

0378. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musi=
que / à / Mannheim / at The Palatine Court.*¹

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

Salzb., 24th Novemb. 1777.

I really do not know what I should write, so very disconcerted was I over your last letter³ of the 16th. [5] There I was informed, in the lightest of manners,⁴ that Herr Schmalz,⁵ probably the father, brother or close relative of the Herr Schmalz at the leather factory in Munich, or perhaps even that very man himself, apologises that he had not received any instruction to give you money. I am very willing to believe this; he was right, too, for you should have made a request to Herr Herzog,⁶ or to the premises of Nocker and Schiedl, [10] for them to make a small further credit available to you, as I used to do it, for they had no order from Hagenauer's⁷ firm to extend this credit to other places, and no merchant departs from the literal order;⁸ but at your request, however, he would have done it. But this event was related to me in such a natural and casual way [15] as if I had my chests all full of money and as if I were simply delaying the matter terribly by not making the payment at once. I am not going to spend time giving a detailed description of our circumstances, you know yourself, and Mama knows them just as well, and in my letter⁹ of the 20th, I listed it all, the biggest debts,¹⁰ and forgot, besides, [20] quite a *oam* in a *alrcumndfol mccshnt*¹¹ with Hagenauer, where we now of course do not *pemcl m ofngel krlhzlr*.¹² What most left me in bewilderment on receiving your last letter was that you suddenly came out with this story without saying anything to me in the previous letter, where you had only written that money is more what one needs for travelling [25] and would have been better than an elegant gift, since you already knew then that you were short of money. So, if Herr Schmalz had been compliant, and without having had the least advance information from the two of you, I would have had, at a moment when I had not expected it, a payment demand around my neck. This is truly fine! – – [30] I leave to you to reflect on it in the light of all my circumstances. From Augsp. you write to me¹³ that you now do not stand more than 27 florins in the red. – Now, I made the calculation that if you are now even 30 florins behind,

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Mannheim / at The Palatine Court." [An inn, 'Im Pfälzischen Hof'.]

² = "My very dear son!"

³ BD: No. 0373.

⁴ BD: Leopold rightly criticises Wolfgang's flippant attempt to obtain credit from Schmalz in Mannheim. Cf. No. 0373/81 ff.

⁵ BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz.

⁶ BD: Cf. 0051/10. Partner in the Augsburg banking firm Nocker und Schiedl. Mozart received from him a letter of recommendation to the Mannheim merchant Schmalz (cf. No. 0373/81-83).

⁷ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁸ BD: Hagenauer have no doubt arranged for a credit for Wolfgang at Nocker & Schiedl in Augsburg, but probably without an instruction to extend this credit to other places. The letter Mozart took with him to Mannheim from Herzog was probably a plain recommendation, but without any promise of credit. In No. 0372 (cf. No. 0373/94-95), Wolfgang had obviously asked Herzog to transfer 150 florins to Schmalz in Mannheim, which Herzog did in fact do as a special favour. Mozart took out the 150 florins, which were then charged to Hagenauer by Nocker & Schiedl; Hagenauer would then have charged them to Leopold, unless Hagenauer agreed (as was probably the case) to extend the term of the credit.

⁹ BD: No. 0375.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0375/70.

¹¹ Family code: "sum in a merchandise account".

¹² Family code: "place a single kreuzer".

¹³ BD: From Augsburg, No. 0355/113-117.

you have 170 florins.¹⁴ Now, if the stupid journey via Wallerstein to Man[n]heim¹⁵ cost you 70 florins, there should be 100 florins left in your hands. [35] If it cost you more, then should there not be enough left over for you to be able to make the journey to Maynz?¹⁶ There you would then have been close to Frankfort,¹⁷ so that in any very urgent case, you could have taken out something from Herr Bollongari¹⁸ in Frankfort by means of the second letter of credit. Then you would only have had to enquire from any merchant in Maynz who was in correspondence with Herr Bollongari; [40] he would have taken it upon himself to send a letter of credit to Herr Bollong. and to collect the amount demanded.

