

1155.¹ MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN² BY VIENNA

*Ma très chère Epouse!*³ –

[Vienna, 5th June, 1791]

I hope that my letter handed Sabinde⁴ to you immediately upon alighting – and after reading the Sabinde you will no doubt have been pleased that I allowed the letter to drive to Baden. [5] – The letter slept here last night, and I wrote the Sabinde this morning – s – s – a. – A crowd of people were made fools of when they came to St. Stephan's this morning.⁵ – Schwingenschuh's wife⁶ and Lisette⁷ called on me very early this morning, and I told them myself – then I sent Lorl⁸ to church in order to tell Jacquin⁹ and Schäfer¹⁰ at once. [10] They came to me at once. – And I sent someone at once, too, since he had seen Hofmann¹¹ up in the choir. – On Wednesday I will fly to you in compagnie with the Schwingenschuhs,¹² – tonight I will sleep at Leitgeb's¹³ – and I keep thinking I have given Lorl the *consilium abeundi*,¹⁴ – I look forward to reading something from you soon. *Adieu*, Love –

[15]

Eternally

Your husband Mozart.

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

³ BD: = My very dear spouse.

⁴ BD: Presumably really “Sabine”; serving girl who delivered the letter of the 4th June, 1791 (No. 1154; lost) to Constanze personally. “Sabinde” seems to have been still in service with Constanze 15 years later: her burial is mentioned in the letter of 11th June, 1806 (No. 1371, excerpt). Here Mozart exchanges “letter” and “Sabinde” for fun.

⁵ BD VIII, p. 94: The statement in BD VI linking this to an unsuccessful hot air balloon experiment by Blanchard is unlikely. It is more probable that Mozart had to step in to conduct one of his Masses (KV 317 (?), whose score and parts he had requested from Stoll in No. 1153/5 ff.) in place of the ailing cathedral music director Hofmann.

⁶ BD: Anna von Schwingenschuh, wife of one of the staff at the central mint.

⁷ BD: Not identified.

⁸ BD: A chambermaid at the Mozarts' whom Mozart was about to dismiss, cf. line 13. Cf. No. 1157/4-5, where she is called “Leonore”.

⁹ BD: Gottfried von Jacquin (cf. Nos. 1022, 1069, 1072), whose sister Franziska was one of Mozart's keyboard pupils (cf. note on No. 0972/2).

¹⁰ BD: Not identified.

¹¹ BD: Cathedral music director Leopold Hofmann (cf. note on No. 1151/8). Hofmann may have performed Mozart's Mass KV 317 about this time, the work whose return Mozart had requested from Stoll in No. 1153/5-8. Mozart would then make a point of sending the score and parts “at once”.

¹² BD: Besides referring to the Schwingenschuh family, Mozart is also punning on “Schwingen” = “wings”.

¹³ BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), hunting horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart speak for his musical abilities. Mozart made contact with him in 1781, shortly after arriving in Vienna. Leutgeb lived in a large house outside town; Mozart stayed there occasionally when his wife was taking spa treatment in Baden in 1791.

¹⁴ BD: Actually a punishment for students suspended from one university, but not automatically banned from attending another one.