

0448.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO WIFE AND SON, PARIS

*À Monsieur / Monsieur le chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart Maître
de / Musique / à / Paris / Rue gros chenet / vis à vis celle du / croissant. /
à l'Hôtel des / 4 Fils emont.²*

Salzburg, 29th April,
1778

[5] My dear wife, and my dear son!

We hope to hear in the next letter from you that you are both well. Yesterday we had a very particular occurrence in our house. As I and Nannerl came back home from a short walk at 7 o'clock in the evening, Tresel³ said to us that it was as if Sandl Auer⁴ were completely mad, [10] it seems she had been looking for someone who would pray a Rosary for her at Loreto⁵ for 15 kreuzers. Tresel fetched that old servant Nandl⁶ for her, she then went to Loreto with her, in her dirty, torn house *contouche*,⁷ and now she was down at Catherl's, the silk spinner's daughter,⁸ where she never used to go. [15] Soon after that we heard she had burnt a whole pack of letters, she did not want to remain alone in a room, Nandl should sleep with her, her speech was quite crazily jumbled and she looked horribly bewildered. So Nandl went into the room with her and stayed with her. At half past 11, as I wanted to lie down to sleep, I heard them both walking up and down and praying the Rosary. [20] I stayed up until it was over and lay down to sleep, thinking that they would go now to sleep too.

I fell asleep after 12 o'clock. All at once a quite terrible screaming woke me up: Help – Help – Mary – Help, which continued without interruption. Confused, I leapt out of the bed in my first sleep [25] |: it was after quarter to 1:|, threw the fur blanket around me, ran out through the little room, quickly knocked at Tresel's door, and went to Sandl – found her sitting on the chair screaming with Nandl standing in front of her – for she could not persuade her to go to bed.

Nannerl had heard the screaming even as far as her bedroom, [30] and opened her door as I knocked on Tresel's – I told her she should just stay in her bed. In the meantime I sent Tresel down to bring up Miss Mizerl,⁹ who then came presently; I and Nandl were in the meantime alone with her. Anyone, then, who believes in the possessed and is afraid had to believe that she was possessed. I cannot describe to you all the bendings, twistings, [35] her drawing breath so that her neck swelled up hugely and her breast rose – the way she drew breath one thought she had to find it down at her feet. She rose up high, and we all had more than enough to do holding onto this creature. Sighs – blowing through her mouth, a confused opening wide of her eyes, stretching out her neck towards me or someone else, [40] and then blowing herself up as hard as possible until you could hear everything inside her cracking – finally sinking back a little, tired, calling on God for help – now yes – now no, speaking of tribulations, the Cross, affliction, insults to God &c.: These were the changes she went through. All means that one knows of for childbirth were used, all in

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

² = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, knight, music director in Paris, Rue gros chenet opposite the house of the crescent at the hotel of the 4 sons of Aymon".

³ BD: Tresel: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

⁴ BD: Susanna Auer, daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter.

⁵ BD: Loreto church and monastery in Salzburg, with famous figure of the Christ Child.

⁶ BD: Nandl = the old housemaid, Maria Anna (cf. No. 0451/9).

⁷ BD: Contouche = loose, comfortable outer garment for wearing at home.

⁸ BD: Nothing known.

⁹ "Jungfer Mizerl". BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with "Joly Sallerl" (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the "Tanzmeisterhaus" ["Dancing Master's House"] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold's death in 1787.