Wouldn't that have been more sensible than to sit around in Manheim and consume the money pointlessly, since for this money you would have been able to make the journey, which would have cost that you perhaps 15 or 16 florins, [45] since as far as Worms are only 1 and ¼ stages, to Oppenheim 2, to Maynz 1, therefore in all there are only 3 and ¾ post-stages. And, even if you had little or no money on your arrival, there are acquaintances there who stand by you, and no gentleman needs to be ashamed if he does not have a kreuzer of money in his bag, but, on the contrary, can show a letter of credit, but this can happen to even the richest and most genteel; [50] yes, it is a maxim when travelling, if possible, to have only the necessary money on your person. I always thinking blindly about Maynz on a natural supposition, since in not a single letter from you both have I ever been honoured with news of where you are thinking of travelling to: only, at the last minute, you write to me from Augsp.: Tomorrow we will go to Wallerstein; [55] and Herr Stein¹⁹ wrote to me: They left for Wallerstein and Manheim on Sunday at half past 7. Since such things should surely be communicated some time in advance, and since I could sometimes make some useful arrangements and memorandums, as I tried to do for Frankfort with my letters²⁰ to Herr Otto²¹ and Herr Pfeil²² – – Of course, [60] where the two of you are headed is none of my business! Isn't that true? – – From Manheim you could of course have taken a completely different route, namely to Würzburg, and from there down to the Margrave in Darmstatt, then Frankfort–Maynz. Only how can I guess your thoughts, or make a suggestion to you, since I am never consulted, and did not know how matters stood in Mannheim? [65] Yes, after your letter²³ |: *wulrl yah umd tul sppsrthnfty ts oplmk os csnifdlntfmeey wftth tul Lelctsr* :|²⁴ I had to suspect completely different intentions and your long sojourn there. So all of this, what your opinion, inclination, intention etc. might be,

¹⁴ BD: The calculation cannot be checked because it is not known with how much cash Wolfgang left Salzburg.

¹⁵ Cf. No. 0360/15 ff.

¹⁶ Mainz.

¹⁷ Frankfurt.

¹⁸ BD: The bank founded in Frankfurt by the Bolongaro brothers in 1740. Hagenauer had obviously given the Mozarts a letter of credit to be presented there.

¹⁹ BD: No. 0377a, lost; cf. No. 0359/81-82. Johann Andreas Stein (1728-1792) built organs and keyboard instruments. Active successively in Strasbourg, Augsburg and Vienna. Mozart greatly appreciated his pianofortes. He appears frequently in the letters, esp. Nos. 0349/32 ff. and 0352/61 ff. His annual production was typically between 20 and 25 instruments, costing 300 florins and more each. His instruments were owned by many of Mozart's noble acquaintances.

²⁰ BD: Nos. 0358a, 0358b, lost. Cf. No. 0369/64 ff.

²¹ BD: David Otto, organist of the Church of the Discalced Carmelites in Frankfurt, involved in selling copies of Leopold's violin school. Cf. No. 0065/15.

²² BD: Leopold Heinrich Pfeil (1725 or 1726-1792), French teacher, formerly factotum to Goethe's father. Married a cousin of Goethe in 1746. School director. Ordered several instruments from Friederici in Gera, which had probably led to his contacts with the Mozart family. Mentioned in No. 0369/64-65. Cf. Nos. 0065/15; 0375/15.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0366/52.

²⁴ Family code: "where you had the opportunity to speak confidentially with the Elector". [BD: Elector ["Churfürsten"] Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

