my own, [30] which I have been maintain to keep up by my efforts – – in this regard, the others have always drawn their salaries – *Ceccarelli*⁵ earned more than I did – but made a thorough job of emptying his pockets here; if I had done the same, I would not have been in any position at all to *quit* my service. – That you, my dearest of fathers, have not yet received any money from me⁶ is certainly not my fault, but that of the present miserable *season*. [35] – Just be patient. – I must of course have patience too. – By God, I will not forget you! – While the story with the Archbishop was going on I wrote to you about clothes.⁷ – I had absolutely nothing with me except my black suit – the mourning was over. – It became warm – the clothes did not come. – So I had to have some made for myself – [40] I could not go around Vienna like a tramp; especially in this situation. – My linen looked pitiful. – No domestic servant here wore shirts of such coarse linen as I had. – and that is certainly the most abominable thing in a man. – Therefore expenses again. – I had a single *pupil*;⁸ she was absent for 3 weeks – as a result I made losses again. – [45] one should not give oneself away here, that is a central *principium*,⁹

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. Vienna, this 5th day of Septembre, 1781 / My very dear father!”

² BD: This house, owned by Theresia Contrini and Jakob Joseph Keesenberg, was situated close to the “Platz am Peter”, where Mozart had been staying with the Weber family.

³ BD: It is doubtful that this refers to either No. 0619 or No. 0620.

⁴ BD: In this letter, the friction between Leopold and Wolfgang is becoming more and more obvious.

⁵ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

⁶ BD: The 30 ducats mentioned in No. 0602/39 had apparently never been sent.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0606/82.

⁸ BD: Marie Karoline, Countess [Gräfin] Thiennes de Rumbke, cousin of Count [Graf] Johann Philipp Cobenzl and Mozart's first pupil in Vienna. Cf. No. 0585/134-135.

⁹ = “Principle”.

otherwise one has ruined things for ever – the one who is most *impertinent* receives preference. – From all your letters I see that you believe that I do nothing here except *amuse* myself – there you are deceiving yourself most greatly – I can readily tell you that I have no pleasure here – not one – except the single one that I am not in Salzburg. [50] – in winter I hope that everything will go well – and then I will certainly not forget my own, the best of all fathers. – If I see that it is going well, I will stay here even longer; if not, I have in mind to go to Paris¹⁰ by the quickest route. – and on that I ask you for your opinion.

Now may life go very well for you indeed. I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister [55] from my heart and am, sir, eternally

P.S. my compliments to the
Duschecks.¹¹ – Please also send me, as
convenient, the aria which I wrote for
the Baumgarten woman,¹² – the rondeau
[60] for Duscheck¹³ – and Ceccarelli's.¹⁴
– Adieu. ;

your most obedient son,
W: A: Mzt

¹⁰ BD: Mozart seems to be expecting grave difficulties in Vienna, although he had written, five months earlier, of Vienna as the “best place in the world” for his profession (cf. No. 0586/49-50).

¹¹ BD: Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They met the Mozarts in 1777. Mozart wrote two works for Josepha: KV 272 (cf. No. 0337/84); KV 528 (cf. No. 1070/809). Mozart stayed at their country house during work on *Don Giovanni* in 1787.

¹² BD: Countess [Gräfin] Baumgarten in Munich, singer, for whom Mozart wrote the scene “Ah! Non son’io che parlo” KV 369.

¹³ BD: KV 272.

¹⁴ BD: KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19.