

1091.¹ MOZART TO HIS WIFE, VIENNA

Dearest, most treasured little wife!

Prague on Good Friday
the 10th April 1789.

This afternoon, at half past one, we arrived here safely; in the meantime, I hope, you will surely have received my little letter from Budwitz.² – Now here is my *account* of Prague. – We alighted at the *Unicorn*;³ – [5] After being shaved, combed and dressed, I drove out with the intention of dining at *Canal's*;⁴ but since I had to go past *Duschek's*,⁵ I enquired there first of all – I then learned that *Madame* had set off for Dresden yesterday!!! – – – So I will meet her there. He dined at *Leliborn's*,⁶ as I often had too; – I therefore drove out to him directly. – I had them call out *Duschek's* name [10] |: as if someone had something to discuss with him |:|. Now, you can imagine the joy. – So I dined at *Leliborn's*. – After the meal, I drove to *Canal* and *Pachta*,⁷ but found no one at home; – so I went to *Guardassoni*⁸ – who has said almost definitely that for the *opera* in the coming autumn I will get 200 *ducats* and 50 *ducats*⁹ travelling expenses.¹⁰ – Then I went home in order to write all of this down for my dear little wife [15] – one more thing; – *Ramm*¹¹ left here on his way home only a week ago, he came from Berlin and said that the king¹² had asked him frequently and insistently if I was certain to come, and since I had not in fact come, he again said, I fear he is not coming. – *Ramm* became most anxious, he attempted to assure him to the contrary; – [20] Judging by this, my business should go not too badly. – Now I am driving the Prince¹³ to *Duschek's*, where we are expected, and at 9 o'clock in the evening we are leaving for *Dresden*, where we will arrive tomorrow evening. – My dearest little wife! I have such longing for news from you – perhaps I will find a letter in *Dresden*! O God! make my wishes come true. [25] After receiving this letter you must write to me in *Leipzig, poste restante*,¹⁴ needless to say; *adieu* – Love, I must close, otherwise the post will leave. – Kiss our Karl¹⁵ a thousand times and, kissing you with my whole heart, I am

your eternally faithful

¹ BD: Original unknown. Copy Bspk. Edition NissenB. The translation uses the DME text from facsimile, Christie's, London.

² BD: No. 1089.

³ "Einhorn": BD: In Láseňská Lane.

⁴ BD: Joseph Emanuel, Count [Graf] Canal von Malabaila (1745-1826), (cf. BD VIII, p. 135). He, too, maintained his own group of musicians and was, like Mozart, a Freemason. Played a major role in directing St. John's Orphanage in Prague, where he also established one of Europe's most famous botanic gardens.

⁵ BD: Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They had known the Mozarts since 1777..

⁶ BD: Not identified. Spelling possibly corrupt.

⁷ BD: Johann Joseph Philipp, Count [Graf] Pachta von Rájow († 1822). Major general and general in the military police, "a good musician and composer" who kept "a musical Harmonie" [wind ensemble] consisting "partly of his servants and partly of musicians from elsewhere". It may have been for him, and certainly for a ball for the Prague nobility, that Mozart composed the 6 German dances KV 509; cf. note on No. 1029/4.

⁸ BD: Domenico Guardasoni († 1806, aged 75), native of Modena. His career in Prague covered singing at the theatre, partnership with the impresario Pasquale Bondini, directing, and his own activities as an impresario.

⁹ BD: = 225 florins.

¹⁰ BD: Metastasio's *La Clemenza di Tito* was apparently envisaged, obviously at this point not as the coronation work performed in 1791; Mozart is said to have demanded changes in the libretto.

¹¹ BD: Friedrich Ramm, oboist, joined the court music in Mannheim aged 14, was in Paris with Mozart, went to Munich with the court in 1778. Mozart met him in Mannheim in 1777 and wrote the oboe quartet KV 370 (368b) for him in 1781.

¹² BD: Frederick William II of Prussia, nephew of Frederick the Great.

¹³ "Fürst". BD: Prince [Fürst] Karl Lichnowsky, Mozart's travelling companion on this journey to Berlin.

¹⁴ = "To be collected from the post office".

¹⁵ BD: Born 21st September, 1786, thus 4 years old.

W: A: Mozart *mp*¹⁶

P.S. All conceivable compliments to Herr and Frau von Puchberg,¹⁷ I have to put off writing to them until *Berlin*, [30] then they will have thanks in writing as well. –

*Adieu - aimés moi et gardés votre Santé si chere et precieuse à votre epoux.*¹⁸

¹⁶ *mpa*: = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁷ BD: Currently helping Mozart financially. Cf. note on No. 1067/5; he was not ennobled until 6th November, 1792.

¹⁸ *Adieu, love me and take care of your health, so dear and precious to your husband.*