vain. One could not say anything at all about going to bed, at that she became utterly wild. [45] Now, because I could not be of any help in the matter, Miss Mitzerl urged me to go to bed. In my room I would not have been able to sleep for the noise; accordingly, I lay down on Wolfgang's bed in my fur blanket, but could not sleep until half past four, I was kept entirely from sleeping and saw the spectacle before my eyes. Nannerl could not sleep peacefully at all, [50] the sound of it came as far as her bedroom. I had instructed them to go to *Dr. Barisani*¹⁰ in the morning and to the priests' seminary for a clergyman. *Barisani* had already driven to the hospital, the clergyman came, and she confessed absolutely peacefully and reasonably. Afterwards, the same saga went on the whole day, police officer Clessin was unable to get anything out of her, [55] but I told him of 2 reasons: the first, her foolish ideas regarding her birth, he immediately conceded to me. Of the second, a roguish love hoax, he knew nothing. Her sister, the worthy wife of the Regional Judge,¹¹ was brought, but she soon moved off and went down to the priest's cook. *Dr. Barisani* came, prescribed blood-letting on her foot and a mixture; we asked for hospital admission, [60] he said we should write out an application for admission if it did not get better after blood-letting. – As soon as the vein was opened, she started to laugh astonishingly, and said: What! You, sir? My good Herr von Lasser,¹² you say I possess your heart? – No, that is not possible! I am not beautiful, I am a poor girl. – then she continued in his tone: Assuredly, my dear little Sanderl, [65] none of that counts, you alone possess my heart. = = No, I cannot possibly believe that. = = Yes, it is most certainly you! Then laughing again and constantly continuing babbling – After the blood-letting she did not want to go to bed. The moment she was told Herr von Lasser wanted it that way, she went quite willingly. In the afternoon, from time to time, she spat out the words, You swine, in the faces of the police officer's wife,¹³ of Waberl Clessin,¹⁴ [70] of Mitzerl and others, since at one moment she thought they were Julerl Pirkner,¹⁵ the next moment the daughter of the soap-siever *Guilelmi*,¹⁶ who were her rivals, and told them to lick her arse. – Sunday, 3rd May. – This then went on until, at 10 o'clock yesterday, 3rd May, she was carried to the hospital. She had pretty much got her reason back again and thanked us incessantly for all our good deeds, [75] since she has been abandoned by her friends and we have done everything for her.

Now, you must hear who this Lasser is: he is the brother of the Herr von Lasser from Windischmatteredey¹⁷ – he is the Senior Clerk in Gnigel,¹⁸ a young lad who attempted to talk with the poor girl, [80] and took pleasure in treating her like a fool, and the daughter of the customs officer from Gniegl carried post and letters and supported the supposed fun, and often made up stories to make her jealous. All this, now, has come out into the open bit by bit afterwards. Mitzerl accompanied her out to the hospital and today she was out there to visit her, [85] and also found her come entirely to herself and completely restored to reason, but it will always continue with such changes and will not become steady that

¹⁰ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Cf. No. 0270/28.

¹¹ "Landrichterin". BD: Maria Katharina Wolfner, née Auer, a widow since 1768.

¹² BD: Johann Andreas Lasser von Zollheim, from 1776-1778 senior clerk [Oberschreiber] at the administrative court [Pflegergericht] in Neuhaus (Gnigl by Salzburg) and brother of the regional administrator [Pfleger] of Windisch-Matrei, Wolfgang Adam Ignaz Lasser von Zollheim. A person with this family name, possibly the latter, took part in a school play in 1761 in which Wolfgang participated at the age of five.

¹³ BD: The wife of Johann Dominikus Clessin von Königsklee, captain and master of the Salzburg Archbishop's bodyguard. Cf. Nos. 0417/210.

¹⁴ BD: The daughter of Johann Dominikus Clessin von Königsklee. Cf. Nos. 0331/80, 82; 0905/60.

¹⁵ BD: Probably Maria Anna Juliana Pirkner (1759-1783), daughter of the senior administrator [Pfleger] of Taxenbach, Johann Anton Pirkner.

¹⁶ BD: Joseph Karl Guglielmo, with workshop on the road between Salzburg and Gnigl.

¹⁷ BD: Windisch-Matrei or Matrei, Upper Austria.

¹⁸ BD: Gnigl, east of Salzburg.

