

Vienna, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1767

I know of nothing I can tell you, other than that we are all well, praise God, and that alone is certainly worth the postage. Our hopes and wishes are therefore that you will likewise all be well. You know, of course, [5] that I did not take much money with me. That is the reason why I made use of the credit you gave me<sup>3</sup> and took out 20 Kremnitz ducats.<sup>4</sup> I will hardly be able to tell you anything more from the events of the past 14 days. The *opera* by Hasse<sup>5</sup> is beautiful, but the persons singing, *N.B.* for a festivity of this kind, are in no way special. *Sigr. Tibaldi*<sup>6</sup> is the *tenor* and [10] *Sgr. Raucini*<sup>7</sup> from Munich is the leading *castrato*. The *prima donna Sgra. Deiber*,<sup>8</sup> the daughter of a court *violinist* in Vienna. But the dances are splendid, the main person in that is the famous *Vestris*<sup>9</sup> from France. – – –

Is it still raining in Salzburg as it is here? It is raining quite abominably here, and without end. Has Herr Meissner<sup>10</sup> already left? [15] Just imagine this piece of thoughtlessness by our servant. He had only 3 shirts with him and, since the others were in the wash, he left them in Salzburg. If he had told me sooner, Herr Meissner would have been able to take them with him. I imagine Herr Meissner will have set off already. What is to be done? How do we get the shirts here so that it does not cost much? [20] These shirts are with a certain court lackey called *Hochenreiter*,<sup>11</sup> who lives in the *Goldgasse* and whose son is apprenticed to Herr *Perillion*.<sup>12</sup> At least our Bernhard left an instruction with *Perillion* to hand the washing in to the said lackey. Perhaps the conductor of the post coach will take it with him for a small sum, for that is one of the duties of such people. You have my address already anyway. [25] Do you know that the Emperor is travelling *incognito* even as far as Naples and will thus be out of Vienna for at least 6 months?<sup>13</sup> There would be plenty to describe regarding the current state etc. of the court here, but I must save it for another opportunity. Farewell, all of you, and commend us to all our good friends, and say to them simply that I am, sir, yours as always.<sup>14</sup> [30]

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Probably with the "Peisser" of No. 0116/22.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Kremnitz ducats. 20 ducats ≈ 90 florins.

<sup>5</sup> BD: *Partenope*. Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), in Vienna once again since 1764. Leopold Mozart heard his opera *Demetrio* in Mantua in 1770 (cf. No. 0158/22).

<sup>6</sup> BD VII: Giuseppe Luigi Tibaldi (1729 – after 1790). Sang in the première of *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111 in 1771.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Venanzio Rauzzini (1746-1810), soprano castrato, in Vienna since 1766. In 1772 he sang in the première of *Lucio Silla* KV 135 (cf. No. 0266/23-24). Mozart wrote KV 165 (158a) for him (cf. No. 0279/36-37).

<sup>8</sup> BD: Elisabeth Teyber (1744-1816), singer, member of perhaps the only family (mainly musicians) in Vienna to have maintained contacts with all the members of the Mozart family over 20 years. Sang in Burgtheater 1778.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Gaetano Apolino Baldassare Vestris (1729-1808), pupil of L. Dupré in Paris. In 1751 "*premier danseur*" and successor to his teacher as "*le dieu de la danse*" ["the God of dance"].

<sup>10</sup> BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner.

Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg. Cf. 0053/99.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Joseph Hohenreiter, appears in the *Hofkalender* 1762-1788. Mentioned in No. 0414/53-54 as "wigmaker".

<sup>12</sup> BD: Perillion: Franz Joseph Perillion, royal wigmaker, appears in the *Hofkalender* 1754-1784.

<sup>13</sup> BD: This plan was not realised. He did not leave for Naples until March, 1769. Leopold was hoping to find him supportive of his plans and was therefore concerned at the thought of his absence.

<sup>14</sup> BD: This letter is known only as a copy. Signature missing.

If letters arrive for me, you should not send them to me, but simply open them and see if they are perhaps something essential and inform me of the contents. Write to me, too, whether it is true that Countess von Herberstein<sup>15</sup> has left to see her *Papa* in Brno.

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<sup>15</sup> BD: Maria Augusta, Countess [Gräfin] Herberstein. Her father: Franz Anton, Count [Graf] Schrattenbach (1712-1783). The Mozart did in fact travel to Brno to call on her (cf. No. 0121/39-40).