

1157. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN<sup>1</sup> BY VIENNA

*Ma très chère Epouse!*<sup>2</sup> –

[Vienna, the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1791]

*I am writing this letter in the little bedroom next to the garden at Leitgeb's<sup>3</sup> where I slept excellently last night – and I hope that my dear spouse spent the night as well as I did, I shall spend the coming night here, too, [5] for I have dismissed Leonore,<sup>4</sup> and I would be completely alone at home, which is not pleasant. –*

*I am waiting with a great deal of patience for a letter which will inform me about how you spent the day yesterday; – I tremble when I think about the baths at St. Anton, for I am always afraid of the risk of falling on the steps when leaving – and I find myself between hope and fear – a very unpleasant situation! – [10] If you were not pregnant I would be less anxious – but let us leave this sad thought! – – Heaven will certainly have been taking care of my dear Stanzi=Marini, – Mad:<sup>me</sup> de Schwingenschu<sup>5</sup> has asked me to get them a box for this evening in the theatre at Wieden<sup>6</sup> where they will be giving the fifth part of Anton,<sup>7</sup> and I was so happy to be able to be of service to them; I would, after all, have the pleasure of seeing this opera in their company. [15]*

I have just this moment received your dear letter, and am pleased to gather from it that you are well and in good spirits – Mad:<sup>e</sup> Leitgeb<sup>8</sup> did my necktie for me today, but what did she do? – Dear God! – Of course, I kept telling her, this is how she does it!<sup>9</sup> – But it was no use. – I am glad that you have a good *appetite* [20] – but whoever swallows a lot also has to sh . . . .<sup>10</sup> a lot? – No, has to walk a lot, I meant to say. – Yet I would prefer it if you do not go for any long walks without me. – At all costs do what I advise you, I certainly mean that with my whole heart. *adieu* – love – one and only! – You can snatch them out of the air too<sup>11</sup> – – there are 2999 and a ½ little kisses from me flying around, waiting to be caught. – [25] Now I am going to whisper something into your ear. – – – – Now you do it to me. – – – Now let us open and close our mouths – – – more and more – and more again – – finally we say: – It is because of *Plumpi* – *Strumpi* – – now, you can think whatever you like while this is going on. – That is the *convenient* thing about it. – *adieu* – 1000 tender kisses Eternally Your

Mozart

The 6<sup>th</sup> June. 791.

[IN A FOREIGN HAND (NISSEN'S?) AT THE BOTTOM OF P. 1 (AFTER LINE 21):]

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> BD: = My very dear spouse. The letter continues in French until line 15. Constanze's fluency in French is evinced by her correspondence with the Spontinis and by Mary Novello's diary entry for 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1829.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 1155/8 referring to "Lorl".

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 1155/7. Von Schwingenschuh was one of the staff at the central mint. They attended the theatre with Mozart on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1791.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The "*Freihaustheater*" in the home of Prince [Fürst] Starhemberg.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The fourth sequel to the successful opera *Der dumme Gärtner... oder die zweien Anton* ["The stupid gardener... or the two Antons"], cf. note on No. 1129/10.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Leutgeb (cf. line 2) married for the second time in 1786.

<sup>9</sup> BD: She = Constanze.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Dotting in the original.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. the flying kisses in 1141/3.

It is known that, apart from at the keyboard, he was very clumsy in the use of his hands, that he could not cut meat, and that his wife cut the meat for him as for a child.

[ORIGINAL FRENCH TEXT OF LINES 1-16:]

*Ma très cher Epouse!*

*J'écris cette lettre dans la petite Chambre au Jardin chez Leitgeb ou j'ai couché cette Nuit excellement – et J'espère que ma chere Epouse aura passée cette Nuit aussi bien que moi, j'y passerai cette Nuit aussi, puisque J'ai congedié [5] Leonore, et je serais tout seul á la maison, ce qui n'est pas agreable. –*

*j'attends avec beaucoup d'impatience une lettre qui m'apprendra comme vous avés passée le Jour d'hier; – je tremble quand je pense au baigne du st: Antoin; car je crains toujours le risque de tomber sur l' escalier, en sortant – et je me trouve entre l'esperance et la Crainte – une Situation bien desagreable! – si [10] vous n'etiés pas grosse Jen'craignerais moins – mais abandonons cette Jdée triste! – – le Ciel aura eu certainement soin de ma Chere stanzi=Marini, – Mad.<sup>me</sup> de Schwingenschu m'a priée de leur procurer une Loge pour ce soir au theatre de Wieden ou l'on donnera, la cinquième partie d'Antoin, et j'etais si heureux de pouvoir les servir; j'aurai donc le plaisir de voir cet Opera dans [15] leur Compagnie.*