quickly. May God grant that they will make the poor crazed girl completely sound again. Delusions of grandeur,¹⁹ poverty on top of that, and then make-believe hopes of becoming a lady and coming into better circumstances, fear and jealousy about being robbed of this [90] hope and happiness by another, little in her head to enable her to think things through sensibly etc. etc.: these are the grounds for this episode of fearfulness, which broke out in complete craziness. – Now another astonishing piece of craziness: a fruit of bad upbringing and the sad consequence of the all too great freedom in which they have left Sigmund Hafner²⁰ since he has been here. [95] They always left him entirely alone with his stable boy in his house at Loreto²¹ without worrying about his behaviour. Now he will buy Schloss Seeburg²² castle, which belongs to Count Ernst Lodron,²³ for 30000 florins, and then marry. – But whom? – – the cook of the deceased Colonel Count Pranck,²⁴ a horrifyingly swarthy person [100] with a lean, big-eyed, absolutely ape-like face.²⁵ She is from close to Drum,²⁶ the daughter of the landlord in Uttendorf in Bavaria. The moment the Colonel died, they drove her away because of her terrible housekeeping, for N.B. N.B. she was everything in the eyes of the Colonel. So the simpleton Sigerl Hafner will marry her because of her chastity.²⁷ – You can easily imagine that the esteemed brothers-in-law²⁸ [105] and the entire worthy company of merchants are utterly incensed, the more so because all of them are not at all sure whether he is perhaps even already married, for on the last day of April he drove to Hellbrunn with his Lucretia with his whole retinue, then from there to his esteemed brother-in-law Spath²⁹ at the former Amand Court³⁰ |: which the Spath woman has bought |: [110] They were there overnight and then, on the high feast of his name-day, the 1st May, drove in the company of Herr and Frau Spath to Altenöting,³¹ which only became known afterwards on the 2nd; they are not coming back from there until this evening, the 3rd, or even tomorrow, so there is a suspicion that the wedding has already taken place – which I do not at all believe. [115] Herr Triendl is in Botzen;³² the others are amazed at the Spaths and the public is laughing at those who on Hafner's return from Italy, as I heard at the time from the Hagenauer³³ household, discussed among themselves how they should aim to have him stay in their circle and not, for example, end up among certain

¹⁹ BD: Her grandmother on her father's side was an Achtmark von Achtmarkstein. In her certificate of baptism, her father entered his name as “de Auer”, although it was otherwise always plain “Auer”.

²⁰ BD: Hafner, Sigerl/Sigmund: Siegmund Haffner the Younger, son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant. Serenade and symphony KV 250 and 385 were written to mark Haffner family events.

²¹ BD: The Haffners had a summer house next to the monastery of Loreto. (Deutsch Bild No. 276)

²² BD: At Seekirchen on the Wallersee, about 11 km north-east of Salzburg.

²³ “Graf Ernst Lodron”. BD: Cf. No. 0362/87. Hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779). For members of the family Mozart composed KV 247; KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H); KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, “Pepperl”) was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.

²⁴ “Obersten Graf Pranck”. BD: Cf. No. 0365/16. Franz Xaver Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Pranck (1719-1777). Had a military career in Salzburg, from 1765 Military Adviser [Kriegsrat]; from 1766 City Commandant [Stadtkommandant] in Salzburg. Not related to the Leopold, Count [Graf] Pranck of No. 0346/22.

²⁵ BD: Maria Anna Meindl from Uttendorf.

²⁶ BD: (Ober-)Trum, north-east of Salzburg.

²⁷ BD: Meant ironically.

²⁸ BD: Anton Triendl (1721-1796), brother-in-law of merchant Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787). He took over the firm Haffner in 1787. BD VII: Franz Xaver Späth (1750-1808); married Maria Elisabeth Haffner (1753-1781) in 1768.

²⁹ BD: = Späth in note on line 108.

³⁰ BD: In the Riedenburg area of Salzburg, build by Franz Anton von Amann (1712-1785).

³¹ BD: Altötting in Bavaria, 65 km north-west of Salzburg.

³² Bozen/Bolzano, northern Italy.

³³ BD: The family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

people, so that he might be induced to marry a high-coiffure.³⁴ [120] Now he is marrying below his station! – Hafner will be 21 or 22 years old and his kitchen bride is between 29 and 30. Soon, therefore, if his understanding is freed and enlightened from the fog of foolish love, a new story is to be expected.

Wednesday, the 6th. We still have not received any letters from the two of you since your second³⁵ [125] of the 10th April, which Mama began to write on the 5th. – Deputy Seminary Director Herr Decker³⁶ has become Dean³⁷ in Tittmoning because the worthy Dean³⁸ has been dismissed and even had to leave the country and go back home with an annual pension of 300 florins. Herr Ely,³⁹ who commends himself, has become Deputy Seminary Director. Now Joint Director⁴⁰ Ammand must watch out [130] – Decker has a prodigious mind and, as I know, Ammand is not at all in favour because he is very neglectful with his school duties and always goes boozing and strolling. – The son of the regimental surgeon Herr Hibner⁴¹ was in Vienna for some years to study surgery and received all of 12 ducats⁴² per year from the Prince.⁴³ [135] Now, when he wanted to go for duty in the field, the Archbishop⁴⁴ has ordered him to come back to Salzburg, he apparently wants to have him here. But his father certainly became inventive in the light of so many examples and wrote to his son that he should choose whatever is better. And he has indeed already got a post with the Imperial Army⁴⁵ at 30 florins per month. Franz Gilowsky⁴⁶ is going to Imperial Court Councillor Count Ernst Firmian⁴⁷ in Vienna. – The Archbishop is now trying to get [140] Bertoni⁴⁸ as music-director for a certain period. – Has Herr Raff said nothing to Wolfg. about Padré Martini's⁴⁹ writing to him from Bologna?⁵⁰ He has already written⁵¹ to me, dated 14th Febr., telling me of his joy over the portrait⁵² he has received and added the following regarding what he had written to Manheim: *Le vicende della Baviera, e*

