

Vienna, 17th Octob., 1767

The Betrothed *Princess*³ has become a Bride of the Heavenly Bridegroom. An astonishing change! – On the 14th, in the afternoon, around 4 and 5 o'clock, we were in a party in which His Excellency the esteemed Count Dietrichstein,⁴ [5] currently Senior Master of the Imperial Stables,⁵ was present. As he is a favourite of the Emperor, he must have known exactly what the circumstances of the Archduchess⁶ were. He said that the *Princess* was in good circumstances. Around quarter past six, a servant came to find us and to tell us that the Duke of *Braganza* and Prince Caunitz⁷ were with Herr *Logié*⁸ and expecting us there. [10] His Excellency Count Dietrichstein offered to take us there personally in his coach and, since we were there until after 9 o'clock, a messenger came from Schönbrunn⁹ and conveyed to His Excellency a note from His Majesty the Emperor¹⁰ with the order to come to Schönbrunn immediately as the Princess was in such perilous circumstances [15] that the *medici* had suddenly given up all hope. Early on the 15th, it was said throughout the town that she was dead, causing an order to be sent to the Civil Guard House¹¹ at midday that they should put a stop to this circulation of false information. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon they tried to maintain that they had better hopes, and at 5 o'clock Her Excellency the Countess of Clary¹² came to Baron Fries¹³ [20] | *N.B. who was so kind a few years ago as to send us Salzburg citizens 100000 or 200000 seventeen florin pieces and in return to accept the 12 kreuzer pieces for 10 kreuzers* :¹⁴ with whom we were at that moment and confirmed that the Archduchess was not dead, but that they still had hope. At 9 o'clock, just as we wanted to drive home, news came that she had passed away at 7 o'clock [25] and that the whole Imperial Court had left Schönbrunn the next moment and was already in town. With this extraordinary event, then, it is remarkable that several years ago Archduchess Johanna¹⁵ | whom we still succeeded in getting to know well and who died during our stay here :| had been selected as the bride of the King of Naples of the day. [30] After her¹⁶ death,

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

³ "Die Pinzessin Braut". BD: Archduchess [Erzherzogin Maria Josepha (1751-1767)], on her illness cf. Nos. 0116/1; 0118/2. BD VII: Wolfgang started a composition [KV Anh. 24a (43a)], a duet for two sopranos, marking her death, but it was never finished.

⁴ "S.^c Excellenz der Herr Graf". BD: Johann Karl, Count [Graf], later Prince [Fürst] Dietrichstein (1728-1808).

⁵ "Kayserlicher Oberstallmeister". BD: Kayser = Joseph II.

⁶ BD: Cf. line 2.

⁷ "Duc de Braganza... Fürst Caunitz". BD: Juan Carlos von Braganza, Duke [Herzog] von Lafoënt (1719-1806), at that point in exile in Vienna. Mozart performed his opera *La finta semplice* KV 51 (46a) in his presence (cf. No. 0139/82 ff.). Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst] Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, from 1753 State Chancellor [Staatskanzler]. He received the Mozarts on 15th October, 1762.

⁸ BD: Alexandre-Louis Laugier (1719?-1774), personal physician to Maria Theresia.

⁹ BD: Joseph II.

¹⁰ "S.^r Mayst: dem Kayser".

¹¹ BD: "Rumor haus": House of a guard unit used 1695-1773, mostly for intervening in cases of rowdy behaviour.

¹² "S.^c Excellenz Gräfin von Clary". BD: Probably Maria Josepha Clary (1728-1801), one of the circle of five ladies with whom Joseph II spent his evenings from 1770 onwards.

¹³ "Baron Fries". BD: Johann von Fries (1719-1785), banker, active for many years with financial transactions on behalf of the court, given the title of Imperial Baron [Reichsfreiherr] in 1763.

¹⁴ BD: Salzburg supplied 12-kreuzer coins to Fries' bank in return for Austrian Convention 10-kreuzer coins, giving Salzburg a significant gain because of the exchange rate. The transaction remains obscure, and there are no records of it in Salzburg archives.

¹⁵ BD: Archduchess [Erzherzogin] Johanna Gabriele (1750-1762). On her death cf. No. 0046/63 ff.

¹⁶ BD: Leopold erroneously writes "dessen" ["his"].

Archduchess Josepha¹⁷ was chosen for him. So this is the 2nd bride from the house of Austria that he has lost, and since the marriage ceremony was due to take place here on the 14th, the ceremonial wedding in Naples has probably already gone ahead in Naples. Now the lot will probably fall on Archduchess *Carolina*,¹⁸ who is now 15 years old. [35] Also remarkable is that the 2nd *opera* was the story of the Greek fable of *Psyche*. The title was *Amore et Psyche*.¹⁹ Because of her extraordinary beauty and virtue, *Amor* himself falls in love with this *Psyche*. Venus became jealous of this and, although *Psyche* was innocent and did not know the God Amor, she had to withstand so many afflictions and terrors, [40] yes, to all appearances, death itself, at the instigation of *Venus*. Finally, *Venus* was softened by the constancy of the virtuous *Psyche*, *Psyche* was made a goddess and *Amor* received her as his bride.

You see, now this beautiful and virtuous, innocent *princess* has also become truly a Bride of the Divine Love! [45] On St. Francis' Day, exactly on the name-day of her blessed Imperial father, she fell ill. On Monday, the next day, this *opera* was performed for the first time, and on the name-day of her Imperial mother she went to the Heavenly Bridegroom. I must beg your forgiveness that I am not depicting this sad event in delicate colours, or at least written in legible characters: [50] the time is too short! – – The confusion that has arisen from this in all the places through which she would have travelled is easy to understand. Festivities and attestations of respect had been planned everywhere and great costs incurred, and in Florence it was in vain that *Sgr. Manzoli*,²⁰ *Sgra. De Amicis*²¹ and *Sgr. Raff*²² learned their vocal parts by heart. [55] As early as tonight, the Archduchess will be buried in utter quietness, and services will take place in all churches on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The theatres will remain closed for 6 weeks, but it would be appropriate to make some provision for those who have to make their living there. Otherwise, since the Advent period furthermore comes on top of this, [60] it will stay very quiet in every sense until New Year. Keep well, and do not forget to pray for us, for if God did not watch over us, we would certainly be in the worst of states, as you will hear in due time. I commend myself to all good friends and am, sir, yours as always.²³

¹⁷ BD: Archduchess [Erzherzogin] Maria Josepha (1751-1767), cf. No. 0116/1.

¹⁸ "Erzherzogin Carolina". BD: Leopold shows almost prophetic abilities. It was indeed Archduchess [Erzherogin] Maria Carolina who married Ferdinand IV in 1768.

¹⁹ BD: By Florian Leopold Gassmann, cf. No. 0116/26.

²⁰ BD: Giovanni Manzuoli (1725?-1780?), soprano castrato from Florence, in London since 1764. He gave Wolfgang singing lessons free of charge, cf. No. 0099/76. He sang the title role in the première of *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 0095/11.

²¹ BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis Anna Lucia de Amicis (c. 1740-1816), singer, cf. No. 0060/29-31. The Mozarts met her entire family in Mainz.

²² 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.

²³ BD: This letter is known only as a copy. Signature missing.