

0121.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO LORENZ HAGENAUER,² SALZBURG

a Monsieur / Monsieur Lorence Hagenauer / à / Salzbourg

Olmütz, 10th Novb.,
1767

Te Deum Laudamus!³

Wolfgangerl has successfully overcome the smallpox!
[5] And where? – – – in Olmitz!⁴
And where? – – – In the palace
of His Esteemed Excellency Count *Podstatsky*.⁵

From my preceding letter you will already have gathered that everything was confusedly topsy-turvy in Vienna. Now I must tell you some particular things [10] which concern us alone, and from which you will see that divine Providence connects all things together in such a way that we cannot fall short of our destiny if we abandon ourselves to this Providence in complete trust. You know anyway how sorrowfully events went at the Viennese court at exactly the time when it could have gone so well for us. [15]

At the same time, we suffered another event which inspired no small fears in us. The elder son of the goldsmith in whose house we are living developed smallpox just as we arrived, and we learned nothing about it until he was almost over it and the 2 small children had caught it. [20] I searched in vain to make enquiries quickly for another apartment for us all. I was forced to leave my wife and daughter there, and fled with Wolfgang to my good friend,⁶ where we remained. The servant stayed with my wife. We were as far apart as from the Hospice to the Theatines. [25] In all Vienna the talk was of nothing but the smallpox. If 10 children were listed on the notice of deaths, 9 of them had died of smallpox. My feelings can easily be imagined; entire nights passed sleeplessly, and by day I had no peace. I was resolved to go to Moravia immediately after the death of the Betrothed Princess⁷ [20] until the first sadness in Vienna had passed somewhat. But they did not let us go, since His Majesty the Emperor⁸ spoke about us so often that one was never sure when it might occur to him to send for us. But as soon as Archduchess⁹ Elisabeth found herself in such a bad state, I did not let anything hold us back anymore, for I could hardly wait for the moment when I would lead my Wolfgang out of a Vienna completely infected with smallpox into quite different air. [35]

We planned to leave early on the 23rd October, but as the fine custom in Vienna is that one commonly receives the post horses half a day later, we did not get away until the afternoon. On Saturday we were in Brno. I went with Wolfgang to pay my respects to His Excellency Count von Schrattenbach¹⁰ and Countess von Herberstein.¹¹ [40] There was talk of a concert so that the children could perform, and absolutely everything was agreed. But I

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 = We praise you, God.

⁴ BD: Olmütz, = Olomouc. Leopold had brought the family here for health reasons, to have better air (line 35).

⁵ “S: Excellenz Herrn Grafen Podstatsky”. BD: Leopold Anton, Count [Graf] Podstatsky (1717-1776), prelate and university rector. Previously president of the Salzburg consistory, still cathedral canon.

⁶ BD: Possibly Peisser? Not clear.

⁷ “Die Pinzessin Braut”. BD: Archduchess [Erzherzogin Maria Josepha (1751-1767)], on her illness cf. Nos. 0116/1; 0118/2.

⁸ “S: Majestät der Kayser”.

⁹ “Erzherzogin”. BD: Maria Elisabeth (1743-1808), later Abbess of a nunnery in Innsbruck.

¹⁰ “S: Excellenz Grafen von Schrattenbach”. BD: Brother of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

¹¹ “Gräfin”. BD: Wife of Johann Gundacker, Graf Herberstein, Senior Forester [Oberforstmeister] in Salzburg in 1785.

felt a certain inner urge, which I could not get out of my head and which came to me all at once, to travel on immediately to Olmütz and to give the concert in Brno on the way back. [45] I accordingly made representations to His Excellency that very Sunday evening, and he found it all the better because by then the nobility currently still in the country would all be back in town. We then packed everything quickly again and, on Monday the 26th, we drove to Olmütz, where we arrived somewhat late because something had to be done to our coach while we dined at midday in Wischau,¹² [50] where the blacksmith held us up for 3 hours with his work. We had the consternation of having to take a bad, damp room at the Black Eagle,¹³ to which we had driven, because the few other, better ones were occupied. We were therefore obliged to have it heated a little and, behold, another consternation – [55] the stove smoked so much that we almost went blind. At ten o'clock, Wolfgang complained about his eyes. But I noticed that he had a warm head, hot and very red cheeks, while his hands were as cold as ice. Nor was his pulse right, so we gave him some black powder¹⁴ and laid him down to sleep. He was fairly restless throughout the night, and the dry high temperatures were still there in the morning. [60] They gave us 2 better rooms; we wrapped Wolfgang up in furs and went over with him into the other rooms. His temperature increased. We gave him some Margrave powder.¹⁵ Towards evening he began to *fantasize*, and it stayed the same the whole night and the morning. On the 28th, after church, I went to His Excellency Count von *Podstatsky*, [65] who received me most graciously, and when I said to him that my little one had fallen ill and that I could see that he might perhaps develop smallpox, he told me that he would take us in, since he was not in the least afraid of smallpox. He immediately called for his house steward, ordered him to get 2 rooms ready, and immediately instructed his *medicus*¹⁶ to visit us in person at the Black Eagle. [70]

