

1160.¹ MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN² BY VIENNA

*Ma très chère Epouse!*³ –

[Vienna, 11th June, 1791]

*Lament with me my ill fortune! – Mad^{selle} Kirchgessner⁴ is not giving her concert on Monday! – Consequently I could have possessed you, my dear, this whole day on Sunday – I will certainly come on Wednesday. –*⁴

[5] I must hurry because it is already $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 o'clock – and the coach leaves at 7 o'clock⁵ – Take care that you do not fall at the spa baths, and never stay on your own – if I were you, I would pause for a day so as not to launch into it too abruptly. I hope someone slept in your apartment last night. – I cannot tell you how much I would give [10] if I could be sitting with you in Baaden. – For no other reason than pure boredom I composed an aria for the opera⁶ today – I was already up at half past 4 this morning – now be astonished! – I managed to open my watch; – but – because I did not have a key, I unfortunately could not wind it up; isn't that sad? – *shlumb!*⁷ – that is another word to think about – [15] instead, I wound up the big clock. – *Adieu* – Love! – Today I dine at Puchberg's⁸ – I kiss you 1000 times and, in thought, join with you in saying: Death and Despair were his wages!⁹ –

Your husband who loves you eternally
W. A. Mozart.

[20] Carl¹⁰ must behave himself,
kiss him for me.
(take an electuary if your bowels are not moving – but otherwise not.)
(be careful in the mornings and evenings when it is cool.)

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had had spa treatment in Baden, 25 km south of Vienna, on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

³ = *My very dear spouse*. The letter continues in French until line 4. *Criés avec moi contre mon mauvais sort! – Mad^{selle} Kirchgessner ne donne pas son Academie Lundi! – par consequent j'aurais pu vous posseder, ma chère, tout ce jour de Dimanche – mercredi je viendrai sûrement. –*

⁴ BD: Constanze's fluency in French is evinced by her correspondence with the Spontinis and by Mary Novello's diary entry for 14th July, 1829.

⁵ BD: For the singspiel *Kaspar der Fagottist oder die Zauberzither* ["Kaspar the Bassoonist or The Magic Zither"].

⁶ BD: *The Magic Flute*, premiere 30th September, 1791. It is not known which aria.

⁷ BD: Cf. similar fantasy words in No. 1157/26-27.

⁸ BD: Johann Michael Puchberg (1741-1822), 1768-1777 in charge of a factory and wholesale business for finished and semi-finished silk layers, velvet, ribbons, cloth and gloves. He resumed this activity in 1785 in association with his brother. Mozart dedicated to him the string trio divertimento in E^b KV 563 (cf. No. 1094/23; No. 1121/11) and perhaps also the piano trio in E KV 542 (cf. notes on No. 1077/50 and No. 1083/18). In the course of three years, Puchberg lent Mozart a total of at least 1415 florins (cf. note on No. 1076). Constanze paid the debt some years later when her financial position improved. Puchberg died in poverty in 1822.

⁹ BD: Quotation from *The Magic Flute*.

¹⁰ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858.