should have been disclosed to me immediately, in good time and openly, since the letters, with delivery and answer, even if they go smoothly, [70] are underway for 12 days, but you did not even make the effort to reflect on this, since you write in your last letter,²⁵ dated the 16th, I could therefore still write to you in Manheim, when you could only receive this letter after 12 days at the fastest, and thus only after the 28th, whereas, in the meantime, Herr Herzog had long since answered me and said he will be gone. [75] But I did not receive your letter until the 21st, on Friday, as a present on our wedding anniversary, and accordingly could not answer before the 24th. You will therefore will be reading it on the 1st or 2nd December, God knows where. The two of you should not think that I have no idea how many incidental expenses arise on journeys, and how the money runs away, [80] especially if one is too generous or too kind. My dear wife boasted that she will rise early, lose no time, and do everything quickly and according to good home economics. 16 days in Munich. 14 days in Augspurg and now, from your last letter of the 16th Novb.: 17 days in Mannheim, which, with the waiting for the answer from Augsp., will come to 3 weeks. [85] This is witchcraft indeed; you have only been away for 8 weeks, that is, 2 months, and already in Manheim? – – this is incomprehensibly fast! When we travelled to England, we were in Munich for 9 days, were with the Elector²⁶ and Duke Clement,²⁷ and had to wait for the present. – We were in Augsp. for 15 days, but gave 3 concerts, namely on the 28th and 30th *Junij* and the 4th *Julij*. – [90] We departed from Salz. on the 9th *Junii*, did not reach Munich until the 12th because new wheels were made in Wasserburg, and were nevertheless in Schwe[t]zingen on the 13th *Julii*, although we had also stayed in Ulm, Ludwigsburg, and Bruchsal. So you see that the long and unnecessary stay is spoiling everything, the most beautiful autumn in living memory has simply slipped by, [95] and so far you have been on an pleasure trip, and the time has gone past with entertainment and fun. Now the bad weather, the short day, the cold is already there, and will come on even more strongly, and the prospects, the goal, are expensive and distant.

One cannot travel the whole winter through, and if one wants to stop, it must be in a large town, [100] where there are people, where there is hope and opportunity for income; and where is there a place like this in the whole area? – with the exception of Paris: – – but living in Paris requires a completely different way of life, another way of thinking, attentiveness, daily thoughts about how to earn something, and the utmost politeness so as to ingratiate oneself with persons of rank: [105] on this I will write more in my next letter, where I will also disclose to you my thoughts regarding a completely different road you might need to take in order, as I believe, to reach Paris quickly, namely from Coblenz²⁸ to Trier, Luxemburg, Sedan, where Herr Ziegenhagen,²⁹ who visited us with Herr Wahlen,³⁰ has his cloth factory, [110] and perhaps he is there, then to Rethel, Reims, Soissons to Paris. N.B. from Paris to Rethel it is 22 French post-stages. From Rethel it is a stone's throw to Sedan – – Nor is Luxemburg far, and Trier is immediately by Luxemburg. Luxemburg, an impressive fortress, where there will be many officers. Rheims and Soissons are large major cities. Here it is more easily possible to earn something everywhere [115] in order to bring in the travelling expenses, because virtuosos very seldom come to such places. In contrast, from Brussels to Paris there are 34 post-stages to complete, which cost us 20 Louis d'or

²⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0373/96, 103.

²⁶ “Churf:”. BD: Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777) was also an outstanding viola da gamba player as well as a composer.

²⁷ “Herzog Clement”. BD: Cf. No. 0050/16. Clemens Franz de Paula, Duke [Herzog] of Bavaria (1722-1770), cousin of the Elector.

²⁸ Koblenz.

²⁹ BD: Perhaps a relative (father?) of the merchant Franz Heinrich Ziegenhagen (1753-1806), for whom Mozart wrote the cantata KV 619 in 1791.

³⁰ BD: Johann Georg Wahler the Younger (* 1736), merchant based in Frankfurt. Leopold calls him “my friend) in No. 0062/11, although they had only just met.

back then with 6 horses, without earning a *kreuzer*. And from Coblenz to Brussels nothing can be done, unless perhaps at the Elector of Cologne's;³¹ perhaps? – and what is with Brussels? – – – –

