

0444.<sup>1</sup> LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, PARIS

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique /  
à / Paris / chez Mr: Mayer / Marchand Fripier / Rue Bourg l'abbé<sup>2</sup>*

Salzburg, 6<sup>th</sup> April,  
1778.

[5] We had the most keenly longed-for pleasure of receiving the letter<sup>3</sup> you had already written on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. I was all the more worried about this journey because at that very time we had just had the most abominable weather and I have a very thorough knowledge of what it means to travel with hired coachers. Praise God that you have arrived safely. I was also quite worried about your living expenses,<sup>4</sup> [10] for in Italy it is better by far, one knows the price of living *à pasto*,<sup>5</sup> but in France one must agree on it beforehand |: which they do not like doing :, otherwise one will be fleeced lamentably. I did not write anything to you about this because, at the time, I took it as a certainty that you would go by post coach, where one can follow what other people do. Enough! [15] You have |: God be praised |: arrived safely. Now I recommend most emphatically that you should truly earn the favour, love and friendship of *Baron* von Grimm<sup>6</sup> by a perfect childlike trust,<sup>7</sup> or rather, to retain the same, to take his advice in all matters and not to act on your own thoughts or from preconceived notions, and to keep clearly in mind your, and consequently our, common interests. [20] The way of life in Paris is very different from that in Germany, and the French manner of expressing oneself politely, commending oneself, seeking protection, announcing oneself etc. has its definite peculiarities, which is precisely why *Baron* von Grimm gave me instructions at that time and I asked what I should say and how I should express myself. [25] Simply say to him, with my most obedient compliments, that I reminded you of this, and he will say I am right. I still have model letters in my hands which he wrote for me for leaving messages for persons of rank if I was unable to speak to them, and how often I wrote to *Msr.* Grimm with the *petite poste*<sup>8</sup> to ask his advice, [30] or to give him information, as we could not speak to each other because of the great distance between the *Rue St. Antoine*<sup>9</sup> and the *Rue neuve Luxembourg*.<sup>10</sup> Now, as far as this point is concerned, I am already convinced in advance that you will always stay close to this man, our surest friend. You have received the letter<sup>11</sup> which I addressed to Herr Mayr. I informed you<sup>12</sup> that I had asked [35] Herr Gschwendner<sup>13</sup> if he would perhaps write to his brother<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

<sup>2</sup> = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, music director in Paris at Msr. Mayer, bric-à-brac merchant, Rue Bourg l'Abbé".

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0439.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. figures given by Wolfgang in No. 0439/85-86.

<sup>5</sup> = Eating in restaurants.

<sup>6</sup> 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. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

<sup>7</sup> BD: In contrast to his usual suspicion of others, Leopold seems to have unlimited trust in Grimm. Wolfgang's view was no doubt more sober.

<sup>8</sup> BD: A post service enabling delivery of letters and the corresponding replies on the same day within Paris.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Where the Mozarts stayed in 1763.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Grimm's address, cf. No. 0417/104.

<sup>11</sup> BD: No. 0441, lost, one of the two "introductory letters", cf. No. 0425/62 ff.

<sup>12</sup> BD: No. 0438/12 ff.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Paris agent for the Augsburg/Frankfurt merchant Arbauer (cf. No. 0422/181). Mozart and his mother stayed with him after their arrival in Paris in 1778 (cf. Nos. 0422/183; 0425/65; 0439/95).

