

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

Vienne ce 31 august
1782

Mon Très cher Père!¹

[5] You do not know how I can so fondly imagine myself as *maestro* to the Princess?² – *Salieri*³ is in no way capable of teaching her the keyboard! – All he needs to do is to make an effort to join forces with someone else to do me mischief in this matter – that could happen! – Furthermore, the Emperor⁴ knows me; – the Princess was happy to learn from me the last time, – [10] and I know that my name, too, has been entered in the book where they have written down all the names of those who are chosen to be of service to her. – *le chevalier Hypolity*⁵ has so far not called on me. You say that I have not written to you to tell you on which floor we live? – that must indeed have got stuck in my quill; I hereby write to you stating that I live on the second floor; – [15] but as to how you came up with the idea that my most highly esteemed mother-in-law could also *lodge* there – I do not know how you managed that. – For in fact I did not marry my wife so soon in order to live in consternation and strife, but in order to enjoy peace and pleasure! – and there is no other way that that could happen than by parting company with that house. Since our wedding, [20] we have paid her 2 *visits* – but on the second one there was once again such dispute and strife that my poor wife began to weep – so I immediately put an end to the dispute when I said to her that it is now time to leave, and since then we have not been there again, and will not be going again unless it is the birthday or name-day of the mother or of the two sisters.⁶ [25] – But then you wrote that I had not informed you on which day we were married – there I must beg your pardon; – either your memory has deceived you this time, and there you need only take the trouble to look at my letter of 7th August, [30] in which case you will see quite clearly and unmistakably that we confessed on a Friday, *Portiuncula* day,⁷ and married on the following Sunday, the 4th. – or you did not receive this letter at all, which can hardly be, because you received the march⁸ with it, and also sent me an answer with various comments on it. – Now I have a request to make: – Baron Waldstätten⁹ will be leaving here – [35] and would like to have a good, small *pianoforte*; I can no longer recall the name of the *clavier*-maker in Zweybrücken, from whom I would have liked to ask you to order one. – But it would have to be ready within a month or 6 weeks at the most, and at the same price as the Archbishop's. – Then I also wanted to ask you to send me Salzburg tongues¹⁰ at the next opportunity or by post-coach, [40] |: if this is possible because of the customs officials :|. – I am greatly indebted to the

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 31st day of August, 1782. / My very dear father!”

² “Prinzessin”. BD: Cf. No. 0689/17 f. Elisabeth von Württemberg, who married the Emperor's nephew Franz.

³ BD: Antonio Salieri, composer, succeeded Bonno as court music director in Vienna in 1788.

⁴ “kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

⁵ “le chevalier”. BD VII, p. 90: Possibly Joseph Anton von Hippolti, Knight [Ritter], director of the Theresian Noble Academy and adviser to the Court of Appeal in the Inn region. 5½ months later, Mozart informed his father that he had met him in Vienna. (Cf. No. 0728/20 ff.) *Le chevalier* = knight.

⁶ BD: Josepha and Sophie were still at home, cf. No. 0592/18.

⁷ BD: An indulgence valid for one year and granted originally by Pope Honorius in 1223 to all visiting the Portiuncula Chapel in Assisi on 2 August. It was extended in 1622 to include visits to strict Franciscan churches generally.

⁸ BD: KV 402 (385a).

⁹ BD: Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten, a high Austrian official and adviser. Lived separated from his wife Martha Elisabeth, Baronin Waldstätten, a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist.

¹⁰ BD: Presumably ox or calves' tongues.

esteemed Baroness,¹¹ and the *conversation* once turned to these same tongues, and at that she said that she would like to try them sometime, and I *offered* to be of service to her in this. – If there happens to be anything else which might be a rarity for her, [45] and you were so good as to send it to me, you would be obliging me greatly indeed. – I would very much like to delight her in this way; I can reimburse you for the payment via Peisser,¹² or keep it for when we meet in person. –

Could I perhaps have a Schwarzreuter sent to me?¹³ – [50] Now I wish you well in every way, I join with my wife in kissing your hands 1000 times, and we embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally

most obedient daughter,
your most obedient son,
Wolfgang and Konstanze

[55]

Mozart mp¹⁴

P: S: if you are writing to my cousin¹⁵ anyway, please pass on compliments from both of us. Addio.

¹¹ “Baronin”. BD: Cf. footnote 5.

¹² BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762.

¹³ BD: Schwarzreiter, a kind of trout often encountered in the lakes around Salzburg, especially the Königsee at Berchtesgaden.

¹⁴ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.

¹⁵ BD: Mozart's cousin in Augsburg, the well-known “Bäsele” of the eponymous letters.