

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg*¹

Milan, 17th Febr: 1770.

Your letter of the 9th Feb.² reached me safely today. I hope the cough has left you and Nannerl. We are both well, praise God. [5] I can well believe that in Italy the winter is not as dangerous as the summer, but we hope God will keep us and if one does not ruin one's health with indiscipline and unnecessary gluttony and boozing etc. and otherwise does not have any natural inner defects, there is nothing to worry about. We are in God's hand wherever we are. Nor will Wolfgang ruin himself with eating and drinking. [10] You know that he has self-discipline, and I can assure you that I have never seen him so attentive to his health as in this land. Anything that does not seem good to him he leaves on one side, and on some days he eats extremely little and is in stout and healthy shape and high-spirited and merry the whole day. [15] I am writing this to you from the house of Count *Firmian's*³ administrator, *Sgr. Don Ferdinando*,⁴ our especially good friend, and just at this moment the tailor has come with the coats and cowls which we had to have made. I looked at myself in the mirror as we tried them on and thought, now, even at my age, I still have to go through with this clowning. [20] It suits Wolfgang incomparably well, and since we had to perform this buffoonish task anyway, it is my consolation that one can use it again for all kinds of other things and at least for lining clothes, an apron etc.

Tomorrow Their Highnesses the Duke and the Princess of *Modena*⁵ |: the future bride of Archduke Ferdinand⁶ :| are calling on His Excellency Count von *Firmian* to hear Wolfgang. [25] In the evening we will drive *masked* and in *gala* dress to the *opera*. The *ball* will be after the *opera*, and then we will drive back home again with the administrator and his wife. On Friday coming, an invitation *concert* will be given for the general public, and then we shall see what comes of it. I can therefore write nothing more to you about our circumstances until we are either gone from here or, at least, ready to leave. [30] In Italy there will not be much in the way of takings.⁷ The only satisfaction is that there is more curiosity and appreciation here, and that the Italians recognise what Wolfgang is capable of. Otherwise, one usually has to be content with payment in admiration and cries of *bravo*, although I have to tell you that we are received everywhere with the greatest courtesy conceivable [35] and are presented to the high nobility on every occasion.

Now I must reply to your questions. Herr Martin Knoller⁸ is here in Milan. If Herr Deibl⁹ wants to write, he need only add at the bottom: in casa di S. Exc. di C. di Firmian.¹⁰

¹ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "Nº: from Milan answered 2nd March".

² BD: No. 0159a (lost).

³ "im Graf: Firmianischen Hause". BD: Cf. No. 0155/41-42. Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

⁴ BD: Cf. Nos. 0155/41-42; 0157/58. Don Fernando (Ferdinandi) Germani and his wife Therese.

⁵ "S^c: DI: der Herzog und die Prinzessin v Modena". BD: Probably not Duke Hercole III Rainoldo d'Este (1727-1803), but his father, Francesco III (1698-1780). It was probably the Duke and his granddaughter who suggested to Maria Theresia that Mozart write *Ascanio in Alba* for the wedding of Ferdinand of Austria and Maria Beatrice Ricciarda, cf. No. 0236/47.

⁶ "Erzherzog". BD: Archduke Ferdinand of Austria.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0157/71 f.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 1391/12 ff. Martin Knoller (1725-1804), at that time court painter in Milan. The miniature on ivory (Deutsch Bild No. 9) is supposed to be by him.

⁹ BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (1698?-1783), oboist, also violinist, in Salzburg.

¹⁰ "In the house of His Excellency Count of Firmian".

[40] I received the letter¹¹ from the eminent Court Counsellor von Mölk,¹² but I must ask all these gentlemen who have written to me to pardon me. It is impossible for me to write, since you know how things are on a journey, especially since I am lord, servant and everything.

The 2 telescopes are in order and handed over a very long – very long time ago.

[45] Who, then, translated this report from *Mantua*? – –

Wolfgang most submissively sends a kiss to the hand of Her Excellency the Countess of *Arco*,¹³ and gives thanks for the kiss sent to him, which is much more pleasant to him than very many pecks from young lips.

My compliments to all Salzburg. – – I am as always

Mozart

[50] We kiss you and Nannerl.

MOZART'S POST-SCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

Here I am as well, there you have me. Little Maria Anna, it is a real joy to me, from the bottom of my arse, that you were so terrifyingly high-spirited. Say to that nanny, little Ursula with the cold arse,¹⁴ that I still think that I put all her songs back in their place again, but, [55] just in case I dragged them to Italy along with my weighty and lofty thoughts, I will not fail to force them, if I find them, into the letter. *Addio*, children, farewell, I kiss Mama's hands a thousand times and to you I send a hundred little pecks or smacks on your wonderful horsey face, *per far il fine*¹⁵ I am yours etc.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POST-SCRIPT:

[60] We did not take any *cadenzas* with us. Yes, yes, they will be in with the *concerto*! You will find the *concertos*¹⁶ in the score at the top of the desk, where the *symphonies* are. They are under the copies of the *Cannabich*¹⁷ *symphonies* there. You will surely still sing from time to time as well?¹⁸ – –

¹¹ BD: No. 0160a.

¹² "T: H: HofRath von Mölk". BD: Royal Chancellor [Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776).

¹³ "S. E. gräfin von Arco". BD: Maria Josepha Viktoria, Countess [Gräfin] van Eyck, née Countess [Komtesse] Hardegg († 1776), wife of wife of Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmere] in Salzburg. (Cf. No. 0157/24 f.). Her daughter was Maria Anna Felicitas, Countess [Gräfin] van Eyck, wife of Maximilian Emanuel Franz, Count [Graf] van Eyck (1711-1777), Bavarian ambassador in Paris; the Mozart family stayed in his palace there.

¹⁴ BD: Not identified.

¹⁵ = to conclude.

¹⁶ BD: Not identified.

¹⁷ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. the advice in No. 0170/67-68.