about supporting you in the event of an urgent lack of money. I did that out of fatherly concern, but wish and hope that the two of you should not be forced to take out money, for, first of all, you know how things stand with us and that I am now far enough <in debt> and do not <know how I shall pay it>, [40] and secondly it attracts a great deal of attention here, and brings no honour to you, but places me in contempt if it is discovered that <I always have to send you both money>. If, however, it comes to the most urgent circumstances, then indeed, in God's name, you may tell *Baron* von Grimm all this, I have written to him about all our circumstances, also about all our <debts<sup>15></sup>, in two long letters,<sup>16</sup> [45] and regarding many matters, the persecution and contempt that we have had to bear from the <Archbishop<sup>17></sup>, I have referred him to you to tell him in person. I have told him that the only time he flattered politely was when he needed something, and that he did not pay you a single kreuzer for all your compositions; you can portray my misery to him. If, like Hannauer,<sup>18</sup> [50] like Schobert<sup>19</sup> of blessed memory etc., you could get a monthly salary from a prince<sup>20</sup> in Paris – then besides that some work occasionally for the theatre, for the Concert Spirituel<sup>21</sup> and for the Concert des amateurs<sup>22</sup> – and then sometimes have something engraved by subscription – but I and your sister would give lessons and your sister play in concerts and recitals: [55] that way we would certainly have enough to live well. You wished<sup>23</sup> that I might show good humour in my letters. My dear Wolfgang! You know that with me honour counts for more than my life. – Reflect on the whole course of the matter – consider how I have now got deeper into <debt>, when I thought that I would find an escape for myself through you. – You know that I have a good reputation with everyone here [60] – as soon as I lose that, my honour is gone as well. – The friendship and the goodwill of the merchants, however, only last as long as one keeps up with repayments correctly – if these fail to appear for too long, the friendship of the world is lost! – and the <Archbishop>? – – should this man really have the pleasure of hearing that matters are going badly for us, [65] and be able to laugh – scoff about it? – – In that case I would be struck to the ground by sudden death. When I received your letter, I was put in the best of moods as soon as I read it. We therefore immediately brought the good news to all people who always ask us most carefully if you have reached Paris safely and happily, I in the

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Karl Gallus Gschwendtner (1751-1818), younger brother of Franz Xaver Gschwendtner (cf. No. 0102/144-145). He dealt in iron in Salzburg, but was often away on business (cf. No. 0467/35-36). The forename “Vital” was probably taken from his uncle, who assumed this name on taking vows in the Benedictine monastery in Niederaltaich.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Leopold mentions total debts of 700 florins in No. 0417/23.

<sup>16</sup> BD: No. 0442, lost. One is mentioned in No. 043/57-58, one in No. 0438/24-26.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0080/150. Leontzi Honauer (\*1735), 1760-1790 pianist and composer in Paris. Cf. No. 0444/49 ff. Mozart drew on a number of sonata movements in his pasticcio compositions KV 37, 40 and 41.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Johann (Jean) Schobert (c. 1740-1767), from Silesia. Keyboard player and composer, in Paris from 1760. Presented a copy of his engraved sonatas to the Mozart children in Paris. He, some family members and friends died from mushroom poisoning. Leopold's assessment of him in No. 0080/153-154 is unfavourable, but Mozart drew on his material, notably his op. XVII No. 2 as a model for his pasticcio concerto KV 39.

<sup>20</sup> “einem Prinzen”. BD: Honauer served Prince Louis de Rohan c. 1761-1785 (cf. No. 0074/19, 43-44); Schobert served Prince Conti (cf. No. 007/9-10, 13, 50).

<sup>21</sup> BD: The *Concert spirituel*, the first commercial concert series in Paris, was founded by Anne Danican-Philidor in 1725. It featured a chorus and orchestra and performed in *Les Tuileries*.

<sup>22</sup> BD: The *Concert des amateurs*, [“Concert of the music lovers”]. Founded in 1769 by the general tax inspector de la Haye and Baron Rigoley d'Ogny as competition to the *Concert spirituel*.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Cf. lines 84-85 and No. 0439/88-89.

