

0283. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbouurg / par Mantova / Insprugg*¹

Milan, 6th February,
1773.

[5] I quite firmly hoped to leave here in the first days of the coming week and consequently to see you both before the last days of Carnival, but the damned *rheumatism* has now appeared in my right shoulder,² and I can do nothing myself, so everything is ruled out for me, and you can imagine how I feel; all the more so, as we now have terribly cold weather [10] and a wind that goes through bone and marrow. No warm room, not even a fireplace in our room. I have to try to warm myself only using the bed covered with fur and clothes, with the foot muffs also being used. In the midst of all this, if possible, I will strive to get away from here at the end of the coming week and will make efforts to be in Salzburg for the last 3 days of Carnival. [15] I repeat: if possible. For, if my *rheumatism* is not fully gone, I cannot risk undertaking, in this cold, such a long and, in the Tyrol, certainly cold journey, and to expose myself to the danger of perhaps getting stuck in a miserable inn on the way. In the meantime, I suspect that this will be my last letter from Milan. [20] If, contrary to expectations, I am here for more than a week longer, I will give you more details. If you receive no letter, this is a sign that we have departed, for one does not always find an opportunity to write during a journey, all the more so as I am travelling via *Brescia*, while the post from *Milan* goes to Germany via *Mantua*. [25] As far as our Miss Mitzerl of the Dancing Master's House³ is concerned, you can ask her, with my compliments, to be patient until I come myself, since this short time will make no difference now. Then we should certainly come to an agreement,⁴ if nothing else at all is possible. She will no doubt be able to wait this short time.

During the performance of the 2nd *opera*,⁵ which is beautiful and is being presented at great cost, [30] there was an accident in which the 2nd principal dancer, *Salomoni*,⁶ pulled his *corda magna* and wrenched it so badly that he will not be able to dance again for the rest of this Carnival, which is causing great upset in the *ballet* *Giasone e Medea*. More about that in person.

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I would be very grateful if either of you could seek an opportunity to speak to His *Excellency* the Royal High Steward,⁷ [35] then with His *Excellency* Count *Sauerau*,⁸ or with Her

¹ BD: Innsbruck. Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N:º 15 from Milan".

² BD: Continuation of the fictive illness: cf. Nos. 0281/5 ff., 0282/5 ff., 39.

³ "Jungfer Mitzerl". BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with "Joly Sallerl" (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the "Tanzmeisterhaus" ["Dancing Master's House"] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold's death in 1787. Here Frau Mozart had obviously written outlining the latest developments in the search for new accommodation (No. 0282a, lost).

⁴ BD: The Mozarts moved in late autumn, 1773.

⁵ BD: *Sismano nel Mongol* by Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816), text by Gamerra (cf. No. 0266/28). He met Mozart again in Vienna some years later, travelling back from Saint Petersburg, where he was director of music and court composer.

⁶ BD: Giuseppe Salomon was once again involved in the ballets, as with *Lucio Silla*; cf. note on No. 0272/9. In this case the ballet was by Noverre and had already been performed in Venice in 1771; music probably by Le Picq.

⁷ "Sr. Ex: Obersthofmstr". BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

Excellency Countess von *Arco*,⁹ and to give, with my most humble compliments, news of my indisposition, all the more so as there have been enquiries regarding our arrival, while I will certainly depart as soon as possible.

Our compliments to all friends within and outside the house. [40] Wolfgang is writing a *quartet*,¹⁰ and I am glad that I have written this. We kiss both of you many 100 000 000 times and I am your old mutilated
Mzt mp¹¹

You will no doubt have heard that young *Alberti*¹² or, rather, his wife, has inherited 200 000 florins. Her brother died and left 600 000 florins. *Baron Piccini*¹³ has also inherited some 30 000 florins.

[45] ¹⁴<We are well, praise God. I cannot travel, because I would like to wait for a *gentleman* from Florence.¹⁵ *Leutgeb*¹⁶ has not arrived here yet. Meanwhile, one must keep Count Saurau as a good friend.>

⁸ “S^r: E: Graf Sauerau”. BD: Joseph Gottfried, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Saurau (1720-1775). Cathedral canon, cathedral dean from 1772, privy councillor.

⁹ “S. E. gräfin von Arco”. BD: Maria Josepha Viktoria, Countess [Gräfin] van Eyck, née Countess [Komtesse] Hardegg († 1776), wife of wife of Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmere] in Salzburg. (Cf. No. 0157/24 f.). Her daughter was Maria Anna Felicitas, Countess [Gräfin] van Eyck, wife of Maximilian Emanuel Franz, Count [Graf] van Eyck (1711-1777), Bavarian ambassador in Paris; the Mozart family stayed in his palace there.

¹⁰ BD: Probably KV 157, cf. No. 0264/28.

¹¹ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹² BD: Not identified.

¹³ “Baron”. BD: Perhaps Gian Giulio Pizzini (1719-1779), “barone” from 1754. Occasional host to Leopold and Wolfgang in Italy. Cf. No. 0241/14.

¹⁴ Family code.

¹⁵ BD: Leopold hoped for good news from Florence concerning employment for Wolfgang, cf. Nos. 0272/26; 0277/38-40; 279/30.

¹⁶ BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), 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 (KV 371, KV 412 + 514 (386b), 407 (386c), 417, 447, 495) 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. Some time previously, he had announced intentions of coming to Italy, cf. No. 0266/31-32.