³⁴ BD: Apparently referring to well-situated ladies of the time who wore their hair fashionably high (as did Nannerl). The wives and daughters of the normal burgers preferred simple hairstyles.

³⁵ BD: No. 0440.

³⁶ “Subregens H: Decker”. BD: Johann Andreas Decker.

³⁷ “dechant”.

³⁸ BD: Seyfried, Count [Graf] Gallenberg, from 1771 consistory advisor [Konsistorialrat], from 1772 Dean [Dechant] of Tittmoning, resigned “voluntarily” before 13th February, 1778, and moved to Laibach.

³⁹ BD: Franz Gotthard Elly.

⁴⁰ “Corregent”.

⁴¹ BD: Son of the regimental surgeon Joseph Hübner.

⁴² BD: = 50 florins.

⁴³ “Fürsten”. BD: The archbishop mentioned in lines 135, 139.

⁴⁴ “Erzbischof”. 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.

⁴⁵ “Kayssl. Armée”.

⁴⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0289/19. Franz Xaver Wenzel [von] Gilowsky (1757-1816), son of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799); studied medicine in Vienna, master surgeon, brother of “Katherl”, witness at Mozart’s wedding.

⁴⁷ “Reichs-Hofrat gr. Ernst Firmian”. BD VII: Cf. Nos. 0448/139; 0644/7. Imperial Court Councillor [Reichshofrat] Ernst, Graf Firmian (1743-1789), the younger of two brothers.

⁴⁸ BD: Ferdinando Giuseppe Bertoni (1729-1813), pupil of Padre Martini, organist, later director of music at St Mark's in Venice. Archbishop Hieronymus tried in vain to attract him to Salzburg (cf. No. 0448/139-140). Monza: Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801), church music director to the Duke of Milan, composer. Leopold records meeting him and his brother in Milan in 1770. Cf. No. 0166/19.

⁴⁹ BD: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784), specialist in the theory and history of music. Taught Mozart during his stay in Bologna in preparation for admission to the *Accademia filarmonica*. Cf. No. 0171/20.

⁵⁰ BD: Leopold had written to Padre Martini (cf. No. 0396/30-31) asking him to recommend Mozart to the Elector in Mannheim; Martini sent a suitable letter to Raaff after the Elector’s move to Munich. Cf. lines 144-147.

⁵¹ BD: No. 0424, lost.

⁵² BD: Portrait of Mozart with Order of the Golden Spur. Deutsch Bild No. 11. Cf. Nos. 0396/6; 0380/110 ff.

*della partenza di S: A: [145] Elett: Palatina⁵³ da Manheim forsi impediranno che non possino avere tutto il buon Effetto apresso la sua Alt: Elettorale, tutta via se tarderanno, non mancaranno.*⁵⁴ – I have a new pupil, Count Perusa.⁵⁵ there I will have to take a ducat⁵⁶ for 12 lessons for turning up,⁵⁷ for he is a quite astonishing ass. He has another secretary, a very dutiful person. [150] He is called Msr. Schneider.⁵⁸ I gather that when the war breaks out |: there is almost no doubting that :| Msr. Duschek and his wife⁵⁹ want to go to Paris. The Emperor⁶⁰ with his main army by Gitschin as far as Königsgratz.⁶¹ The main Prussian army and the King⁶² himself are situated near Silberberg and Glatz.⁶³ Their advanced positions, then, are very close – and the armies hardly [155] 10 miles apart. I have read the protest⁶⁴ made by Prussia to the Imperial Diet⁶⁵ against the seizures in Bavaria, and the Austrian reply. Prussia has spoken in a lofty tone, and Austria is now standing there waiting for the force which attacks her, since it has been declared that Austria and the Palatine Elector have now agreed terms in advance; [160] that they were entitled to do this; that Prussia, as a simple entity at the Imperial Diet,⁶⁶ had no right to get involved in a matter in which she had no claims, since two Imperial entities are allowed to come to terms with each other in questions of inheritance as they please; that if someone believes he has a claim, this has to be decided at the Imperial Diet and not by a simple entity such as Prussia; [165] that Austria is even disposed to compensate the enraged House of Zweybrücken⁶⁷ and is not against submitting the entire matter to the judgement of the Reichstag etc. etc. – Now, it is known that the King in Prussia is otherwise quick in his actions. I think since he currently knows how well prepared the Emperor is for war [170] he will stir up confusions and seek alliances in advance. I am observing

