

0710.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*Mon Trés cher Pére!*

Vienne ce 20 de 9:<sup>bre</sup> [1782]<sup>2</sup>

I can clearly see, unfortunately, that I have to save the happiness of embracing you for the spring, for my pupils are *absolument*<sup>3</sup> not letting me away – and in fact the weather is too cold for my wife at the moment, – everybody is asking me not to risk it [5] – until spring :| for I already speak of spring in March – or at the latest at the beginning of April – because I am calculating according to my circumstances :| before then we can quite certainly travel to Salzburg, for my wife's confinement will not be before the month of June.<sup>4</sup> – so today I am unpacking again, for I left everything packed until I could get news from you;<sup>5</sup> [10] – for if you had desired us to come: – whoosh, away – and not a word to anybody – in order to show you that the fault is not with us; – M': and Mad.:me Fischer, along with the old woman,<sup>6</sup> |: who commend themselves to everyone :| can best bear witness for me of how sorry I am not to be able to make this journey now; – [15] Yesterday Princess Elisabeth<sup>7</sup> received 90000 florins from the Emperor<sup>8</sup> as a present |: because it was her name-day :, along with a golden watch inset with jewels, and was declared an Austrian Archduchess; consequently she now bears the title Her Royal Highness. The Emperor has again been taken with a fever – <I am afraid – he will not live much longer.> – [20] and hope that I am mistaken.<sup>9</sup> –

Mad: Heisig, née De luca, who was in Salzburg with her husband and played the *psaltery* in the theatre, is here and is giving a dull-cimer concert.<sup>10</sup> – She sent me a written invitation with the request that I might speak well of her, for she attaches great importance to my friendship. [25] Now I must close; my wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your most obedient children,

*W: et C: Mozart mp<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> This letter contains a passage in "family code"; it is marked with angle brackets < >.

<sup>2</sup> = "My very dear father! Vienna, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1782".

<sup>3</sup> = "absolutely".

<sup>4</sup> BD: The Mozarts' first child was born on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1783.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Letter No. 0709 (lost) apparently did not contain the desired request to come to Salzburg with Constanze.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The Fischers: friends of the Mozarts in Vienna since 1768; the Mozarts were their guests in 1773. The "old woman" was the mother of Frau Fischer.

<sup>7</sup> "Prinzessin". BD: Elisabeth Wilhelmine Louise, Princess of Württemberg, (1787-1790) promised to the Emperor's nephew.

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

<sup>9</sup> BD: Joseph II lived another 8 years.

<sup>10</sup> "Schlackademie": cf. No. 0592/2. Mozart writes "schlackademie": in Bavarian dialect, "Schlacke" can mean "lazy". Academie = concert, recital.

<sup>11</sup> mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".