

1110.¹ MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN BY VIENNA²

Dearest little wife! –

[Vienna, before the middle of August,³ 1789]

I was delighted to receive your treasured letter – I hope that you received my second one yesterday along with the *decoction*, electuary and ants' eggs.⁴ – At 5 o'clock tomorrow morning I set sail⁵ – I would not drive out yet if it were not simply for the pleasure of seeing you again and embracing you again, because they will soon be giving *Figaro*,⁶ for which I have to make some changes and am therefore needed at the rehearsals – I will no doubt have to return to town on the 19th – but to remain here until the 19th without you would be impossible for me; – my dear little wife! – [10] I will speak quite openly with you: – you have no reason at all to be sad – you have a husband who loves you, who does whatever is in his power for you – as far as your foot is concerned, you need only be patient, it will quite certainly be well in the end; – I am of course glad when you are in good spirits – to be sure – only I wish that you would not make yourself so common from time to time⁷ – [15] for my taste you are too free with X.Y.⁸ . . . Likewise with X.Y.⁹ while he was still in Baden; – just bear in mind that X.Y.s are not as coarse with some other woman, whom they perhaps know better than you, as they are with you; even X.Y., who is otherwise a well-behaved person and holds women in particular in high regard, even he must have been seduced by this to the point of writing the most abominable and coarse foolishness in his letter [20] – a woman must always see to it that she is held in respect – otherwise people start to talk about her – my love! – forgive me for being so open, but my peace of mind demands it, as does our mutual happiness – just remember that you once admitted to me yourself that you are too yielding – [25] you know the consequences of that – and remember too the promise you gave me – O God! – Try to, at all costs, my love! – Be cheerful and content and charming towards me – do not torture yourself and me with unnecessary jealousy – trust in my love, you have enough proof of it, after all! – and you will see how content we shall be; believe firmly that only the wise conduct of a woman can hold a man securely. [30] – *adieu* – tomorrow I will kiss you with all my heart.

Mozart.

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Following the severe illness in her foot in the second half of July, Constanze went for spa treatment in Baden at the beginning of August. The correspondence preceding this letter, particularly that mentioned in lines 2 and 3, is lost.

³ BD: The date is deduced from line 6.

⁴ BD: (Actually dried ant larvae.) Familiar as a fish or bird food; perhaps Constanze had taken the canary to Baden.

⁵ BD: Mozart announces his intention to visit Constanze.

⁶ BD: The last production of *Figaro* in Vienna had been on 18th December, 1786. The first new rehearsal was indeed on the 19th August.

⁷ BD: On the following lines cf. Mozart's strictures in No. 0670/4 ff. and note on No. 1094/73-76.

⁸ BD: Original: "N.N." [= "Nomen nescio" = "I do not know the name"].

⁹ BD: Mozart appears to be referring to at least two different people as "X.Y.", cf. also the plural verb in the following line.