[120] If in the meantime a route has been taken, whatever one is chosen, procure letters of recommendation for Paris, from whomsoever it may be – merchants, court gentlemen etc., etc. And is there perhaps a French ambassador or resident in Mainz or Coblenz? I believe not. You do not have any letters of recommendation at all, and I had a heap of them; they are most necessary [125] to obtain simultaneously protection and acquaintanceship. A journey like this is no game, and you have not experienced that for yourself yet; one must have other, more important thoughts in one's head than clownish farces, one must constantly make efforts to foresee a hundred things, otherwise, all at once, one is stuck in a mess, without money – – and where there is not money – there are no more friends either, [130] even if you give a hundred lessons free of charge, compose sonatas and every night, instead of more important things, make smutty jokes from 10 o'clock to 12.³² Then look for a cash credit! – suddenly all the fun stops – and at that moment the most laughing of faces becomes quite decidedly serious. I do not at all reprove you for forming alliances with the [135] Canabich household³³ by your various acts of friendship; that was very well done. But you should have dedicated some of your otherwise idle evening hours to your father, who is so solicitous for you, and not put down some hurriedly scribbled mishmash, but rather an orderly, confidential account of the travelling expenses you have both incurred, of the money you still have left, of the travel to be undertaken in the future, [140] of your intention in Mannheim etc. etc. and seek advice; that, I hope, you will be so reasonable as to see yourself. For on whom do all these things ultimately rebound, except on your poor old father? Since I received your letter on the 21st, as mentioned above, I could not make any reply before today. Yesterday, the 23rd, I made my confession at Holy Trinity³⁴ [145] and commended you both, with tears in my eyes, to the protection of Almighty God. In the afternoon there was airgun-shooting,³⁵ the prize donated by Cajetan Andretter³⁶: I won the first prize. Herr Bullinger,³⁷ who commends himself, was also somewhat disconcerted over your letter, and under these serious circumstances, it seemed to me that he did not very much like your prank with the open debt. [150] Although it was already half past 5, I went to Herr Hagenauer to make a request, if the gentlemen Nocker and Schiedl do not give the notification with the post of having instructed something to be made available, that he should have a letter sent to Augsburg with this post. This morning I went to his shop again and spoke with Herr Joseph.³⁸ I found that although they had letters from Nocker and Schidl, [155] there was no mention of you. He promised me he would write today. Now I have made provision for everything, and hope you will, in the meantime, have received money. The firm of Noker and Schiedl will not send a notification before they know how

³¹ "Churf. von Cölln". BD: Max Friedrich von Königsegg († 1784).

³² BD: Cf. No. 0373/13 ff.

³³ 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. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter.

³⁴ "hl: Dreyfaltigkeit". BD: Cf. No. 0330/4.

³⁵ BD: The shooting of airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for everything consumed during the meeting.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0374/60, 62. Kajetan von Antretter, son of the Provincial Chancellor.

³⁷ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

³⁸ BD: Cf. 0045/21: Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), second son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

much was given to you. N.B. It is always better, if one takes out money somewhere, that one should not take it in guldens, but in pieces, [160] e.g. 6, 7, etc. louis d'or, carolins,³⁹ or whatever it is. Now I have said everything to you as it weighs on my heart and as is the God-loving truth. You will yet learn to see that undertaking such a journey no game, and have to live from chance money takings, where one must, above all, constantly ask God for good health, to be on one's guard against bad people, [165] and to earn money with all one's knowledge and skills, and then to spend it with the greatest economy. When travelling, I prefer it that a person to whom I perhaps give too little, and whom I will never again see in my life, should say of me that I am penny-pinching, than that he to whom I give too much should laugh about me afterwards. My paper is full, and I, [170] especially my eyes, am tired.

I and Nannerl wish you both the best of health, kiss you a million times from the heart, and I am as always your husband and father, N.B. not son,⁴⁰ Mozart

I hope you have received my letter⁴¹ of the 20th, where I informed you [175] that you could write to Msr. Grimm⁴² in Paris, and also what you should write⁴³ to the Prince of Chiemsee⁴⁴ in Munich. With the next post, I will send everything required to Paris and give you my opinion etc. and also the *lista*⁴⁵ of all our former acquaintances in Paris. *Addio*.

³⁹ BD: = 66, 77 florins, cf. No. 0063/5.

⁴⁰ BD: Cf. Wolfgang's games with family relationships in Nos. 0367/42; 0373/99-102.

⁴¹ BD: No. 0375/85 ff., 137 ff.

⁴² BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

⁴³ BD: Cf. No. 0375/137.

⁴⁴ "an Fürsten in Chiemsee". BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop in Chiemsee and cathedral canon in Salzburg. Involved with Mozart in 1777, cf. e.g. No. 0331/104, and a lifelong supporter of Mozart.

⁴⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0417/100 ff.; No. 0418.