Now it was only a question of whether it was still feasible to move the child. The *medicus* said yes!, since no rash was yet present and it was not yet even certain that it would turn out to be smallpox.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Wolfgang was packed in leather wraps and furs [75] and carried into the coach, and thus I drove with him to the cathedral deanery.¹⁷ On the 29th, some small, red spots were visible, but we all doubted if this was smallpox, since he was no longer very ill, and he was taking nothing more than a powder every 6 hours, namely δ march: orph: V. $\delta\ddot{u}$ diaph: \ddot{r} lot arc: 2pl: $\ddot{a}\ddot{a}$: gr: VI. Sacc: cit: gr: X. and then always followed by Scabious tea.

[80] On the 30th and 31st, on his name-day, the smallpox broke out fully, and on these days and the next he took the following: δ orph: V. epilep: march: $\delta\ddot{u}$ diaph: elect: \ddot{r} lot arc: 2 pl: $\ddot{a}\ddot{a}$: gr: VI Myrrh: elect. gr. I. Sacc: cit: gr: 17.

Thus only the myrrh was added, and he continued to take *scabious* tea. [85] As soon as the smallpox had broken out fully, all the fever left him and, praise God, he always felt well. He was very chubby and when he was astonishingly swollen and had a fat nose and saw himself in the mirror, he said, he now looked like little Mayr, meaning Herr Mayr¹⁸ the musician. Since yesterday, the scabs have been falling off here and there, and all the swelling has been gone for 2 days now. [90]

¹² BD: Wischkau.

¹³ BD: "Schwarzer Adler", an inn in Olmütz.

¹⁴ BD: *pulvis epilepticus niger*.

¹⁵ BD: *pulvis magnesia cum rheo*.

¹⁶ BD: Dr. Joseph Wolff (1724 - after 1778). As thanks for the treatment, Wolfgang composed an aria for his daughter, cf. No. 0450/155-157. Dr. Wolff was in Salzburg in May, 1770, cf. No. 0450/155 f.

¹⁷ BD: According to Nannerl (AmZ Jg. II No. 17 Col. 300 ff), the chaplain visited Wolfgang frequently here and told him card tricks. He also received fencing lessons.

¹⁸ BD: Probably Andree Mayr, violinist in the court music in Salzburg.

You see now that my life motto is true: *in te Domine speravi, non confundar in aeternum*.¹⁹

I leave it to you and all Salzburg to contemplate how wonderfully we were led to Olmütz by our destiny, [95] and how extraordinary it is that His Excellency Count von Podstatsky, on his own initiative, received us with a child who was due to develop smallpox. I will say nothing of the goodness, grace and plenty with which we have been treated in all things. I will only ask how many there might be of the same kind, who would take into their dwelling a whole family with a child who is in such circumstances, [100] and all this out of their own urge to love their neighbour? – – This deed will bring no small honour to His Excellency Count von Podstatsky in the biography of our little one, which I will have published in due time,²⁰ for here, in a certain sense, a new era of his life has started.

[105] Now, I regret that I must reach Salzburg later than planned. No-one will have any difficulty in understanding that I cannot set out so quickly on the journey at this time of year, nor undertake a long journey at once. Hardly had I heard that Herr Meisner²¹ was to go to Frankfurt than I at once resolved to be in Salzburg without fail for the Consecration Day²² of His High Princely Grace, [110] our most gracious Lord.²³ But now it does not look at all likely, since we will not be able to leave here so quickly without putting Wolfgang in danger. In the meantime, please have 3 Holy Masses read at Loreto at the Holy Child, and 3 Holy Masses at Maria Plain.²⁴ Herr Thomas,²⁵ [115] who visited us almost daily during the most turbulent phases of the illness, will tell you everything in detail.

Wolfgang joins all of us in sending his congratulations to Herr Alterdinger.²⁶ It can no longer be called premature that he is finally achieving something, but I hope that His High Princely Grace will not leave such a useful man as Herr Alterdinger on the idle bread of a valet. *Et fruges consumere nati!*²⁷ [120]

The letter²⁸ with the enclosure²⁹ from *Msr. Grimm* in Paris reached me safely. From *Msr. Grimm's* letter you will have seen what he wrote to me about the Russian court and the hereditary Prince of Brunswick,³⁰ and also how, and in the presence of which persons, Herr

¹⁹ = In you, O Lord, have I hoped; do not let me perish for ever.

²⁰ BD: Leopold had already voiced a similar intention in the preface to the second impression of his violin school in 1769. To this end, he requested all recipients his letters to keep them, cf. No. 0157/15. After the alienation of father and son in 1781, he presumably saw no more future for the project.

