

0656. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart maitre de la Chapelle / à /
Salzbourg*

*vienne ce 9 de Janvier
1782*

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

[5] I still have no answer to my last letter,² and that is the reason why I did not write to you last post-day. – I hope indeed, however, still to get a letter from you today. – Since in my last letter |: without realising it :| I had already partially replied in advance to this one³ of the 28th Dec.^{bre},⁴ I must wait for your letter first. –

[10] Meanwhile I wish to inform you that the Pope⁵ is said to be coming here; the whole town is full of it. – I do not however believe it; for Count Kobenzl⁶ said to me that the Emperor⁷ will not accept this visit. – The Russian court⁸ left on the 5th. – Now I have called on Peisser⁹ once myself to see if perhaps a letter from you is there, and have again sent someone [15] – it will soon be five o'clock. – I do not understand why there is no letter for me! – Are you so angry with me? – you can be angry about the fact that I kept silent about the matter so long, you are right there. But if you have read my excuse for this, you can surely forgive me. – and the fact that I wish to marry: [20] you surely cannot be angry about that? – I believe that in this you can best detect my *religion* and my sound way of thinking. – Oh, I could certainly reply at length to your last letter and raise many objections, but my *maxime* is: If something does not affect me, I do not consider it worth the trouble of speaking about it. – I cannot help it, this is simply the way I am. [25] – I am thoroughly ashamed of defending myself when I consider myself falsely accused – I always think to myself, the truth will surely come to light. – Now – I cannot write anything more to you on this matter because I still have no answer to my last letter. – I know of nothing new; therefore may life go well for you; – once again I beg your forgiveness – [30] and ask you to show leniency and sympathy towards me; – without my dearest Konstanze I cannot be happy and content – and without your contentment over the matter mine will be only half. – So make me entirely happy, my dearest, best of fathers!, I beg you. – I am, sir, eternally your

[35]

most obedient son,

W: A: Mozart

P.S. I kiss my dearest sister 1000 times with my whole heart. – ¹⁰In the sonata for 2 claviers,¹¹ Fräulein von Auerhammer¹² played the first part;

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director in Salzburg / Vienna, this 9th day of January, 1782 / My very dear father!”

² BD: No. 0651.

³ BD: No. 0652, lost.

⁴ BD: The discord between Leopold and Wolfgang was obviously so great that, contrary to the practice of previous years, they did not exchange New Year’s greetings this time.

⁵ BD: Pius VI (r. 1775-1799), successor to Clement XIV, who had given Mozart the Order of the Golden Spur in 1770. Pius did indeed come, staying in Vienna 22nd March (cf. No. 0665/30-31) – 22nd April. The Pope tried, unsuccessfully, to persuade Emperor Joseph II to rescind his decree that certain orders which did not serve their fellow man in either charitable or academic deeds should forfeit their assets to the state.

⁶ “graf”. BD: Johann Philipp, Count [Graf] Cobenzl (1741-1810), from 1779 Court and State Vice-Chancellor, nephew of Johann Karl.

⁷ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780. Joseph did in fact write to the Pope that it would be an honour to receive him, but that he had no intention of departing from his principles.

⁸ BD: Paul Petrovich (*1754, murdered 1801), later Czar Paul I. He visited Vienna in November 1781 and October 1782. Cf. Nos. 0615/34; 0617/50.

⁹ BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondence of the firm Hagenauer in Salzburg.

¹⁰ BD: Nannerl had obviously enquired who had played in the house concert on 23rd November, 1781 (cf. No. 0644/3 ff.).

¹¹ BD: Probably KV 448 (375a), cf. No.0644/9.

¹² BD: A pupil of Mozart's in Vienna with professional ambitions.