

0667. 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 d'avril
1782

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

[5] From your letter² of the 2nd I gathered that you received everything correctly; I am glad that you are so satisfied with the watch ribbons and the snuffbox, and my sister with the 2 bonnets.³ – I bought neither the snuffbox nor the watch ribbons, but received both as a present from Count *Zapara*.⁴ – I passed on the compliments from both of you to my dear Konstanze [10] – she kisses your hands in return, my father, and embraces my sister from her heart, with the wish that she might be her friend. – She was entirely transported with delight when I said to her that she was so happy with the 2 bonnets, for that was her wish. – The *appendix*⁵ referring to her mother⁶ is only founded inasmuch as she likes to drink, and indeed more – – than a woman should drink. But – I have never yet seen her drunk, that would be lying. – The children drink nothing but water – and although the mother almost wants to force them to drink wine, she is in the end not able to get them to do it. Then there is often the heftiest quarrel about it – can one actually imagine a mother quarrelling about that? –

[20] What you write about the talk that I will certainly enter the Emperor's⁷ service: the reason why I have told you nothing about it in my letters is – that I myself have not heard a word about it. – What is certain that the whole town here is also full of it and that a host of people have already congratulated me on it. And I am quite willing to believe that there has also been talk about it in the presence of the Emperor, and that he may have it in mind; [25] but until now I have not heard a word. This is how far matters have developed: that the Emperor has it in mind, and all without my having taken a step in the matter – I went to Herr von Strack⁸ |: who is most assuredly one of my good friends :| a few times to let myself be seen, and because I like being in his company, but not often, so as not to burden him and not to give an opportunity as if I had intentions. – and if he wishes to speak as an Honest Man – he would have to say that he has not heard a word from me that could have given him cause even to think that I would like to stay here, let alone come to the Emperor. We spoke about nothing but *musique*. – [35] of our own accord, therefore, and he speaks about me this way to my advantage,⁹ entirely without any self-*interest*, in the presence of the Emperor. – If it has developed so far without any activity on my part, it can be brought to a conclusion in the same manner, too. – For if one pursues it actively, one immediately receives a lower salary, the Emperor is a grumbler anyway. – If the Emperor wants to have me, he must pay me – for the honour of serving the Emperor alone is too little for me. [40] – If the Emperor gives me 1000

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg / Vienna, this 10th day of April, 1782 / My very dear father!”

² BD: No. 0666, lost.

³ BD: Cf. gifts listed in No. 0665/16, 19.

⁴ “graf”. BD: Joseph, Count [Graf] Szápáry, possibly a relative of the Vinzenz, Count [Graf] Zápáry, who received Mozart's son, Franz Xaver Wolfgang, so generously in Graz in June, 1820.

⁵ BD: Probably a postscript to No. 0666 (lost).

⁶ BD: Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793). Mozart originally met the family in Mannheim; he married Constanze, one of her daughters, in 1782.

⁷ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

⁸ BD: Johann Kilian Strack (1724-1793), entered Imperial service in 1758 as a widow soldier, rose to be the valet to Joseph II. Closely connected to the Weber and Thorwart families. Played violoncello in a private string quartet with the Emperor, is said to have influenced the Emperor against Mozart, Haydn and others.

⁹ BD: Mozart is very much mistaken here. Cf. No. 0596/44.

florins, but a Count 2000, – then I give the Emperor my compliments and go to the Count. – A secure post, needless to say. –

Apropòs;¹⁰ I would like to ask you, when you send the *rondeau*¹¹ back to me, to send me the 6 *fugues* by Handel¹² [45] and the *toccatas* and *fugues* by Eberlin¹³ as well. – I go to Baron von *Suiten*'s¹⁴ every Sunday at 12 o'clock – and there nothing is played except Handel and Bach. –

I am making a collection of Bach fugues for myself – by *Sebastian* as well as *Emanuel* and *Friedeman* Bach.¹⁵ – Then also the ones by Handel,¹⁶ and there I lack only these [. . .].¹⁷ – and then I would also like to let the Baron hear the ones by Eberlin too. [50] – You will no doubt already know that the English Bach¹⁸ is dead? – a pity for the Musical World! – Now I wish you well in every way, I kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace my dear sister from the bottom of my heart and am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son

W: A: Mozart

[55]

P.S. I also wanted to ask you to send me at a convenient opportunity |: yet the sooner the better :| my *concerto* for Countess *Litsow*.¹⁹ *In C.*

¹⁰ = “By the way”.

¹¹ BD: KC 382; cf. Nos. 0665/10; 0660/15.

¹² BD: Probably the 6 fugues of 1735.

¹³ BD: By Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762); published by Lotters Erben in Augsburg in 1747. Obtaining a copy afterwards by other means, however, Mozart was no longer enthusiastic about them, cf. No. 0668/37 ff.

¹⁴ BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had educational responsibilities in Vienna [“State Education Commission”]. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn’s “*Seven Last Words*” and “*The Seasons*”. Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed and conducted music himself.

¹⁵ BD: Johann Sebastian (1685-1750), Carl Philipp Emanuel (1714-1788), Wilhelm Friedemann (1710-1784).

¹⁶ BD: Silverstolpe (cf. No. 1276) reported that Mozart’s estate included manuscript copies of all known keyboard fugues by Handel.

¹⁷ BD: Word lost due to paper damage.

¹⁸ BD: Johann Christoph Bach (1735-1782), the only member of the Bach family personally known to Mozart. They met in 1764 at one of three concerts at court in London.

¹⁹ “gräfin”. BD: KV 246 (1776), written for Countess [Gräfin] Lützow, a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus and wife of the commandant of the fortress in Salzburg. It appears that she learned keyboard with Leopold.