

Dearest, most treasured little wife! –

[Frankfurt, 8th October, 1790]

I now have 3 letters¹ from you, my love. – This very moment I have received the one dated 28th *Sept.* – I still have not received the one sent via Herr von Alt,² but will enquire immediately at *le Noble's*³ on that account. – [5] Now you too must have 4 letters⁴ in your hands. This is the 5th – Now you cannot write to me anymore, for when you read this I will probably no longer be here since I give my *concert* on Wednesday or Thursday⁵ and then on Friday – *chiri chichi* – the best thing is to flee immediately. – My dearest little wife! I hope you have taken care of all I wrote to you about⁶ [10] – and are continuing to do so; – I am certainly not making so much here that I will be in a position to pay back 800 or 1000 florins immediately on my return – but if the business with Hofmeister⁷ is at least so well on its way that the only thing lacking is my presence, then I do at least receive at once⁸ |: calculating the *interest* on the high side at 20 *percent* :| between 2000 – 1600 florins in my hand.⁹ – [15] then I can pay off 1000 fl. – – I am still left with 600 fl. – in *Advent* I start giving little *quartet subscription* recitals¹⁰ anyway – I am taking *pupils* as well – I do not ever need to pay the whole *sum* because I am composing for H.¹¹ – Everything will therefore go according to plan. – I would only ask you to conclude the business with H. – for me, unless perhaps you do not want me to come back again. – [20] If only you could see into my heart – there is a battle between the wish, the longing, to see you again and to embrace you and the wish to bring home money in plenty. – In this regard I have often had thoughts of travelling even further – but when I then forced myself resolutely to the decision, it struck me, on the other hand, how I would regret separating myself from my dear spouse so long for such an uncertain, [25] perhaps even fruitless venture – it feels to me as if I have already been away from you for years – believe me, my love – if you were with me, I would perhaps find it easier to resolve firmly on this course – only – I am much too accustomed to you – and love you too much to be able to be separated from you for long – [30] and then everything they do with the Imperial Cities¹² is ostentatious. – Famous, admired and popular: that is certainly what I am here; but otherwise the people are even more penny-pinching than in Vienna. – If the *concert* is at least a little successful, I can attribute it to my name – and to Countess Hatzfeld¹³ and to the Schweitzer¹⁴ household, who have taken a great *interest* in me. – [35] Otherwise I will be glad when it is over – when I am working busily in Vienna and taking *pupils* so that we can live truly happily; and nothing can make me deviate from this plan except a good position at a

¹ BD: Cf. No. 1134 (lost).

² BD: Not identified. Cf. No. 1153/17.

³ BD: Cf. No. 1069/24.

⁴ BD: Nos. 1133, 1135, 1136, 1138.

⁵ BD: It did not take place until Friday, 15th October, 1790 (cf. note on No. 1140/3, 6-7).

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 1135/28 ff.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 1135/28 ff.

⁸ BD: Mozart's misconceptions regarding the sums and interest involved prove that he only signed the promissory note on his return.

⁹ BD: Mozart's calculation is that the interest over the two years will come to 400 florins, which he (wrongly) anticipates will be deducted from the total sum lent in advance.

¹⁰ BD: It is not clear if these ever took place.

¹¹ BD: Franz Anton Hoffmeister, Vienna. Mozart's main publisher. Cf. note on No 1135/30.

¹² “von den Reichsstädten”.

¹³ “Gräfin” BD: Countess [Gräfin] Hatzfeld: Probably Baroness [Freifrau] Sophie von Hatzfeld, married name von Coudenhoven. Unlikely to be Maria Anna Hortensia, Countess [Gräfin] Hatzfeld, who took part in a private performance of *Idomeneo* in Vienna in 1786.

¹⁴ BD: Franz Maria Schwei(t)zer, originally from Verona, married Paula Maria, née Allesina, member of a family dealing in silk and fashion wares. He built up a magnificent palace during the years 1787-1792.

court somewhere. – Try at any rate to bring the *business* with Hofmeister to a conclusion with the help of Redcurrant-Face¹⁵ or with someone else, and to make my intention of taking *pupils better known*; [40] then we shall certainly lack nothing. *adieu* – my love – you will indeed receive more letters from me, but I unfortunately cannot receive any more. – Go on loving forever your

Mozart mp¹⁶

Frankfurt am Main. the 8th Octb. 790.

The coronation is tomorrow.¹⁷ –

[45] Take care of your health – and be cautious when out walking. – adieu.

¹⁵ Probably Stadler; cf. Nos. 1136/5;

¹⁶ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁷ BD: On Saturday, the 9th. Cf. note on No. 1138/40.