

0640. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

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

Vienne ce 10 de 9bre
1781

Mon très cher Père!¹

[5] I say thank you a thousand times for your congratulations on my name-day; – and send you mine in return for St. *Leopold's* Day; – dearest, best of fathers! – I wish you every good thing imaginable, all that can be wished. – Yet no, my wishes are not for you, but entirely for me. – So I wish you that you will always continue in good health, [10] and that you should live countless years yet, to my happiness and greatest pleasure. – For myself I wish that everything that I do and undertake might be according to your wish and pleasure – or rather that I might do nothing – which does not – turn out to your greatest joy. – and this is truly my hope – for whatever can contribute to your son's good fortune – [15] must of course, by the nature of things, also be pleasing to you! –

Herr von Auerhammer,² his gracious wife and the 2 *fräuleins*, |: in whose house I am presently writing :| also send their congratulations.

Recently, at the theatre, I spoke to Geschwendtner,³ who told me that Frau Spät⁴ is dead. [20] I hope that I may perhaps learn the certitude or incertitude of this news from a letter from you.

Today they are expecting the Duke von Württemberg⁵ and there is therefore a *redoute*⁶ tomorrow. – On the 25th there is to be a open *redoute* at Schönbrun.⁷ – But in this case they are in very Great *Embaras*;⁸ for, according to the general opinion, [25] the Grand Prince⁹ is to stay here only 10 days, and St. *Catharine*¹⁰ |: in whose honour the ball is held :| falls, according to the Greek calendar, on 6 *December* – so – no-one knows what will happen. Another piece of comedy: – the *acteurs*¹¹ were sent a message from the Emperor¹² that each should choose a role to be performed before the Grand Prince. – [30] *Lang*¹³ therefore requested Hamlet. – But Count Rosenberg,¹⁴ who does not like *Lang*, said that could not be because Brockmann has always played this role the whole time. – Now, when Brockman was told of this, he went to Rosenberg and said to him that he could not play it either, and that the whole *play* could not be performed [35] – and why? – because the Grand Prince himself was

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 10th day of September, 1781. / My very dear father!”

² BD: Auernhammer: Johann Michael von Auernhammer (†1782); his daughter Josepha was a pupil of Mozart's with professional ambitions.

³ BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner, city councillor and merchant in Salzburg.

⁴ BD: Maria Elisabeth Späth, née Haffner (*1753), daughter of a prominent mayor and merchant in Salzburg. Mozart wrote the Serenade KV 250 (248b) for the celebration on the eve of her wedding.

⁵ “herzog”. BD: Friedrich Eugen, Duke of Württemberg. His brother Ludwig Eugen had made Mozart's acquaintance in Lausanne in September, 1766.

⁶ BD: A celebratory event, usually a ball, for invited guests only, in contrast to the “open *redoute*” for the general public.

⁷ BD: Palace in Vienna, largely reconstructed by Maria Theresia after 1743. Includes the oldest zoo in the world.

⁸ = “Embarrassment”.

⁹ “grossfürst”. BD: The Grand Prince of Russia mentioned in No. 0615/34.

¹⁰ BD: Catherine the Great, Czarina of Russia (1729-1796).

¹¹ = “Actors”.

¹² “kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

¹³ BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780; six children; separated around 1795.

¹⁴ “gr.”. BD: Franz Xaver Wolf, Count [Graf] (later Prince [Fürst]) Orsini-Rosenberg (1723-1796), administrator in Vienna, later “General Director of Spectacles” in Vienna.

Hamlet. – The Emperor |: they say – they say – they say – :| therefore sent Brockman 50 ducats. –

Now I know of nothing more that is new – once again I say thank you thousand times, and Repeat my Good Wishes, and will soon write to my sister myself. [40] I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally

Your most obedient son,

W: A. Mozart

P: S: I send my thanks and compliments to all who have *congratulated* me – [45] *apropos*,¹⁵ is it true that the Elector of Bavaria is close to death?¹⁶ – Adieu.

¹⁵ (Here:) = “By the way”.

¹⁶ “Churfürst”. BD: He did not die until 1799: Elector Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.