

[Mannheim, 31st October, 1777]

That is curious!² I ought to write³ something sensible and nothing sensible occurs to me. Do not forget to admonish the esteemed Dean,⁴ so that he sends the scores⁵ to me soon. Do not forget your promise,⁶ madam; I will certainly not forget either. [5] How could you have any doubt? With the next post, I will send you a letter entirely in French, and you can then have it put into German by the esteemed head forester.⁷ I hope you will have already begun to learn?⁸ Now there is too little room to set down yet more sensible things, and writing sensible things all the time leads to headaches. [10] My letter is of course full of sensible and learned things anyway. Once you have read it, you will have to admit this, and if you have not yet read it, I beg you to read it soon, you will draw much profit from it. At some lines you will shed bitter tears.

¹ BD: Mozart's cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in Mozart's letters as his "Bäsle" ["little cousin"]. Cf. No. 0358.

² BD: Cf. No. 0364/53 ff.

³ BD: This may be a suggestion made in a previous, lost letter from Wolfgang's cousin.

⁴ "Herrn Dechant". BD: Father Ludwig Zöschinger (1731-1806), took vows in Augsburg in 1761. Organist and monastery dean in Holy Cross [Heiligkreuz]. Also composed. Compositions: cf. No. 0355/13 etc.

⁵ BD: Mozart had lent some of his pieces to the monastery Holy Cross [Heiligkreuz] in Augsburg. Cf. No. 0376/32-34, where Mozart speaks of two masses and an oratorio, i.e. KV 192 (186f), 220 (196b), 222 (205a).

⁶ BD VII: There was a promise to exchange portraits, cf. Nos. 0371/14; 0364/11-12.

⁷ "Forstmeister". BD: This should in fact be the postmaster [Postmeister], cf. No. 0350/49-50.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0371/37-38, where Mozart again talks about French lessons.