

Vienna ce 10 de Feb:
1784.

*Mon très cher Père!*¹ –

That was stupidity on *Artaria's* part! – He thought they would not accept the *packet* at the post, and instead of sending it straight back to me, [5] he kept it back until the post-coach went, without letting me know anything about it! –

This time I did not receive a letter from you! – I do not have a good understanding with Peisser,² – they are 8 steps – – |: I know that from experience :| away from me, – sometimes I enquire about a letter myself – [10] mostly my maid does – – and, with the greatest *impertinence*, there comes a shout of No – and when the donkeys, the gentlemen, I mean, do look, there is – in fact one there. – and if perhaps one came at an odd time, they prefer to leave it lying for a fortnight than to send their shop boy to me with it, which I had in fact already often asked them to do. – [15] I therefore ask you to write straight to me at my *address*. – I have already received 3 letters safely from various countries. Simply – in the Trattner House;³ 2nd stairway, on the 3rd floor. – and then – I also believe that Herr Peisser *profits* a little from the letters. –

I wrote to you in my last letter about *Varesco* on the subject of my *opera*. [20] – currently I do not dream for a moment about putting it on. – I currently have things⁴ to compose which will bring in money for me only at this moment, – and not later. – *opera* – is paid for any time – and then – if one takes one's time – everything goes better. In Herr *Varesco's* *poetry* the haste only all too visible! – I hope he will in time realise that himself; [25] – therefore I would simply wish to see the *opera* as a whole |: he should simply dash it off onto paper :| – then one can raise founded objections; – after all, we do not have any reason to hurry, for God's sake! – If you were to hear what I have been done for my part, you would join with me in hoping that it might not be wasted! – and that happens so easily! – [30] and happens so often. – The *musique* I have written is lying down and sleeping well. – Among all the *operas* which they will be able to perform until such time as mine is finished, not a single idea will resemble one of mine, I vouch for that! – Now I must close because I am forced to compose; – the whole morning goes past with *teaching*, [35] therefore nothing except the evening is left to me for my beloved work – for composition. Only I must furthermore ask you whether it is as unbearably cold in Salzburg as it is here? – Herr Freyhold⁵ from Mainz wanted to *call* on me – he sent a hired servant up here with the letter – and he stayed downstairs – probably in the coach – but as I had to go out immediately, [40] I took the letter and allowed myself the honour of choosing an afternoon when I am always at home. – I wanted to go there during the last few days |: for he has not let anyone see a sign of him :| but did not have time. – Now adieu, my wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace our dear sister from the heart, and are, sir, eternally your
[45] most obedient children,

¹ = “Vienna, this 10th day of February, 1784 / My very dear father!”

² BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762. Leopold used his address for a number of letters.

³ BD: Mozart moved into this house during January, 1784 (probably on the 23rd), built by Johann Thomas Trattner (1717-1798). When Mozart first came to Vienna, he was already the owner of several bookshops and printing works in and around Vienna. With the *Trattnerhof*, he erected one of the most impressive buildings of the period in Vienna. Mozart lived there between January and September, 1784. Trattner's wife Theresia took keyboard lessons from Mozart. The Trattners were on several occasions godparents of Mozart's children.

⁴ BD: Mozart probably means keyboard concertos, of which six were written in 1784. (KV 449, 450, 451, 453, 456, 459).

⁵ BD: Johann Philipp Freyhold, flautist in the service of the Margrave [Markgraf] of Baden-Durlach. He described himself as being in the service of the Elector of Mainz.

*W: et C: Mozart mp*⁶

⁶ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.