

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg*³

Botzen,⁴ 28th October, 1772

Haven't we travelled astonishingly far already, as we are in Botzen? On the first day,⁵ we were in St. Johanns⁶ before 8 o'clock, but, [5] since the subsequent Sunday had no Mass earlier than the early Office at 6 o'clock, we did not get away until 7 o'clock and therefore did not reach Insprugg⁷ until around 10 o'clock. On Monday we stayed in Insprugg and took a drive to Hall⁸ in the afternoon in order to see the royal convent, where the sister⁹ of Countess Lodron, the wife of the Royal High Steward,¹⁰ showed us round everything. Wolfgang played the organ in the church. [10] On the 27th we got as far as Brixen,¹¹ and today,¹² at 12 noon, we reached here. We stopped here because we would have reached Trent very late at night in the most astonishing rainstorm, which had just begun at midday, but would have had no other comfortable overnight lodgings on the way. Tomorrow, at 5 o'clock in the morning, we will travel, [15] with God's help, to Trent. In sad Botzen, we visited Brother *Vincenz Ranftl*¹³ in the Dominican Monastery. He commends himself to all Salzburg and is in very good health.

One always has to forget something. I bought a new calendar and have taken it with me, but we have both left this year's behind, [20] so I must buy a calendar for the rest of this year, one just has to laugh. I have left my wax seal at home – that is not a laughing matter and vexes me astonishingly.

At the moment my health |: praise God :| is, amid our beloved disorder, as it seems to me, pretty much back in order again.

[25] If travelling is necessary for my health, I will make efforts to find employment as a *courier*, or at least as the *driver* of a post coach. Wolfgang is also in good health. Out of boredom, he is just writing a *quartet*.¹⁴ He commends himself to all.

Before the journey, I laid the engravings loosely in some 20 of my books,¹⁵ [30] and also arranged a number of engravings¹⁶ crossways in preparation for being left in the books. Now they are lying on the books; you will find them immediately. I wanted to put them in

¹ BD: In NissenColl this letter is described as containing poem which is “too lewd” to be copied.

² BD: Leopold and Wolfgang were setting off on the third Italian journey (24th October, 1772, to 13th March, 1773; cf. No. 1212/328, 332). The immediate aim was the preparation and performance of the ‘dramma per musica’ *Lucio Silla* KV 135 in Milan. In the meantime, the new Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg had awarded Wolfgang fixed salary of 150 florins per annum.

³ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: “N:º 1 from Bozen”.

⁴ BD: Bozen, Bolzano. It is not clear why this place made such a “sad” impression on the Mozarts.

⁵ BD: Saturday, 24th October.

⁶ BD: St. Johann in Tyrol. 25 km from Lofen. They arrived in the evening on the 24th.

⁷ Innsbruck.

⁸ BD: 11 km east of Innsbruck.

⁹ BD: Marianne, Countess [Gräfin] Lodron (1750-1794), daughter of Joseph Nikolaus, Count [Graf] Lodron (cf. No. 1011/77).

¹⁰ “Oberhofmeisterin”. BD: Maximiliane was married to the Salzburg Royal High Steward Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian.

¹¹ = Bressanone, today in Italy.

¹² BD: Wednesday.

¹³ BD: The families of Salzburg merchants with this name included a number of sons. Cf. No. 0088/191.

¹⁴ BD: Perhaps the quartet (divertimento) for two violins, viola, viola and cello and bass KV 155 (134a), the first of series of six quartets (KV 155/134a, 156/134b, 157, 158, 159, 160/159a) which date from the third Italian journey.

¹⁵ BD: Leopold's violin school, subject of No. 0001 and numerous subsequent letters.

¹⁶ BD: The text pages and the engravings were as yet unbound.

place, but ran out of time. If any *symphonies*¹⁷ are *N.B. absolutely* demanded, one must take those I have prepared, count them in advance, and write down which it is, [35] so that one knows afterwards what has been handed out. Herr Estlinger¹⁸ could do this quickly. Our compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies. Keep well. We kiss you both many 1000 times and I am as always
Mzt.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

Now we are already in Botzen. Already? Finally! I am hungry, thirsty, sleepy.¹⁹ I am lazy, but I am well. At Hall we saw the convent, [40] I played the organ there. If you see the Naders' Nanerl,²⁰ tell her I spoke to Herr Brindl²¹ |: her *amante*²² :|, he asked me to give her his compliments. I hope you have kept your word and wrl mt *D.N.*'o emot Ohndmy.²³ Keep well, write to me with some news. Botzen, this pigsty.

[45] A poem by someone who was bursting with rage and inflamed over Bozen.

Instead of Bozen, void of arts,
I'd rather beat my private parts.²⁴

¹⁷ BD: Probably referring to Leopold's compositions.

¹⁸ BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional "factotum" to the Mozarts.

¹⁹ BD: "sleepy": cf. Nos. 0189/67-68; 0202/72; 0217/45.

²⁰ BD: A person of a similar name appears in Nos. 0831/31; 0871/65, 70.

²¹ BD VII: Joseph Anton Brindl, bass in the court music 1774-1783. Sang in Mozart's *Apollo und Hyacinth* KV 38 in 1767.

²² = Lover.

²³ BD: Family code: "were at D.N.'s last Sunday". "D.N." was presumably a girl admired by Mozart, cf. No. 0265/22 ff.

²⁴ More literally: If I should come to Bozen again, I'd rather beat myself in the private parts. ["soll ich noch komen nach botzen / so schlag ich mich lieber in d'fozen"]