Arco household,<sup>24</sup> [70] and Nannerl at the Hagenauers<sup>25</sup> and the Mölcks<sup>26</sup> etc., who all commend themselves. – You know that I am accustomed to thinking and reflecting, otherwise I would never have got so far, since I had no-one who could advise me and from my youth on never entrusted myself entirely to anyone until I had certain proof. Just look at my brother<sup>27</sup> and me, [75] and you will be able to grasp tangibly the consequences of my thinking and reflecting if you consider the difference<sup>28</sup> between us. So, since I have been accustomed to reflection since my youth, how can you begrudge me it when such a most important matter, affecting the well-being of all who are mine, weighs on my heart day and night? – [80] a matter which concerns myself and those who are most dear to me in all the world? – I should,<sup>29</sup> if a war were to come too close, immediately make the journey to where you two are. Indeed, not only if war breaks out, but even without danger of war. – But before this I must be able to <pay the debts>, otherwise there is <too little money> left for us to travel. My good humour<sup>30</sup> [85] depends on your circumstances, my dear son, they make me well, as much as is possible for my age, and I feel that my efforts at effective action and my concern about getting myself out of our vale of tears make me well. Once you have thought earnestly about the well-being of your father, he will also continue to think about your well-being and happiness and stand by you as your true friend. [90] This much I hope of you, and this hope revives me, brings me pleasure, gladdens my heart. What you wrote<sup>31</sup> to me about the lack of gratitude on the part of Msr. <Canabich<sup>32</sup>> is of course what I had already predicted in my previous letters to you. Poor people who have native honour are always more appreciative than those who are proud of their rank and reputation, [95] who sacrifice their true honour to the pride of an imagined honour and consider everything that one does as a favour to them to be their due, and perhaps believe they have rewarded you with a number of meals. Do you know what Herr von Grimm wrote to me when he sent me <Canabich's> symphonies?<sup>33</sup> – *c'est moi qui lui |: he was speaking about you |: fais présent des Symphonies de Canabich. Imaginez [100] que celui ci envoie chez moi un Exemplaire pour moi, un pour vous, et se fait payer tous les deux par le Baron Bagge<sup>34</sup> pour mon Compte, et prend meme six francs de plus et décampe.*<sup>35</sup> N.B. You had had to give him your Paris, London, and Dutch sonatas<sup>36</sup> free beforehand, and he in return

<sup>24</sup> BD: The family of Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), 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). Cf. No. 0004/86.

<sup>25</sup> BD: The family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Franz Felix Anton von Molk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler].

<sup>27</sup> BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Leopold obviously saw himself as much more successful than his brother.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Wolfgang's suggestion in No. 0439/89-90. Military actions as part of the War of the Bavarian Succession had been taking place since the beginning of 1778.

<sup>30</sup> BD: Wolfgang's wish in No. 0439/88-89.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0439/53 ff. Wolfgang's emphasis of the ingratitude of the Cannabichs was no doubt intended as a way of throwing a better light on the Webers.

<sup>32</sup> 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. Cf. No. 0057/13.

<sup>33</sup> BD: There is no way of knowing which symphonies are meant here. The exchange was probably agreed during the Mozarts' second stay in Paris (1766), during which they met Cannabich (0110/7).

<sup>34</sup> BD: Karl Ernst, Baron [Freiherr] von Bagge af Boo (1718 or 1722-1791), from 1750 on in Paris: on the one hand mocked as a laughable dilettante, but on the other hand in contact with Gossec, Gavaniès, Boccherini, Dupont etc. Cf. No. 0074/34.

<sup>35</sup> = "It is I who will make a present of the symphonies by Cannabich to him |: he was speaking about you |:|. Imagine, this man sends to my house a copy for me, one for you, and arranges for both to be paid for by Baron Bagge on my account, and even takes six francs more and runs off."

<sup>36</sup> BD: The sonatas from Paris: Op. I (KV six, seven), Op. II (KV eight, nine); from London: Op. III (KV 10-15); from Holland: Op. IV (KV 26-31).

