

1170. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN¹ BY VIENNA

À / Madame / Madame Costance de Mozart / à / Baaden. / to be delivered to the esteemed Legal Officer.²

*Ma très chere Epouse!*³ –

[Vienna, 25th June, 1791]

I have just received your letter, which has brought me the most exceptional pleasure. [5] – now I am already longing for a second one again so as to know what effect the spa has had on you; – I also regret that I was not at your fine *musique* yesterday, but not because of the *musique*, but because I would then have been so happy to be with you. – Today I gave [Leitgeb]⁴ a surprise. – I first went to the *Rechbergers*⁵ [10] – and then his wife sent a daughter up to tell him that an old, good acquaintance from *Rome* was here – who had already been up and down all the houses and had not been able to find him! – He sent a message back asking me to wait a little. In the meantime the poor clown put on his finest suit, as on a Sunday, and with his hair *dressed* most magnificently – you can imagine how we then laughed at him. [15] – quite simply, I must always have a fool – if it is not [Süssmayr],⁶ then it is [Leitgeb]⁷ *Snai*⁸ – Where did I sleep? – At home, needless to say – I slept very well, only the mice did their best to keep me company – I had a thoroughly good *discussion* with them. – I was already up before 5 o'clock. – *Apropos*.⁹ I advise you not to go to Mass in the morning [20] – the peasant churls are too coarse for my taste; – although admittedly you have a coarse *compagnon*¹⁰ – but the peasants have no *respect* for him, *perdunt respectum*¹¹ because they immediately recognise him as a skinflint. *Snai!* –

I shall answer Süssmayer when we meet – it is a pity to waste the paper. – Send a message to Krügel or Kligel¹² that you would especially like better food – [25] it is even better if you can perhaps tell him yourself when you pass by; – otherwise he is a solid man, and has great respect for me. – Tomorrow I will join the *procession in Josephstadt*¹³ with a candle in my hand! – *Snai!* –

¹ BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

² “Hr: Sündikus”. BD: Johann Georg Grundgeyer, Constanze’s landlord in Baden (cf. note on No. 1153/17).

³ = “My very dear spouse”.

⁴ BD: One very short word crossed out by Nissen. “Leutgeb”? Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), hunting horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart speak for his musical abilities. Mozart made contact with him in 1781, shortly after arriving in Vienna. Leutgeb lived in a large house outside town; Mozart stayed there occasionally when his wife was taking spa treatment in Baden in 1791.

⁵ BD: Cf. note on No. 1161/30.

⁶ BD: Word of approximately 6-8 letters crossed out by Nissen. “Sussmair”? “Leutgeb”? DME has “Süssmayr”.

⁷ BD: Word of approximately 6-8 letters crossed out by Nissen. “Sussmair”? “Leutgeb”? DME has “Leutgeb”.

⁸ BD: Cf. note on No. 1167/9. Almost certainly Süssmayr. Franz Xaver Süssmayer (1766-1803), son of choirmaster and schoolmaster Franz Karl Süssmayer, grammar school in Kremsmünster 1779-1784, then until 1787 attended the chivalric academy there. During this time he was active as an alto, tenor, violinist and organist. Came to Vienna in 1788, worked as a private tutor and occasionally in the Royal Music. He came into contact with Mozart via his teacher Georg von Pasterwitz (1730-1803), probably by 1790. He completed Mozart’s *Requiem*.

⁹ (Here:) = “by the way”.

¹⁰ = “companion”. BD: Probably Süssmayr.

¹¹ = “they lose respect”.

¹² BD: Not identified; perhaps the landlord of the inn where Constanze sent for food.

¹³ BD: Despite being a Freemason, Mozart joined this church procession, starting and ending at the Piarist church in the suburb Josephstadt. An ulterior motive, as with his church attendance on 9th October, 1791 (cf. No. 1196/26-27), was probably that he wished to send his son Carl Thomas to the Piarist school.

Do not forget my admonishments regarding morning and evening air – [30] regarding bathing too long etc. etc. – give my compliments to Count and Countess Wagensperg¹⁴ – *adieu* – I kiss you 1000 times in my thoughts and am eternally your

Vienna, 25th June

1791.

Mozart

P.S. It would indeed be good if you gave *Carl* a little *rhubarb*.¹⁵ [35] – Why, then, have you not sent me the big letter? – Here is a letter to him¹⁶ – I would especially like to have a reply. – – Catch! – Catch! – sim – sim – smm – smm – a host of smacking kisses flying around in the air for you¹⁷ – – – smm – there’s one fluttering in late – [40] I have just this moment received your second letter. – Do not trust the spa! – and sleep more – not so chaotically! – otherwise I become anxious. – I am a little anxious already.

Adieu. –

¹⁴ “Graf and Gräfin”.

¹⁵ BD: Mozart’s second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858.

¹⁶ BD: Lost.

¹⁷ Cf. No. 1141/3.