

0760. CONSTANZE MOZART TO HER SISTER-IN-LAW,¹ SALZBURG, WITH HER POSTSCRIPT TO MARGUERITE MARCHAND² AND MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER AND MARGUERITE MARCHAND

*À / Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marie Anne / de Mozart / à / Salzburg*³

[Vienna, 19th July, 1783]

Most treasured and dearest *Mademoiselle* sister-in-law! –

[5] My dear husband received your letter safely, and it is a joy to both him and myself that you wish so very much to see us. Only he is vexed at your suspicion that we might not share the same longing; and in fact it is painful for me too! But to show you, madam, that we are entirely reconciled again, we confess to you that we were always thinking of arriving in the month of *August*;⁴ and consequently simply had a little surprise in mind which can now no longer bring pleasure to you, but certainly at least to our dearest, best of fathers, if you – can keep it secret, which we very much beg of you; for only under these conditions shall the truth be revealed to you. Enough, you have forced our secret out of us by your cunning letter, [15] and we are now fully content if we can only bring unexpected joy to our dear father! – therefore – please say nothing to anyone. By the 1st *August*, then, I will have the good fortune and pleasure of embracing you, madam, and remain until then, with the deepest respect,

my dearest sister-in-law,

[20] Vienna, 19th *July*, 1783.

your sincere sister-in-law,
Maria Constanza Mozart

POSTSCRIPT TO MARGUERITE MARCHAND:

Dearest *Mademoiselle* Marschand! –

I was very glad to hear that you still remember me, [25] and are willing to take the trouble to write to me – do you believe firmly that I am looking forward to Salzburg so much in order to have the good fortune and pleasure of getting to know my dear father-in-law and dear sister-in-law personally and to show them my deepest respect, just as you can always rejoice when you have the opportunity of seeing your Worthy Parents again. – [30] and then to *embrace* my dear *Mad:^{elle} Marguerite?* – whom I already knew as a very skilled woman in Mannheim and München,⁵ and has now had the opportunity since then to perfect her skills ever further. – What a pleasure it will indeed be for me to see and kiss you again and admire your talents! – on the 1st *August*, if God will, I will be able to do it! [35] – in the meantime I commend you to the strictest secrecy and am, madam,

your most obedient servant
and friend,

Vienna, 19th *July*, 1783

Maria Constanza Mozart

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER AND MARGUERITE MARCHAND:

¹ BD: Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), 1751-1829.

² BD: When Leopold and Nannerl returned from Munich on 14th March, 1781, they took with them Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozart's home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe joined him in February, 1782.

³ BD: Here too, in Viennese style, the "de" before the family name.

⁴ BD: As No. 0761/2 shows, they were already in Salzburg before the 29th July.

⁵ BD: The families Weber and Marchand knew each other in Mannheim; both moved to Munich with the court.

Most worthy *Mad.^{selle} Marchand*, and dearest sister! –

[40] Do not believe, madam, nor you, my sister, a single word of all that my wife has scribbled over there. – How can we be in Salzburg on the first of August if we are here on the 26th? – but if I do not necessarily have to be here on the 26th,⁶ we will certainly be with you on the 1st *August*. – I will then congratulate you personally on your name-day!⁷ – I can still *congratulate* you in the *octave*.⁸ [45] – in the meantime I wish you well in every way – as I do you too, most worthy *Mad.^{selle}*; I hope I will soon hear you singing and playing the keyboard. – We must *celebrate* the name-day with *musique*;⁹ – may life go well for both of you. – I kiss you, dear sister, from the heart and am eternally

your sincere brother,

[50]

W: A: Mozart mp¹⁰

⁶ BD: They probably left on 25th July.

⁷ BD: 26th July.

⁸ Octave: the week following the feast-day itself.

⁹ BD: Mozart had surprised Nannerl on previous name-days with a composition, e.g. KV 251.

¹⁰ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.