

0696. MOZART TO MARTHA ELISABETH, BARONESS¹ VON WALDSTÄTTEN, VIENNA

À / Madame / Madame L Baronne de Waldstaetten / née de Scheffer. /
à / Leopoldstadt.²

Vienna, 28th September,
1782.

Most esteemed Baroness!³

[5] When Your Grace⁴ was so gracious yesterday as to invite me to eat tomorrow, Sunday, I did not remember that I had already *agreed* a week ago to eat in Augarten on this day. –

Martin the Little Sting,⁵ who believes himself to be *obligé*⁶ to me on many accounts, is *absolument*⁷ determined to *tracter*⁸ me to a *dinée*;⁹ – [10] Yesterday I still thought I could *tourner*¹⁰ it around and therefore *accommoder*¹¹ it according to my wishes, but it was not possible, because the *Little Sting* had already ordered and *arrangé*¹² everything and consequently would have to incur the *depense*¹³ for nothing; – therefore and for that reason Your Grace will *pardonner*¹⁴ me for the moment and, if Your Grace would only *permettre*,¹⁵ the two of us will have the honour [15] to *complimenter*¹⁶ and *venerer*¹⁷ these same two persons on the coming Tuesday and to *klysterer*¹⁸ Fräulein von Auerhammer¹⁹ if she does not *fermer*²⁰ her room door better – Now, joking *a part*,²¹ concerning the *concerto*²² which I played in the theatre: I would really not be happy to part with it for less than 6 ducats;²³ in return I would take the *copying costs* on myself. – [20] Regarding the handsome red tail-coat²⁴ [20] which tickles my heart quite cruelly, I would simply beg you very much indeed to let me know precisely where it is to be had, and how expensive it is, for I had entirely forgotten that, for I had only considered the handsomeness and not the price. – For I must have a *tail-coat* like that so that it is worth the trouble of sewing on the buttons [25] with which my mind has been in gestation for a long time now; – I saw them once when I was choosing buttons for a suit at the Kohlmark,²⁵ in Brandau's button *factory vis a vis* the

¹ “Baronin”.

² = “To Madame, the Baroness von Waldstätten, née von Schäfer, in Leopoldstadt”.

³ “Wertheşte frau Baronin”.

⁴ “Euer Gnaden”.

⁵ BD: Presumably the concert organiser Phillip Jakob Martin, here nicknamed “Angerl” (= “Little Sting”).

⁶ = “obliged”.

⁷ = “absolutely”.

⁸ = “treat, provide”. Mozart uses “tractiren”: the German ending “-ieren” is attached to verb stems borrowed from the French. The same applies to the “French” verbs in the following lines.

⁹ = “dinner”.

¹⁰ = “turn”.

¹¹ = “accommodate”.

¹² = “arranged”.

¹³ = “expense”.

¹⁴ = “pardon, excuse”.

¹⁵ = “permit, allow”.

¹⁶ = “pay compliments”.

¹⁷ = “venerate, revere”.

¹⁸ = “purge, administer an enema”.

¹⁹ BD: Mozart's pupil Josepha Auernhammer; the Baroness had given taken her in, at Mozart's request, following the death of her father.

²⁰ “Close, shut”. BD: It is not clear what event Mozart is referring to.

²¹ “Apart”.

²² BD: Probably KV 175, performed on 3rd March, 1782.

²³ BD: = 27 florins.

²⁴ BD: Mozart appeared in the typical music director's red tail-coat in the “Verona” portrait at the age of 14, in the family portrait of 1781/82, and in the posthumous painting by Barbara Krafft.

²⁵ BD: Kohlmarkt (= charcoal market). Between the Graben and Hofburg.

*Milano.*²⁶ – They are mother-of-pearl, around the side some white stones, and in the middle a beautiful yellow stone. – I would like to have everything that is good, genuine and beautiful! – [30] What on earth is the reason that those who are not able to do so would like to spend everything on such things, and those who are able to do so do not do it? – Now I believe it is long past the time that I should have put an end to my scribbling, – *j kiss your hands, and hoping to see you in good health the Tuesday j am*

[35]

*your most humble servant*²⁷

Constanze, my other self, kisses

Mozart mp²⁸

Your Grace's hands 1000 times,

and to the Auerhammer girl she sends a little

kiss, but do not let me know anything about it,

[40] otherwise it will immediately make me shudder.²⁹

²⁶ BD: *The Café Milani*.

²⁷ Mozart's English.

²⁸ mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".

²⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0608/27; 0619/48 ff.