

0344. LEOPOLD MOZART TO WIFE AND SON, MUNICH; ENCLOSURE FROM NANNERL;  
POSTSCRIPTS BY BULLINGER AND BERHANDTZKY

Salzb., 6<sup>th</sup> Octb., 1777

I received your lines<sup>1</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. safely today at a quarter to 10, still in bed because we were at the ball<sup>2</sup> yesterday until half past midnight. That you could live in Munich alone<sup>3</sup> – that is true, but what kind of [5] honour that bring? How the Archbishop<sup>4</sup> would make fun of it! You can do that anywhere, not only in Munich. One should not make oneself so unimportant and throw oneself away, there is certainly no need for that. Mama should rest assured, I feel much better, and this afternoon will start to take the sago,<sup>5</sup> which has already been made. I went to the ball [10] for a little diversion, and had great, very great fun, since no one knew me and I teased the people terribly. Now you will both, with God's help, continue your journey and turn in at The Lamb<sup>6</sup> in Holy Cross Street in Augsp.,<sup>7</sup> which I hear praised by all merchants from Augsp. All the rest you already have from me in writing. [15] If anything else comes to mind that I should send to you, that can still be done until Augsp., as it is not too distant. Regarding the Bishop in Chiemsee,<sup>8</sup> I must tell you that he will be here tomorrow evening, I hear, consequently he will leave Munich this evening, Monday. He is to conduct a confirmation in Werffen,<sup>9</sup> and who knows if he will go back up so soon, for the Archbishop [20] does not like to see him in Munich.<sup>10</sup> On Saturday I was at the theatre; since, however, there was also a French epilogue, *Brunetti*<sup>11</sup> had to play a concerto in between because of the costume change, and it was that one of yours with the Strasbourg melody;<sup>12</sup> he played it well indeed, only he occasionally went wrong in the two allegros, and once he almost lost his way in a cadenza. [25] The interludes by Haydn<sup>13</sup> are truly beautiful, during one act there was an arioso with variations for violoncello, flutes, oboe etc. and suddenly, where a variation in piano had gone before, a variation with the Turkish music came in, so suddenly and unexpectedly that all the women were startled and laughter arose. Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> acts, there was a cantabile, [30] where the cor anglais always had a recitative in between, and then the arioso came again, which, with the preceding sad scene of Zayre<sup>14</sup> and the following act, overwhelmed us. I must further tell you that the orchestra performed your concerto unsurpassably. Now another oboist is to come from Italy as second oboe.<sup>15</sup> Regarding the *castrato*,<sup>16</sup> [35] however, silence reigns.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: No. 0342.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0340/93; 0343/56-57.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Taking up No. 0342/27 ff.

<sup>4</sup> "Fürst". BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop since 1772. Studied in Vienna, canon in Salzburg 1747, then to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Priest in Statz, Austria, Canon in Passau and provost of Saint Moritz in Augsburg. 1761 Prince-Bishop of Gurk.

<sup>5</sup> BD: The home remedy once again, cf. No. 0342/80.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0331/37-38. The inn "Zum weissen Lamm" at the Heiligkreuztor (gate).

<sup>7</sup> Augsburg.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Graf Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop in Chiemsee and cathedral canon in Salzburg. Involved with Mozart in 1777, cf. e.g. No. 0331/104.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Werfen, south of Salzburg.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Zeil was subject to the Archbishop of Salzburg, who was of course unhappy to see him spending time in Munich outside his area of duty. The two had been rivals for the position of Archbishop in Salzburg.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music.

<sup>12</sup> BD VIII, p. 84: KV 216, not KV 218. "ad notam Strassburger" described an incomprehensible song of the time with a popular melody.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0340/3-4, 70 ff.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Voltaire's *Zaïre*, cf. line 32.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Replacing Fiala, who had left for Munich, cf. Nos. 0342/145; 0529/7.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0357/22 ff.: a castrato passing through gave Salzburg auditioned.

The Royal High Steward<sup>17</sup> had to say to Meissner<sup>18</sup> that he had not sung a couple of times because of a catarrh, and he should sing and assiduously carry out his church duties, otherwise he was inclined to send him away. That is the reward for the great favourite! I kiss both of you a million times, I am always with you with my whole heart and am as always your husband and [40] father

Mozart

You do not mention Missliwetcek<sup>19</sup> with a single word, as if he were not in Munich. What reply, then, am I to make to his letter?<sup>20</sup> He will probably have learnt that you are in Munich. Please give Msr. Albert<sup>21</sup> my most heartfelt, devoted, sincere commendation, I thank him for all the goodness he has shown towards you both, [45] for his kind support, provision and effort. I furthermore most pressingly commend to him his commitment in friendship to your best interests, my son. Enough! He is the most honest of men and the philanthropist I have always considered him to be and for which I have esteemed him. What occasionally saddens me is that I no longer hear you playing the clavier or the violin, [50] and every time I go home, a little melancholy comes upon me, for, when I approach our house, I always think I should hear you playing the violin. To our serving girl, Tresel,<sup>22</sup> it is accursedly puzzling that Nannerl always looks into the kitchen and gives her utterly terrible tellings-off every day because of the [55] dirtiness. But she does not let this disturb her in the least. And when she tells a lie, Nannerl says to her straight away that she was not telling the truth. In short! Tresel opens her eyes astonishingly wide, for she gets things said straight to her face on every subject, and yet, immediately afterwards, she is again in good spirits and quite composed.

