

Dearest, most treasured little wife of my heart

Frankfurt am Main  
the 28<sup>th</sup> Septbr., 790.

We<sup>2</sup> have just this minute arrived – it is 1 o'clock in the afternoon – So we have only taken 6 days – we could have done the journey even faster [5] if we had not rested a little at night three times. – Meanwhile we have alighted at an inn in the suburb Sachsenhausen, glad with every drop of blood in our veins that we have found a room free – We do not yet know what our fate will be – whether we will remain together – or be separated – If I am not given a free room somewhere and find the inn not too expensive, [10] I will certainly stay here. I hope you will have received my letter from Efferding safely,<sup>3</sup> I could not write you again while underway because we stopped only rarely, and only long enough for the necessary rest. – The journey was very pleasant – with the exception of one single day, we had fine weather [15] – and this single day caused us no discomfort because my coach |: I would like to give it a little kiss:| is wonderful. – In Regensburg we dined magnificently at midday, had divine table music, angelic<sup>4</sup> service and a magnificent Mosel wine. – We had breakfast in Nuremberg – an ugly town<sup>5</sup> – [20] In Würzburg we strengthened our precious stomachs with coffee, a beautiful, magnificent town – the victuals were bearable everywhere – only 2 and ½ post-stages from here, in Aschaffenburg, the esteemed landlord saw fit to take grievous advantage of us. –

I am waiting longingly for news from you, about your health, about our circumstances etc. – [25] Now I am firmly resolved to carry out my business here as well as possible and then I look forward to you again with all my heart. – What a wonderful life we are going to lead – I will work – work so much – only so that I do not end up in such a disastrous situation again due to unexpected events – I would very much like it if concerning all this, you would ask X.Y.<sup>6</sup>, via Stadler,<sup>7</sup> to call on you – His last proposal was that someone was willing to release the money only on the condition that *Hofmeister*<sup>8</sup> signs<sup>9</sup> – 1000 florins cash – the rest in cloth – [...] <sup>10</sup> thus everything could yet be paid with something left over, and on my return I need to do nothing except work. – With a *carta bianca*<sup>11</sup> from me the whole thing could be concluded via a friend. – *Adieu* – I kiss you 1000 times.

[35]

Eternally your Mzt mp<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Text according to BD VI, p. 397 (from photocopy of the original).

<sup>2</sup> Travelling with his brother-in-law (the violinist Franz Hofer; cf. note on No. 1022/5, 61, 89) and a servant.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 1133.

<sup>4</sup> Literally “angelic” ≈ heavenly.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Mozart possibly shared Leopold’s dislike of timbered houses.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Name deleted; N.N. [“nomen nescio” = “I do not know his name” ≈ X.Y.] in the margin. DME reads the deleted name as “Ribisel-Gesicht” [“Redcurrant-Face”]. Cf. No. 1036/5.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The clarinetist Anton Paul Stadler (1753-1812), his younger brother was Johann Nepomuk Franz (1755-1804). They both probably played in Mozart’s Serenade in B<sup>b</sup> KV 361 (370a) in Mozart’s concert of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1784. Both brothers were Freemasons in Vienna. Stadler worked constantly on extending the range of his instrument. The inventory of Mozart’s estate contained a note (marked “lost”) claiming the return of a loan of 500 florins from Stadler.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Franz Anton Hoffmeister (1754-1812), composer and publisher in Vienna, Mozart’s main publisher during his lifetime.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Hoffmeister’s signature on the promissory note as sharing the liability. This probably concerns the promissory note for 1000 florins of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1790, issued to the merchant Heinrich Lackenbacher. The latter name could be the one crossed out in line 28. In the note, Mozart offered “all his movable goods” as security. The note is printed as No. 1137.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Two words deleted.

<sup>11</sup> BD: A “blank letter” already bearing Mozart’s signature, authorising the bearer to act

<sup>12</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.