ON THE ENVELOPE:

⁵³ BD: “Palatine Elector”: 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. Cf. No. 0363/30. 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. Cf. No. 0363/30. When he succeeded the childless Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria in December, 1777, the War of the Bavarian Succession broke out.

⁵⁴ = “The vicissitudes of Bavaria and of the departure of His Palatine Electoral Highness from Mannheim will perhaps impede them from achieving all their good effect with His Electoral Highness; even if they are delayed, they shall not fail”.

⁵⁵ “graf Perusa”. BD: Probably the Maximilian, Count [Graf] Perusa mentioned in Nos. 0379/71 and 0448/147, studying at Salzburg University.

⁵⁶ BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

⁵⁷ BD: Because the teaching was apparently fruitless.

⁵⁸ BD: Nothing known.

⁵⁹ BD: Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They met the Mozarts in 1777. Mozart wrote two works for Josepha: KV 272 (cf. No. 0337/84); KV 528 (cf. No. 1070/809). Mozart stayed at their country house during work on *Don Giovanni* in 1787.

⁶⁰ “Kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790.

⁶¹ BD: Cf. No. 0438/33 ff. and note.

⁶² BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786. Prussia, Austria and Bavaria were involved in the War of the Bavarian Succession, which followed on from the uniting of the Palatinate and Bavaria at the end of 1777.

⁶³ BD: In Silesia.

⁶⁴ BD: There is a more detailed description in No. 0444/110 ff.

⁶⁵ “Reichstag”, Imperial parliament of the estates, meeting permanently in Regensburg since 1663.

⁶⁶ “Reichstand”.

⁶⁷ BD: Cousin of the Elector Karl Theodor, against whom he sought support from Prussia.

the constant journeys of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.⁶⁸ He was in Russia, and now he has gone to Sweden and Denmark etc., for Prussia has to search for friends because even if she now has a strong army, [175] she is nevertheless not able to get new recruits as quickly as Austria, which can draw on many 1000s of men at once from Hungary alone and enjoys a better reputation than Prussia, whom no-one trusts anymore. I am only afraid that Russia will declare on the side of Prussia. – The mules have now all passed through to the army. The first transport of Hussars, of 400 men from Italy, [180] is coming on Thursday 14th. The rest are coming every 2nd day in 4 or 5 transports.

Monday, 11th May. I have just this moment received the letter⁶⁹ of 1st May from you both. I guess from the address par Strasburg Augsp.⁷⁰ that you will have received my second letter – which, if I am not mistaken, I sent off on the 20th April) – at the address of your current lodgings, although you only mention the first letter. [185] My dear Wolfgang! Now I wish to answer everything. That one makes 100 journeys⁷¹ in Paris for nothing – I know that from experience, and I also already wrote telling you that in advance. That the French pay with compliments⁷² – that is familiar to me too. And that you will have enemies⁷³ everywhere – this is inevitable, something all people of great talent have. [190] All who enjoy a reputation in Paris at present and have a place in the nest do not want to allow themselves to be pushed out of the nest, they have to fear loss of the standing on which their interests depend. Not only *Gambini*,⁷⁴ but *Stamitz*⁷⁵ – *Piccini*⁷⁶ and others must needs have become jealous. Is *Piccini* still in Paris, then? – and will *Grétry*⁷⁷ not be competing? – [195] *Wendling*⁷⁸ said to you that the court music has changed. I did not believe much of that. – – the instrumental music, yes, it was already better back then. – But the vocal music will not improve so quickly. Otherwise, you must not allow yourself to lose heart because of the envious and lose your composure: the same things go on everywhere. Just remember Italy, your first opera,⁷⁹ the 3rd opera,⁸⁰ [200] *D’Ettore*⁸¹ etc., the intrigues of *de Amicis*⁸² etc.: one has to battle one’s way through. As long as you and Mama have enough to live on

⁶⁸ “des Prinzen Ferdinand von Braunschweig”. BD: Ferdinand von Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel (1721-1792), brother of the wife of Frederick II of Prussia. Prussian Field Marshall General [Generalfeldmarschall].