promised to give you his symphonies, but took the money and cleared off. [105] And do you really believe that such a miserable scribbler of symphonies<sup>37</sup> would earnestly want to have you alongside him in service? – since, on top of that, you are young and he is already old? I don't think so! To tell the truth, the compositions from Mannheim were never to my liking, the orchestra is good, – strong – but their *gusto*<sup>38</sup> is not the fine, true touching taste. Something from the war!<sup>39</sup> [110] With an openly published printed tract, the Duke of Zweybrücken<sup>40</sup> has protested to the Imperial Diet<sup>41</sup> against the settlement<sup>42</sup> between the house of Austria and the Electoral Prince of the Palatinate,<sup>43</sup> appealed to the Holy Roman Empire for support and travelled personally to the King in Prussia,<sup>44</sup> who then declared in a public written statement that he will never concede to a partition of Electoral Bavaria.<sup>45</sup> [115] At the Imperial Diet they are now examining how well-founded the Austrian claims are. In the meantime, the Austrian and Prussian armies are already gathering in order to take up position against each other. From the mountains near us, some 100s of horses which have been sold are going to the Austrian army. Today 40 of them were led through here again. [120] Tomorrow and in the coming days the mules from Italy, more than 2000 of them, are coming through here. Write to me saying whether France has really declared war on the English?<sup>46</sup> – – Now you will see the American Minister Dr. Francklin.<sup>47</sup> France recognises the 13 American provinces as independent and has signed treaties<sup>48</sup> with them. Nannerl commends herself heartily to Mama [125] and her brother, we kiss both of you a million times and I remain as ever your  
Mzt

So my dear wife has been given the chance to see Paris again, and *Mad.<sup>me</sup> d'Epina y's*<sup>49</sup> red Atlas dress and little fan<sup>50</sup> have come back to Paris again. Oh, if only we were with you! The A, B, C<sup>51</sup> is coming soon. [130] Yesterday the engagement of the Senior Equerry<sup>52</sup> and

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<sup>37</sup> BD: Referring to Cannabich.

<sup>38</sup> = “Taste/style”.

<sup>39</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0401/41, where the first moves in the War of the Bavarian Succession are described.

<sup>40</sup> “Herzog von Zweybrücken”. BD: Karl (II) August von Pfalz-Zweibrücken (1775-1793), a relative of Karl Theodor, Elector of Bavaria.

<sup>41</sup> “Reichstag”, the parliament of the Holy Roman Empire.

<sup>42</sup> BD: The treaty of 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1778, cf. No. 0401/41.

<sup>43</sup> “Churf: von der Pfalz”. BD: 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 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30. When he succeeded the childless Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria in December, 1777, the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate were re-united for the first time since the Treaty of Pavia in 1329.

<sup>44</sup> BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

<sup>45</sup> “Churbayern”.

<sup>46</sup> BD: After the Battle of Saratoga, mentioned in No. 0393/59-60, France openly took the side of the Americans and declared war on Britain in 1778.

<sup>47</sup> BD: Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790); arrived in Paris on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1777, and immediately aroused sympathies and secret action in favour of the American position. He was the ambassador of the USA in France 1779-1785.

<sup>48</sup> BD: France signed a treaty of friendship and trade with the North American colonies on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1778, with Spain soon joining it. At the same time they signed a secret treaty recognising the independence of the colonies and cementing a defensive alliance. When Britain was notified of the first treaty on 13<sup>th</sup> February, they immediately withdrew their ambassador in Paris.

<sup>49</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0074/31. Louise-Florence-Pétronille Tardieu d'Esclavelles, Marquise d'Epina y (1726-1783), divorced since 1749. Had a liaison with Grimm from 1755. Her house guests included J.J. Rousseau and Diderot. Visited Voltaire several times. Showed favour to Mozart, cf. Nos. 0420/109-110, 128-129; 0487/67-68, 101 ff.

<sup>50</sup> BD: Presumably presents given during the grand journey.

<sup>51</sup> BD: Already requested and promised on previous occasions, cf. Nos. 0405/95; 0436/48-50.

<sup>52</sup> “Oberbereuter”. BD: Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables. Widower since 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1777.

Antonia Barisani<sup>53</sup> was announced for a wedding at Easter. The *castrato*<sup>54</sup> who comes to us daily commends himself; he sings, Nannerl accompanies<sup>55</sup> like any music director.

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<sup>53</sup> BD: Maria Anna Constantia Barisani (1754-1778), the daughter of the Prince-Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. She married the widower Weyrother in April, 1778 (cf. No. 0446/111), but died the same year (cf. No. 0509/72 ff.).

<sup>54</sup> BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

<sup>55</sup> BD: On Nannerl's accompanying activities cf. Nos. 0374/70 ff.; 0430/89 ff.