

0374. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM; POSTSCRIPTS BY BULLINGER AND NANNERL

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musi=  
que / à / Manheim / at 'The Palatine Court'.<sup>1</sup>*

Salzb. 17<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
1777

My dear wife! And my dear son!

[5] Only today, the 17<sup>th</sup>, did I receive a letter<sup>2</sup> from both of you dated the 8<sup>th</sup>, so it either reached the post late or was left lying. Thank you for both congratulations,<sup>3</sup> and I wish both of you good health and fortune, and that it will be in happiness that we see each other again – – whether with a glass of Rhenish wine<sup>4</sup> or otherwise! Anyone reading your congratulations and this, my answer, [10] would think we constantly had a glass of wine in our hands, because of the hearty talk of Rhenish wines. In the meantime, you will have received my letters<sup>5</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. In the last I was a little ill-humoured, because I had not received any letter from you. I wrote down my thoughts about Mannheim, perhaps they come too late. – [15] Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, to which I am now replying, does nevertheless give me some hope,<sup>6</sup> because 7ysh umvl mn sppsrthnfty ts oplmk wftu tul Lelctsr,<sup>8</sup> mnd meos, fi nlcloomry, cmn bl grmntld mn mhdflncl. If you can remain there even only half a year, fn srldr ts ousw yshrolei fn lvlry wmy, ysh wfee tuln clrtmfney glt m psoftfsn. – – And if there are such bmd srgmnfoto<sup>9</sup> there? – [20] Haven't you also played the srgmn there? – – My dear housewife complains that she can never write except at night.<sup>10</sup> I believe it, too, and know only too well how it is to travel, especially when one suddenly wants to write a letter, on the spot if need be. But if, as Wolfgang did every evening at home, one writes down everything that happened on the same day, [25] and all very briefly!, one need only finish it off on the post-day, and everything is written. Don't take umbrage with me, my dear ones, for what joy do I and Nannerl now have in Salzburg, except – – the post-days? – – Tell me! – – And, moreover, I am never sure if a letter reaches you in the same place. We are very far apart, [30] and I believe I can and must wish that you might be able to stay in Amnnulfa<sup>11</sup>.

Enough! God will lead both of you and all of us on the paths of his most Holy Providence. On Saturday, at 5 o'clock in the morning, Herr Martinelli<sup>12</sup> passed into eternity. He had already been bedridden for some time, the podagra had reached his stomach. [35] He was buried yesterday. – – Today, Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, there is the wedding of Herr

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<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Mannheim at ‘The Palatine Court’.” [An inn, ‘Im Pfälzischen Hof’.]

<sup>2</sup> BD: No. 0366.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Leopold's birthday and name-day were on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0366/33-34.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Nos. 0362, 0365, 0367, 0369.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0366/43 ff.

<sup>7</sup> Family code: “because you have an opportunity to speak with the Elector, and also, if necessary, can be granted an audience. If you can remain there even only half a year, in order to show yourself in every way, you will then certainly get a position. – – And if there are such bad organists there? – [20] Haven't you also played the organ there?”

<sup>8</sup> “Churfürsten”. BD: Elector Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Organists in Mannheim: cf. No. 0363/59 ff.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0366/ 5-6, from Frau Mozart.

<sup>11</sup> Family code: “Mannheim”.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Anton Martinelli, 1753-1776 teacher of Italian at court for pages in training. Cf. No. 0217/39, 42.