⁶⁹ BD: No. 0446.

⁷⁰ = “Via Strasbourg, Augsburg”.

⁷¹ BD: Cf. No. 0447/60-62.

⁷² BD: Cf. No. 0447/58-59.

⁷³ BD: Cf. No. 0447/76.

⁷⁴ BD: Cf. 0447/94, 100: BD VIII: Giuseppe Maria Cambini (1746-1825), violinist, pupil of Tartini and Padre Martini. From 1770 in Paris, where his symphonies were performed in the Concert Spirituel. His appreciation of Mozart is shown by the copy in his own hand of the string quartet KV 478.

⁷⁵ BD: Anton Stamitz (1754-1809); cf. No. 0462/206-207.

⁷⁶ BD: Nicola Piccinni (1728-1806); cf. Nos. 0158/56.

⁷⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0379/64. André-Erneste-Modeste Grétry (1741-1813), French composer. Leopold overestimates the status of his son in Paris: after the success of his opera *Zémire et Azor* (1771) – a keyboard reduction was found in Mozart's estate – Grétry's fame spread to Germany, Italy Russia and the northern countries. Grétry's *Mémoires* do not even mention Mozart, suggesting he did not see as a competitor.

⁷⁸ BD: The Mannheim musicians Wendling and Ramm had reached Paris in February. The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786). For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368; he also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling.

⁷⁹ BD: *La finta semplice* KV 51 (46a). Leopold is referring to the intrigues listed in No. 0139.

⁸⁰ BD: *Mitridate, Rè di Ponto* KV 87 (74a).

⁸¹ BD: Guglielmo D’Ettore, sang the title role in the première of *Mitridate*. Cf. Nos. 0166/38; 0170/25-26; 0200/31. He caused the second “storm” for *Mitridate*, cf. No. 0219/22, which the Mozart successfully resisted.

⁸² BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis (c. 1740-1816), singer. Met the Mozarts in Mainz and Naples, cf. Nos. 0060/29-31 and 0188/54. Wolfgang reports that she sang in Venice when he was there, cf. No. 0232/33. Sang *Guinia* in the première of *Lucio Silla* KV 135; came to Milan only 3 weeks before the première and was not disinclined to cause difficulties.

now, one will have to wait and see how circumstances develop in Germany. The whole place is full of soldiers, deliveries of horses, and supplies of victuals; in Prussia and Austria people are being taken away as soldiers from the streets and from their beds. [205] I cannot support you with money, as you know – and without money Mama cannot get home and you cannot get to Italy. If, with the little that is still left, I want to <pay our debts>, your Mama and your sister would not have a single <kreuzer> after <my death>, and I could not support you with anything either. [210] One must therefore wait for developments. In the meantime, you are both in a safe place. In God's name, be patient and industrious! Who knows what can be done with the Elector of Mannheim⁸³ when everything is running smoothly again? – In order to get to Italy, you must needs have money, and even if I really could get hold of a *scrittura*⁸⁴ by hook or by crook, one must still have money for the journey. [215] Am I in a position to <pay our debts> and at the same time to give you at least 3 or 400 florins to cover the journey to Italy? – Be serene, come to terms with the circumstances, and since you write that you are to compose an opera,⁸⁵ follow my advice and remember that your entire reputation depends on the first piece. Listen before you write, and think about the taste of the nation, [220] listen to or observe their operas. I know you, you can imitate anything. Do not write in haste – no sensible person does that. Think about the words beforehand with *Baron Grimm*, and with *Noverre*,⁸⁶ make *scizzi*⁸⁷ and let these people hear them. Everyone does it this way, *Voltaire*⁸⁸ reads his poems to his friends, listens to their judgement, and makes changes. The task is to gain honour and bring in money, [225] and then we intend to go to Italy and when we have money. If you write something to be engraved, write it to be easy for amateurs and popular.⁸⁹ do not write in haste! Cross out what you do not like; do nothing free, let them pay you for everything. We are all in good health, keep well, we kiss you both many 1000 times and I am as always your

