

Munich, 31st Dec:^{bre}
1778*Mon très cher Père!*¹

I have just this minute received your letter² from our friend *Becké*,³ – I wrote⁴ to you the day before yesterday from his domicile – [5] but I have never in my life written such a letter – for this friend spoke to me so much of your fatherly and tender love – of your consideration towards me, of your indulgence and *discretion* wherever it was a question of furthering my future happiness; – that my heart had become utterly attuned to weeping; – But now, from your letter⁵ of the 28th, I see only too clearly [10] that Herr *Becké* exaggerated a little when talking to me. – Now clearly and unambiguously: –

As soon as the *opera* |: *Alceste*⁶ |: goes on stage, I will leave – even if the post-coach leaves the day after the *opera* or even in the same night; – if only you had spoken to Frau von *Robinig*,⁷ [15] perhaps I would have been able to travel home with her! – Now, however that may be, the *opera* is on the 11th and the 12th |: if there is a *diligence*⁸ leaving :| I am off; – it would be in my interest to stay a little longer, but I am willing to sacrifice this for you in the hope that I will be rewarded doubly for it in Salzburg –

[20] Regarding the *sonatas*⁹ your ideas are not the best! – So, if I did not have them, should I then leave right away? – or should I not even let myself be seen at court at all? – as a man who is so well known here, I could not do that; – but do not worry, I received my sonatas in Kaysersheim;¹⁰ I will present them to Her Electoral Majesty¹¹ as soon as they are bound; – [25] *apropós*:¹² what is meant by the exuberant dreams?¹³ – the dreaming does not seem to me worth discussing, for there is not a mortal man on the surface of the Earth who does not dream occasionally! – but exuberant dreams! – Peaceful dreams, invigorating, sweet dreams! – That is the thing; – dreams which, if they were real, would make my more sad than exuberant life bearable; – [30]

The 1st:¹⁴ I have just this minute received, from a Salzburg *viturino*,¹⁵ a letter¹⁶ from you which in the first moment has well and truly taken me aback; – for God's and heaven's sake, do you then think that I can fix the day of my departure now? – or do you perhaps think I may not come at all? [35] – Once one is so near, I would have thought one could be

¹ = “My very dear father!”

² BD: No. 0512.

³ BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there.

⁴ BD: No. 0513.

⁵ BD: No. 0512.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0493/45, where the work is erroneously attributed to Gluck. Anton Schweitzer (1735-1787), composer. Mozart met him in Mannheim, cf. Nos. 0074/15; 0907/51.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0513/33-34. (Maria)Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts'. Cf. No. 0016/67.

⁸ BD: Large coach used on the scheduled mail routes, also used for passengers.

⁹ BD: The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) dedicated to the Palatine Electress, Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Published in Paris by J.G. Sieber.

¹⁰ Kaisheim by Donauwörth.

¹¹ “S: Ch: D:”. BD: Maria Elisabeth Auguste of the Palatinate-Bavaria (1721-1794), wife of the Elector, now living in Munich.

¹² Here: = “by the way”.

¹³ BD: Quoting from Leopold in No. 0512/25.

¹⁴ BD: 1st January, 1779.

¹⁵ = “Coachman”.

¹⁶ BD: No. 0515.

calm; – after the fellow had explained his journey entirely to me, a great desire came over me to go with him, but I cannot go yet; – I will not be able to present the sonatas to Her Electoral Highness until tomorrow or the day after,¹⁷ and then I will of course |: while doing everything possible to hasten it :| have to wait a few days for a present [40]; – what I promise you upon my honour is that, to please you, I will not see the *opera* at all, but depart immediately on the day after receiving the present – but that is painful for me, I must admit – yet, if for you it all depends on a few days more or less, then let it be so; – send me a reply to this at once [45]; –

I am writing as if in a pigsty because I have to hurry so much since the fellow is leaving at this moment;¹⁸ –

2nd:¹⁹ I am looking forward to speaking to you personally – only then will you really hear how my business is going here²⁰ – [50] regarding *Raaff*²¹ you need feel no distrust or discontent at all, he is the most honest man in the world – he is simply not a great lover of writing; – but the main reason is that he does not like to promise anything too early, and yet likes to give hope; by the way, he certainly had to |: as did *Cannabich*²² :| rise by pure hard work; – now take very good care of yourself indeed; – I commend myself to all good friends, [55] embrace my dear sister with my whole heart, and I kiss you and your hands, dearest father, 1000 times and remain, sir, until death

your most obedient son,
Wolfgang Amadè Mzt

¹⁷ BD: It was actually done on 7th January, cf. No. 0520/26-27.

¹⁸ BD: Wolfgang did not in fact give the letter to the coachman.

¹⁹ BD: The following lines, as does No. 0520/32-34, show that Mozart had not in fact received the letter mentioned in No. 0515/70. It seems that it had contained Leopold's doubts about the reliability of Cannabich and Raaff as friends, responding to Wolfgang's No. 0513/25-26.

²⁰ BD: Wolfgang had not yet given up hopes of being employed in Munich.

²¹ BD: Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich. Cf. No. 0120/54.

²² 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. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter Rosa.