

0921.¹ MOZART TO WENZEL, COUNT PAAR,² VIENNA

Dear Brother.

[Vienna, 14th January, 1786?]

It is an hour now since I came home – and indeed burdened with a severe headache and stomach cramps; I was constantly hoping for an improvement – but since I unfortunately feel the contrary, I am forced to recognise that I am not destined to attend our first celebration³ today, [5] and I therefore ask you, dear Brother, for this reason to give my excuses in the choicest terms at the due time and place. – In this case, no-one’s loss is greater than mine; – I am eternally your

most sincere Br. Mozart

Your Most Honoured Lordship’s⁴ – –

[10] Oh yes, of course – for 8 M and

¹ BD: Original lost, *olim* OLGR Hamburg. Edition La Mara, *Musikerbriefe* I 321. DME consulted the original in the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Musikabteilung mit Mendelssohn-Archiv.

² BD: The identity of the addressee was suggested by O.E. Deutsch. Wenzel Johann Joseph, Count [Graf] Paar, from 1769 Prince [Fürst], (1719-1792), Postmaster of the Hereditary Lands [Erblandpostmeister]; along with his son Wenzel, chamberlain and president of the Viennese Lodge “Zur gekrönten Hoffnung” [“At the Sign of Hope Crowned”] (cf. No. 0921), he appears on Mozart’s subscription list for 1784 (cf. No. 0780/18, 37).

DME: The letter has neither address nor date. It may be connected with the opening of the newly founded Lodge “Zur neugrekrönten Hoffnung” on 14th January, 1786, for which Mozart is excusing himself. In that case, the addressee could be the new Master of the Stool, Tobias Phillip, Baron [Freiherr] von Gebler.

³ BD: The first meeting of the new lodge “Zur gekrönten Hoffnung” [“At the Sign of Hope Crowned”]. Two songs for three-part choir and organ, “Zerfliesset heut’, geliebte Brüder” KV 483 and “Ihr unsere neuen Leiter” KV 484 (neither of them in the “Verzeichnüss”), were sung. On 11th December, 1785, Emperor Joseph ordered that the eight subsidiary lodges of the provincial Lodge in Vienna should be merged into two or three, probably for the sake of better state surveillance. The new lodge in question resulted from these changes.

⁴ “Euer Hochgräflichen – –”.