

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantua¹

Milan, 5th Octob., 1771

His Excellency Count Firmian² arrived safe and sound last Tuesday evening at around 8 o'clock and will set out for Mantua again tomorrow and from there travel to meet His Royal Highness the Prince³ [5] coming the other way in order to accompany him back here. Just a few days ago, Herr Voggen, or von Voggen,⁴ arrived here, the brother of the Dr. Voggen⁵ who married little Mademoiselle Lisa. He was valet to His Royal Highness Archduke⁶ Ferdinand in Vienna, and you will surely remember him. He is a very fine person and more handsome than his brother the doctor. [10] He was always our very good friend. I have also learned that that His Excellency Count Sauerau⁷ will reach here in the next few days. The Duke of York, who was Duke of Gloucester⁸ when we were in England and became Duke of York after the death of his brother, will also arrive. He is in the meantime staying in Genoa and Turin. Yesterday there was another rehearsal in the theatre for Wolfgang's cantata,⁹ [15] and today the opera¹⁰ is being rehearsed. Then come 2 rest days and on Tuesday¹¹ a rehearsal for the cantata again. The theatre is full from 8 o'clock in the morning to 11 o'clock at night, for the dancers¹² are always there. Chaplain Troger¹³ told me, as he gave me the pillules,¹⁴ that you and Nannerl would have liked to have travelled with us. [20] If that was meant completely earnestly, you have acted very badly by not telling me forthrightly, although the difference, looking only at the journey here and back, would have been all of 60 ducats.¹⁵ Otherwise you should not in fact regret it much. For you would have had to stand incredible heat, and, although many grand things are put on here, they are indeed to an extent things that you have already seen, [25] perhaps even done more beautifully, or things that one has to see at great inconvenience due to the people, yes, perhaps at the risk of your life,¹⁶ if you want to see each bit of d ——. ¹⁷

You will perhaps not lack the opportunity¹⁸ of seeing operas in Italy, and every

¹ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:º 9 from Milan".

² "S: Ex: Graf Firmian". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

³ "S: K: Hoheit dem Prinzen". BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia. Mozart had written music for his upcoming wedding in Milan.

⁴ BD: Josef Fauken, personal valet to the Archduke, cf. No. 0258/16, and brother of Dr. med. Xaver Fauken (1741-1794).

⁵ BD: Dr. med. Xaver Fauken (1741-1794).

⁶ "S: K. H: Erz. Ferdinand". BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand.

⁷ "S: E: graf Sauerau". BD: Cf. No. 0128/46. Joseph Gottfried, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Saurau (1720-1775). Cathedral canon, cathedral dean, privy councillor in Vienna.

⁸ "Duc de Gloucester... Duc de York". BD: Brothers of George I and distantly related to the Este family, from whom the bride in the impending wedding came. The Duke of Este had in fact been considering marrying his granddaughter Maria Beatrice into the House of Hanover currently on the British throne.

⁹ BD: Properly a "serenade": *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 0239/15.

¹⁰ BD: *Ruggiero ovvero L'eroica gratitudine*, text by Metastasio. Hasse's last opera. Cf. No. 0239/17.

¹¹ BD: 8th October.

¹² BD: There were extensive ballet sections in the composition, cf. No. 0245/18.

¹³ BD: Not Leopold Troger, but a clergyman, probably the one mentioned in No. 0249/3.

¹⁴ BD: Laxatives to be sent from Salzburg, cf. No. 0244/22.

¹⁵ BD: = 270 florins.

¹⁶ BD: Not without reason: cf. No. 0251/18 ff.

¹⁷ = "Dung".

¹⁸ BD: Leopold obviously had hopes that Wolfgang would obtain employment in Italy.

Carnival opera in Milan is more *spectacular* than this one, for the *opera* has nothing ornamental at all, [30] except what is in the dances. I will hopefully not need the pillules: my head, praise God, is better. It was nothing more than a terrible constipation which I got because of the great heat in my head during the journey, such that I hardly needed 3 handkerchiefs in 6 weeks because all the moisture had dried and was locked in, [35] causing me continuous dizziness. Partly with foot baths, partly with tea vapour, and finally with the change in the weather and cool rainy air, I have been cured. But at once we have fine weather again. It is still holding; we only hope that it does not rain on the festive days. Keep well, both of you. We kiss you many 100 000 times, and I am as always your
[40] Mozart.

We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

I too am well, praise and thanks be to God, but always sleepy.¹⁹ We were at Count *Castelbarco's*²⁰ twice, and he was present at my first rehearsal in the theatre. I know nothing, not a thing, except that next Tuesday there is another rehearsal. [45] Papa took everything else I was going to write out of my pen, |: that is |: he has already written it. *Sig.^{ra} Gabrieli*²¹ is here, we will call on her very soon so that we get acquainted with all the genteel lady singers. *Addio*, keep well. My compliments to all friends, both gentlemen and ladies. Wolfgang.

¹⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0189/67-68; 0202/72; 0217/45.

²⁰ "beym graf castelbarco". BD: Mentioned in Nos. 0218/49; 0246/52-54; 0247/22; 0277/29.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0170/25, 38. Catarina Gabrielli (1630-1696), daughter of the personal cook to Prince Gabrielli, for which reason she was often called "la cochetta/cochettina". She stated that no one could write as well for her voice as Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), mentioned elsewhere in the correspondence. Wolfgang had a negative view of her artistry: "nothing but a producer of passagework and roulades" (No. 0426/55); Leopold compared her unfavourably with Aloisia Weber (No. 0422/110-111). Her sister Francesca (* between 1736 and 1740) regularly appeared with her as the *seconda donna*.