²¹ BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

²² BD: usually involving a high mass and a gala evening at court.

²³ "S:r Hochfürstlichen Gnaden unsers gnädigsten Herrn". The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold's employer.

²⁴ BD: Cf. Numerous similar requests concerning these pilgrimage centres near Salzburg in Nos. 0103/143 ff.; 0036/47-48; 0032/39 and elsewhere.

²⁵ BD: An employee of Podstatsky?

²⁶ BD: Rochus Alterdinger, Inspector of the Royal wardrobe and palace administrator in Salzburg [hochfürstlicher Garderobe-Inspektor; Residenz-Schloss-Verwalter].

²⁷ = And we are born to eat bread.

²⁸ BD: Letter No. 0120c (lost). Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

²⁹ BD: Grimm's letter (No. 0120d, lost), may have contained suggestions for concerts or employment at the Russian court or in Brunswick.

³⁰ "vom Erbprinzen zu Braunschweig". BD: Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand (1735-1806). A distinguished and courageous military leader and exceptional violinist. Concerning Mozart wrote that "many music directors, having perfected their skills, die without having learnt what this boy is capable of at the age of nine years."

Schobert³¹ passed into eternity. [125] The 2 congratulatory letters for Herr Wolfgang³² have also arrived. Always write to me at Herr Peisser's.³³ I have been directed by him to other persons in Brno and Olmütz. I wish you well. I and all of us commend ourselves to all of Salzburg, and I remain yours as always.

Here is the reply³⁴ to Herr Joseph³⁵ written by Wolfgang in bed. [130]

One worry still weighs on my heart, namely that my girl might also get smallpox, for who knows if the various pox rashes she has had were real ones?

ON THE ENVELOPE:³⁶

Something for you alone.

The 6 symphonies which Herr Estlinger³⁷ has written will have to be rolled up together and passed to the post coach marked *À Son Altesse S: S.^{me} Le Prince de Fürstemberg etc. à Donaueschingen.*³⁸ [5] A letter to the Prince will be sent from here. The *Concerto* for 2 *Claviers* by *Wagenseil*³⁹ must be in with the other printed sonatas for Herr Gessner in Zurich. By the way, you will no doubt see what a crooked path everything was going along and, as we thought everything had turned for the worse, God filled us with the greatest grace and allowed our dear Wolfg. to survive the smallpox well. [10] Now I no longer care about anything, as long as this turns out well. Before leaving Vienna, I again received 30 ducats⁴⁰ from Herr Peisser and will probably have to take as much again from a friend of his, to whom he sent me. Enough! Who knows whether some windfall may come our way! – – What do you say about Count *Podsdatzky's*⁴¹ conduct towards us? – [15] Doesn't a deed of that kind deserve in response that His High Princely Grace,⁴² if not personally, then at least through his esteemed brother in Brunn⁴³ or through Count von Herberstein,⁴⁴ or at the very least via a letter from our Father Confessor or the esteemed Court Chancellor should in a certain manner show, if not thanks, surely at least his pleasure. See to it that something is done, sir, I beg you! [20]

³¹ BD: Johann (Jean) Schobert (c. 1740-1767), from Silesia. Keyboard player and composer, in Paris from 1760. Presented a copy of his engraved sonatas to the Mozart children in Paris. He, some family members and friends died from mushroom poisoning. Leopold's assessment of him in No. 0080/153-154 is unfavourable, but Mozart drew on his material, notably his op. XVII No. 2 as a model for his pasticcio concerto KV 39. Cf. No. 0074/9.

³² BD: No. 0120a, lost.

³³ BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762.

³⁴ BD: No. 0120e (lost), presumably written in reply to No. 0120a.

³⁵ BD: Hagenauer's second son, Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), cf. No. 0032.

³⁶ Text in BD V, p. 179.

³⁷ BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional "factotum" to the Mozarts.

³⁸ = To His Highness the Most Serene Prince of Fürstemberg [Fürstenberg] etc. in Donaueschingen. Visited by the Mozart on their grand journey, as was Herr Gessner in Zurich (line 6).

³⁹ BD: Georg Christoph Wagenseil (1715-1775), music teacher to the Empress Maria Theresia and her children. His compositions for keyboard were familiar to Mozart from the notebook Leopold compiled for Nannerl; he learned to play two scherzos by Wagenseil in a short time on 24th January and on 6th February, 1761.

⁴⁰ BD: 135 florins.

⁴¹ "des Grafen von Podsdatzky". BD: Leopold Anton, Count [Graf] Podstatsky (1717-1776), prelate and university rector (cf. No. 0121/64 ff.).

⁴² "S: Hochf. Gnaden". The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁴³ = Brno. Residence of the brother of the Salzburg Prince-Archbishop.

⁴⁴ BD: Johann Gundacker, Graf Herberstein, Senior Forester [Oberforstmeister] in Salzburg in 1785.