

0272. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbouurg / par Mantova / Insprugg*¹

Milan, 26th
Decb.
1772.

[5] We have just left the table after eating at midday at the home of *Madame d'Aste*,² where I am now writing and who commends herself to you both. In around 2 or 3 hours the *opera*³ will start. God give his grace! The main stage rehearsal went so well yesterday that we can hope for the greatest success. The music alone, without *ballets*,⁴ lasts 4 hours. We received your letter⁵ safely today and learnt much that is new. [10] The misfortune⁶ that has befallen Herr Joseph Hagenauer⁷ touches our hearts deeply. Today in the church we prayed most urgently to God for his recovery and wish him most cordially, with our compliments, a good recovery. The ghost story⁸ in the *Barisanis'* house is nothing but a *hysterical* delusion. [15] The esteemed Dr. *Barisani*⁹ should simply make some investigations; the dear girl will certainly at some point, if not now, have suffered from imagined pregnancies.

With this post I am also writing to His *Excellency* the titled Royal High Steward¹⁰ and to His High Princely Grace, our most gracious Lord,¹¹ enclosing the libretto of the *opera*. Do not forget to pay a visit to Her *Excellency* Countess von Arco¹² [20] and to pass on our most humble commendations and New Year wishes *etc.* Regarding the <letters to Florence>¹³ there has been great confusion. *Abbate Augustini*¹⁴ took the whole packet with him to Rome, whereas he should

¹ BD: Innsbruck. Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:º 9 from Milan".

² BD: Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, daughter of Leopold Troger, cf. No. 0224/8-9. Leopold Troger was a court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771. Cf. No. 0155/41.

³ BD: *Lucio Silla* KV 135, the first opera of the season in Milan. Cast list in BD V, p. 323.

⁴ BD: *Le gelosie del seraglio*, *La Scuola die Negromanzia* and *La Ciaconna*. The first and third directed by Carlo de Picq, the second by Giuseppe Salomon. *Le gelosie* is listed as KV Anh. 109/135a, largely on the grounds of Mozart's handwriting, but the composer of seven pieces was most likely Joseph Starzer; it is doubtful whether Mozart wrote any of it.

⁵ BD: No. 0271a, lost.

⁶ BD: No details known; probably an illness.

⁷ BD: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

⁸ BD: No details known.

⁹ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Cf. No. 0270/28-29.

¹⁰ "S:º Exc: T. H: Oberst-Hofmeister". Franz Lactanz, Graf Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister]. The missing letter: No. 0274.

¹¹ "S:º Hochf: Gden unseren gdgst H:". BD: Hieronymus Colloredo, the new Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg and Leopold's employer.

¹² "S:º Exc: 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.

¹³ Family code. BD: Letter: No. 0271b, lost.

¹⁴ Abbate = Abbé: abbot, or one permitted to wear ecclesiastical dress. BD: Otherwise unknown.

have handed it to Herr Troger¹⁵ here. Consequently, all these things first had to come back here from Rome and were sent to <Florence>¹⁶ only a short time ago. [25] His *Excellency* Count *Firmian*¹⁷ accompanied it with a <good and cogent letter>,¹⁸ now we must <await the answer>. Every evening on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd inst. there was a large company of all the *nobility* at Count *Firmian*'s. Every evening this lasted, with constant vocal and instrumental music, from 5 o'clock in the evening to 11 o'clock at night. [30] We too were invited, and Wolfgang played every evening. In particular, on the third evening, Wolfgang had to play immediately on the entrance of Their Royal Highnesses,¹⁹ at their request, and both Royal Highnesses spoke with us for a long time. On all these 3 evenings, the finest houses of the town were illuminated with large torches; on the church tower standing near Count *Firmian*'s house the bells played certain little pieces, [35] like the *carillon* in the Netherlands, and in the street there was music with trumpets and kettle drums. These were the festivities put on in Milan because of the elevation of His *Eminence* of Passau²⁰ to the rank of *Cardinal*.

*De Amicis*²¹ is the best of our lady friends, and sings and *acts* angelically, [40] and is wallowing in contentment because Wolfgang has served her incomparably. Both of you, along with all Salzburg, would be astonished to hear it! We both commend ourselves to you and to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, inside and outside the house. We kiss you many 10000 times and I am, in haste, as always your

Mzt mp.²²

[45] Although we find ourselves well, praise God, my head still remains my secret enemy. I look much better, my colour is good, but from time to time have my feeling in the head again, and especially there where I had that unfortunate fall at night. [50] I hope I will have to suffer this feeling for 50 further years.²³

¹⁵ BD: Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. Father of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

¹⁶ Family code.

¹⁷ BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

¹⁸ BD: After the disappointment of his hopes for employment for Wolfgang with Archduke Ferdinand (cf. No. 0256/4), Leopold was now seeking an opportunity at the Tuscan court in Florence. He had already sent one letter to Grand Duke Leopold (cf. No. 0173/13, 15; No. 0271b).

¹⁹ "Königl: Hoheiten". BD: Archduke [Erzherzog] Ferdinand and his wife Maria Beatrice Ricciardi, for whose wedding celebrations in 1771 Mozart wrote *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111.

²⁰ BD: Leopold III Ernst, Count [Graf] Firmian, brother of Karl Joseph.

²¹ BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis, met the Mozarts in Mainz and Naples, cf. Nos. 0060/29-31; 0188/54; 0266/24.

²² mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

²³ Word ["not/do not"] missing? Or an ironic wish for a long life?