

0695.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

A Monsieur Monsieur Leopold Mozart

*Mon très cher Pére!*²

Vienne ce 25.^t Sep.^{.bre}
1782.

I received your last letter³ of the 20th entire and correct, [5] and hope that you too will have received my 4 lines⁴ : from which you were not able to learn of anything except our well-being :|. – A truly comical occurrence! – But who can do anything about chance events – happenings! – Herr Gabel,⁵ who arrived here some days ago, is indeed with me and is waiting until I finish the letter so that he can *accompany* my *sonatas* on the *violin*,⁶ [10] which, according to what he says, he must play very well. He has already played to me on the horn, and produced less than nothing. I shall not fail to do anything that I am capable of doing for him; – it suffices that I am your son. – He commends himself to both of you. –

That you have already lost the unnecessary pictures in the churches, numerous plaques commemorating donors, [15] and *instrumental music* etc. :| which will happen here :| – that is new to me. – With that, the <Archbishop⁷> probably wants to ingratiate himself with the <Emperor⁸>; but I hardly believe that this *policy* of his will be of great use. – Yes, – I cannot bear to see anyone waiting for me – nor do I like to wait; – [20] I must therefore obviously save the description of *Baronnesse von Waldstätten*⁹ for the next time, and now present a very necessary request to you. – But I ask you to keep the following strictly between the two of us, because of the place – where I am. – The Prussian ambassador Riedesel¹⁰ sent me a message that he had received instructions from the court in Berlin to send my opera “The Abduction from the Seraglio” to Berlin; [25] I would therefore like to have it *copied*, and recompense for the music will surely be made. – I immediately promised to have it *copied*. – Now, since I do not have the opera,¹¹ I would have to borrow it from the copyist, which would be very inconvenient, since I cannot be sure of keeping it for 3 whole days, since the Emperor often sends for it [30] :| as happened just yesterday :| and then it is often performed, as it has now actually happened 10 times since the 16th August.¹² – My idea would therefore be to have it *copied*¹³ in Salzburg, where it could be done more discreetly and more cheaply! – I therefore ask you to have a fair copy of the *score* made immediately – but also in great haste – and if you would kindly let me know the *copying* costs :| when you send it to me :| [35] the payment will be carried out at once through Herr Peisser.¹⁴ – Now I wish you well in every possible

¹ This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart / Vienna, this 25th day of September / My very dear father!”

³ BD: No. 0693.

⁴ BD: No. 0694, lost.

⁵ BD: Not identified.

⁶ BD: Probably the six sonatas engraved by Artaria, cf. No. 0598/38.

⁷ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁸ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

⁹ BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten (1744-1811), a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten, a high official in Vienna.

¹⁰ BD: Johann Hermann von Riedesel, Baron [Freiherr] zu Eisenach (1740-1785).

¹¹ BD: Mozart had sent the manuscript to Salzburg on 20th July, 1782.

¹² BD: Actually since 16th July, thus including the very first performance.

¹³ BD: Cf. note on No. 0677/24.

¹⁴ BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762.

way; my wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times, and we embrace my dear sister from the heart
and are, sir, eternally

[40]

your most obedient children,
W: A: and M: C: Mozart mp¹⁵

¹⁵ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.