

0762.¹ MOZART TO HIS SISTER,² SALZBURG

All the best,
With punch and zest!

[Salzburg, 31st July, 1783]

- I went out all this morning, but you knew not why. –
There's one thing I can tell you: that I went out to buy
[5] Some little thing to bring you at least a spark of joy,
And sparing not my money, did time and thought employ, –
Although I'm not so sure if punch is what you drink,
Oh! Please do not say – No, – or else the bag may stink;
The thought was clear and simple: it's Englishmen for you,
[10] For if your love were Paris, I'd give you ribbons blue,
And sweetly scented waters, a well-trimmed bunch of flowers,
But you, my dearest sister, seek no coquettish powers;
So take the gift I offer, a punch, a steaming brew,
And if it please your palette, my wishes have come true.
[15] Salzburg, 31st July, 1783

W. A. Mozart mp³
target-poet laureate.

[MORE LITERALLY:]

Congratulations,
With punch!

[Salzburg, 31st July, 1783]

- I went out today, you did not know why. –
I can only say this much: that it happened so as
[5] to cause you a little gladness with something small,
shying in the process neither costs nor effort more trouble, –
admittedly I don't know if you like drinking punch,
Oh! Please do not say – No, – otherwise the wrapping band might stink;
the idea I had was that you love Englishmen,
[10] for if you loved Paris, I would give you ribbons,
sweetly scented waters, an artistically done bouquet,
but you, dear sister, you are not a coquette,
therefore accept from my hand the good and strong punch,
and may it be truly to your taste, that is my only wish.
[15] Salzburg, 31st July, 1783

W. A. Mozart mp
target-poet laureate.

BD: THE ONLY EXTANT COPY IS IN THE HAND OF LEOPOLD VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG (NANNERL'S SON), WHO WROTE THERE THE FOLLOWING REMARK:

Innsbruck, 6th April, 1836. Written below is a faithful copy of a short poem which the famous and all too soon departed composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart gave to his sister, Maria Anna Mozart, my beloved mother; written for her birthday a year before her marriage with

¹ BD: Original lost. Copy in Leopold's hand.

² BD: Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), (1751-1829).

³ mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".

my departed father, Johann Baptist, Baron [Freiherr] von Sonnenburg, advisor to the Prince of Salzburg and administrator of Hüttenstein, which I found in her estate after her death in 1830 along with several other things. My still living aunt, left a widow by Mozart and now also by her second husband, the Royal Danish State Counsellor von Nissen, confirmed on the same leaf on which this poem is written that it is the personal handwriting of her first husband, Mozart.

Leopold, Baron [Freiherr] von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg,
Royal and Imperial Chamber Comptroller of the Uplands Administration Finances
Authentique. That this handwriting is that of my departed husband Mozart is confirmed by my signature:

Constanze,
Wife of State Counsellor von Nissen,
formerly widow
of Mozart.
Salzburg, on the 19th of February, 1830.

Dedicated to the most honoured Museum in Linz by the first signatory.