Mzt

[230] My dear wife, do not forget to have your blood let, remember you are not at home, and you, my dear Wolfgang, take care of your health. – Do you have a *clavier*⁹⁰ in the house? – Since then, Nannerl has been practising astonishingly in *galant* style, in *gusto*⁹¹ and in accompaniment. *Ceccarelli*,⁹² who commends himself and is leaving on the 18th, brought along a violin solo without a bass, and I should write one for him. [235] When I was not at home for once one morning, she wrote the bass to it.⁹³ Now she has to do that rather often for me. *Addio* – keep well. I am quite aware that it is not possible to write so

⁸³ BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Cf. note on lines 144-145, 146.

⁸⁴ BD: = Contract to compose an opera.

⁸⁵ BD: Plans in Nos. 0440/90 ff.; 0446/136 ff.

⁸⁶ Jean Georges Noverre (1727-1810), internationally active (Stuttgart, Milan), ballet master in Vienna 1755-1774. The Mozarts met him in Vienna in 1773. He became composer and master of ballet at the *Académie royale de Musique* and director of festivities [“*Directeur des Fêtes de Trianon*”] in Paris in 1776. His memoirs mention Mozart aged 12; they certainly met in 1778 in Paris, where Mozart wrote part of the music for *Les petits riens* KV Anh. 10 (299b). Cf. Nos. 0293/51; 0430/182.

⁸⁷ = “Sketches”.

⁸⁸ BD: Leopold must have heard reports about Voltaire's way of working in Paris in 1763-64. Voltaire (really François-Marie Arouet, 1694-1778), lived in Ferney near Geneva from 1760. In a letter of 26th September, 1766, he states that the Mozarts never visited him. For Leopold's reaction to his death cf. No. 0457/222.

⁸⁹ BD: Similar advice is given in No. 0362/131-132.

⁹⁰ BD: The question about a keyboard instrument relates to the change of accommodation in Paris, cf. No. 0440/54-55. In their first accommodation with the Mayers, Wolfgang had no instrument, cf. No. 0440/41-43.
⁹¹ = “taste/style”.

⁹² 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. His first contract in Salzburg was approaching an end, cf. No. 0446/16.

⁹³ BD: Nannerl had earlier written bass lines for dance melodies, cf. No. 0184/95-96.

often: the letters are too expensive. *Baron Grimm* wrote to me,⁹⁴ I will answer with the next post.

[240] Yesterday *Cornet Andretter*⁹⁵ arrived to stay here for a time, he commends himself. Next Sunday⁹⁶ the Archbishop of Ollmütz, Count *Colloredo*,⁹⁷ will be enthroned here and *Rust's Serenata*⁹⁸ performed. I will enquire whether Count *Wolfegg*⁹⁹ may be going back to Paris. The black powder can possibly be obtained from an apothecary. It is called *pulvis epilepticus niger*.¹⁰⁰ [245] Herr *Bullinger*¹⁰¹ was in danger of getting a severe gall-bladder fever, he has been ill for a fortnight already: now he is allowed to eat a little meat. He and everyone recommend themselves – all Salzburg!

⁹⁴ BD: No. 0447a, lost.

⁹⁵ BD VIII: Siegbert [not Siegmund] von Antretter (1761-1800), Bavarian cadet, 1780 officer cadet Salzburg. Son of the Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler] Johann Ernst von Antretter, cf. Nos. 0288/50, 0403/16-17.

⁹⁶ BD: 17th May, 1778, cf. No. 0450/140.

⁹⁷ BD: Anton Theodor, Count [Graf] Colloredo-Mels und Wallsee, a cousin of the Salzburg Archbishop. Bishop of Olmütz 1777-1811.

⁹⁸ BD: *Il Parnasso confuso*, cf. No. 0403/66 ff. BD VII: Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741-1786), first studied in Naples, later in Rome. Several of his operas were performed in Venice 1773-1776. 1776-1777, he was music director in Salzburg. He fell ill and left Salzburg for Venice in 1778. In 1783 he accepted a post in Barcelona, where he died. Cf. Nos. 0331/96, 100, 102; 0362/38-39; 0382/10, 143 ff.

⁹⁹ BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Wandsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, high official. Supposedly Provincial Director, under the name “Prunelius”, of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge “Apollo”.

¹⁰⁰ BD: Cf. lines 244-245.

¹⁰¹ 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. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).