[60] Addio, keep well! Just take care of your health, or else that would be the worst that could befall you, and save as well as you can, both of you, for travel costs money.

Herr Lotter will have brought the letter? – Brunetti commends himself to you, Wolfgang.

ENCLOSURE FROM MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART:<sup>23</sup>

[65] Salzb. the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. [1777]

Today, the 5<sup>th</sup>, there was airgun-shooting<sup>24</sup> at our home. Papa donated the first prize, I shot for Mama and Mama lost 9 kreuzers.<sup>25</sup> Katerl<sup>26</sup> shot for you and won the first prize.

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<sup>17</sup> “Obersthofmeister”. 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].

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris. Cf. No. 0340/27 ff.

<sup>20</sup> BD: No. 0337a, lost.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0312/22: Franz Joseph Albert (1728-1789), landlord of the inn “Zum Schwarzen Adler” [“The Black Eagle”], where the Mozarts had stayed on a number of occasions. The keyboard competition between Mozart and Ignaz von Beecke (cf. No. 0110/7) took place there in the winter of 1774/75. His idea for raising support for Mozart is outlined in No. 0339/36 ff.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Nannerl continues the content of No. 0341.

<sup>24</sup> BD: The shooting of bolts from airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen’s company” or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would also donate a first prize and would then also pay for everything consumed during the meeting.

<sup>25</sup> BD: 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

But, as she had drawn lots for 2 free shots, and our marksmen number only 11 in total, you won only 2 kreuzers. The target which the treasurer [70] recently donated was a good idea. On it was Katerl in her little jacket and a coat with boots and a riding whip in the hand. Above her head is written I'm looking for the Cat. And the following verse is written on the target:

To kiss you once again, my dear,  
[75] I need a ladder to get near.<sup>27</sup>

Now, to continue, today there was then a ball,<sup>28</sup> we did not get tickets until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and therefore it was too late to make a good mask. I also had things to do, the airgun-shooting, and for Papa I boiled the sago. After the airgun-shooting, Bullinger<sup>29</sup> and Katerl played Brandeln<sup>30</sup> with us until 4 o'clock. [80] Afterwards I went for a walk with Pimpes.<sup>31</sup> After the evening meal we wanted to go to Herr Hagenauer's.<sup>32</sup> Since Papa would not have stayed at the ball longer than 12 o'clock anyway, and since I had no good and clean mask for disguising myself, we resolved that Papa should go simply in his black woollen suit and an old mask, [85] and I with the old negligée bonnet, a white linen capuchon and a black taffeta shawl from Mad:<sup>selle</sup> Eberlin,<sup>33</sup> and the same face masks as you had. It was a long time until anyone recognised me. Your favourite *Mademoiselle* F. B.<sup>34</sup> had my Savoyard mask on. At just this moment, *Mad.*<sup>selle</sup> Waberl Eberlin is with me, who commends herself in order to [90] take me with her to the little garden. So keep yourself in sound health. I kiss Mama's hands and am your  
old dame grandmother.<sup>35</sup> Marie Anne  
Mozart.

It would bring no honour to you if you stayed [95] in Munich without entering service. It brings more honour to you if you look for a position, since you have not been given one, with another great man. You will certainly find one.

ABBÉ JOSEPH BULLINGER'S POSTSCRIPT:

My most excellent Wolfgang, I am glad indeed that I constantly hear something [100] about you at your dearest Papa's. Now travel on happily; think about your best friend once every week, I will think about you frequently. Commend me to your most excellent Mama, and live, sir, in the best of health. Jos. Bull.

BERHANDTZKY'S POSTSCRIPT:<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> BD: "Katherl, Katerl, Catherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of court surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

<sup>27</sup> More literally: "My dear, may I kiss you again? I will have to use the ladder."

<sup>28</sup> BD: A masked ball in the town hall, often also attended by the Archbishop.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House teacher to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

<sup>30</sup> BD: A card game.

<sup>31</sup> BD: The dog, cf. No. 0291/37.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762); often called Waberl.

<sup>34</sup> BD: One of daughters of the personal physician to the Salzburg Archbishop, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

<sup>35</sup> BD: Because of her mask at the ball.

<sup>36</sup> BD: A member of the extensive Berhandtzky family. Possibly Placidus Berhandtzky von Adlersberg, priest? The surname occurs repeatedly in the correspondence. Most likely is Joseph (\* c. 1748 – 1789), lawyer, who became Court Council Secretary [Hofratssekretär] in 1788.

Still tired from yesterday's masked ball, which was given free of charge for God and our native land [105] |: roof and walls included, of course:| I write to you, sir, and assure you of my warmest friendship. Your sister, the little witch, regally made a fool of me. She came as a little old mother. She did it so splendidly, damned if anyone had suspected the most beautiful little face under such an ugly disguise. May you [110] soon find your fortune, sir, and thus the loss of your person would be made good to your friends; amongst them would certainly be counted, with a true heart, your

friend

Berhandtzky.