

*Mon Très cher Père!*<sup>1</sup>Wienne,<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1782

I am most obliged and grateful to you for the tongues you sent<sup>3</sup> – I have given 2 to the esteemed Baroness<sup>4</sup> and kept the other 2 for myself, we want to enjoy them tomorrow; – be so good as to write telling me how you wish the payment for them to be settled. [5] – if you could also arrange for me to get some Schwarzreuter,<sup>5</sup> you would indeed be giving me great pleasure. – The Jewess *Escules*<sup>6</sup> will clearly have been a very good and useful instrument in separating the friendship between the Emperor and the Russian court – for she really was driven off to Berlin two days ago [10] to give the King the pleasure of her company; – she is therefore a sow of the first order – for she was also the only reason for Günther’s misfortune – if it is a misfortune to be under *arrest* for 2 months in a fine room |: while retaining all his books, his *forte piano* etc: |: losing his previous *posto*, but then being employed in another one with a salary of 1200 florins; [15] for he set off for Hermannstadt<sup>7</sup> yesterday. – Yet – such a business is always painful for an Honest Man, and nothing in the world can make up for something like this. – But you should see from this that he has not committed such a very great crime. – His whole crime is – *etourderie* – carelessness – therefore – too lax in discretion – [20] which is of course a great fault in a member of the *Cabinet*. – Although he did not entrust anything of importance to anyone, yet his enemies, the first among which is the former city governor Countess von Herberstain,<sup>8</sup> |: were able to arrange things so well that the Emperor, who had trusted him so firmly that he often walked up and down the room arm-in-arm with him for hours, [25] developed an all the more pronounced distrust of him. – On top of this came the sow *Escules* |: a former *amantin*<sup>9</sup> of Günther |: and brought the gravest accusations against him – when the matter was investigated, however, it turned out very straightforwardly for their lordships – the great uproar over the matter had already been raised – great gentlemen never want to be wrong about anything – [30] and therefore sealed the fate of poor Günther, for whom I feel sorry from my heart because he was a very good friend to me and |: if things had remained as they were |: would have been able to render me good services with the Emperor. – Just imagine how strange and unexpected it was for me, and how deeply it affected me. Stephani<sup>10</sup> – *Adamberger*<sup>11</sup> – had *supper* with him in the evening and the next day [35] he was placed under arrest. – Now I must close, for the post wishes to run away and leave me. My dear wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

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<sup>1</sup> = “My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> = “Vienna”.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. No. 0690/19. Ox or calf tongues.

<sup>4</sup> “Baronin”. BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baronin Waldstätten, a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten.

<sup>5</sup> BD: A kind of trout; cf. No. 0690/49.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Eleonore Eskeles, daughter of the Chief Rabbi of Bohemia and Moravia, living separated from her husband, the merchant Moises Fleiss. Her lover, Johann Valentin Günther, was involved in government planning and was suspected of sharing confidential political information with her. He joined a Vienna Masonic Lodge in 1782.

<sup>7</sup> Today Sibiu in Romania.

<sup>8</sup> “graf von Herber-Stain”. BD: It has not been possible to identify which of the many members of the Herberstein family is meant here.

<sup>9</sup> = “Lover”.

<sup>10</sup> BD: (Johann) Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), (“the Younger”), studied law, became a soldier, became member of the Burgtheater company, Vienna, in 1769. At least 32 of his stage works were put on there in 393 performances between 1776 and 1846.

<sup>11</sup> Josef Valentin Adamberger, singer in Germany, Italy and then in Vienna, where he was well paid. Sung in many of Mozart's works. Freemason.

My wife is entering her  
[40] 91<sup>st</sup> year.<sup>12</sup>

most obedient children,  
Konstanze and Mozart mp<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> BD: Constanze was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1762. Mozart reverses the digits (19), cf. No. 0533/61 ff.

<sup>13</sup> mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.