Strasser<sup>13</sup> with the apothecary's Tresl;<sup>14</sup> the ceremony was in Gnigl<sup>15</sup> parish church, but the reception is at Eyzemberger's.<sup>16</sup> Meissner<sup>17</sup> is the menuet music director. Herr Adlgasser<sup>18</sup> and his young Viktoria<sup>19</sup> were invited, because only the closest friends and those who could not be left out were invited, of whom there are very many anyway. [40] But Frau Adlgasser<sup>20</sup> almost had a fit over it, because she was only invited for the dancing. She wept in front of everyone because they had affronted her this way, since they were N.B. relations of the third degree – Oh, you ass! – and carried on like this over many days until her husband, the solemn fried sausage!, decided to send her to the banquet in his place. [45]

Now she will be bored there, or mercilessly teased, for the whole town knows the joke. Court Councillor Gilowsky<sup>21</sup> is Best Man, and Fräulein von Dowrawaick,<sup>22</sup> the future Frau Schiedenhofen,<sup>23</sup> is the Flowergirl. The assisting Best Man is Franz von Gilowsky<sup>24</sup> and a Strasser girl.<sup>25</sup> Frau von Barisani<sup>26</sup> and Fräulein Louis von Rubini<sup>27</sup> are also coming to the wedding, and in the evening the entire Court Council,<sup>28</sup> [50] and everyone from the upstart nobility<sup>29</sup> that can battle their way in etc. etc. That may turn out to be quite a crush! – Yesterday, Herr Wolfg. Mozart donated the first prize at shooting.<sup>30</sup> The target was the

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<sup>13</sup> BD: Johann Nikolaus Paul Strasser, Registrar to the Court Council [Hofrats-Registrator]. His first marriage (1764) was to Maria Franziska Veronika Eberlin (1735-1766), daughter of the Salzburg court organist.

<sup>14</sup> BD: “The apothecary’s Tresl”: Theresa Ruprecht, daughter of the Royal Apothecary [Hofapotheker], Anton Ruprecht.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Village on the north-east edge of Salzburg.

<sup>16</sup> BD: The Eizenberger Hof, an inn with a large functions room outside Salzburg on the road to Bavaria. Cf. No. 0234/44.

<sup>17</sup> BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Niklas Meissner (c. 1691-1760). 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>18</sup> BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Daughter of Anton Cajetan Adlgasser.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Maria Anna, née Fesemay(e)r, received a scholarship to study singing in Italy; sang at the Salzburg court from 1765 onwards. Sang in performances of KV 35 in 1767 and of KV 51 (46a) in 1769. She married Adlgasser as his third wife; Leopold and Wolfgang Mozart were both witnesses at the wedding.

<sup>21</sup> BD: “Herrn Hofrath”. BD: Franz Xaver Wenzel [von] Gilowsky (1757-1816), son of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799); studied medicine in Vienna, master surgeon, brother of the “Catherl”/“Katerl” mentioned in lines 67 and 114. Later witness at Wolfgang’s wedding.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Maria Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawaick, daughter of Virgil Christoph Daubrawa von Daubrawaick (1725-1787), seneschal [Truchsess] and master of the mint [Münzmeister] in 1770, from 1772 actual court chamber councillor [wirklicher Hofkammerrat] and his wife, Anna Magdalena, née Ferstl (1731-1813). Cf. No. 0384/25.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Maria Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawaick in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Wenzel [von] Gilowsky (1757-1816), son of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799); studied medicine in Vienna, master surgeon, brother of the “Catherl”/“Katerl” mentioned in lines 67 and 114. Later witness at Wolfgang’s wedding.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Barbara Strasser, married the bass Johann Ignaz Ludwig Fischer (1745-1825), the first Osmin in the *Abduction from the Seraglio*, in 1779.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Maria Anna Theresia (1729-1802), wife of the personal physician to the Salzburg Archbishop, Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810). She was the daughter of the personal physician Anton von Agliardi(s).

<sup>27</sup> BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise, daughter of the Salzburg manufacturer Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts’.

<sup>28</sup> “HofRath”.

<sup>29</sup> “wilden Adl”. BD: Cf. No. 0367/32. Those who had been given titles because of money or faithful service as state functionaries.

<sup>30</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

sweetest imaginable. An Augsburg girl stood on the right side and presented to a young man, who had boots on and was ready to travel, a bouquet for the journey;<sup>31</sup> [55] in the other hand she had a linen sheet dragging astonishingly on the ground, with which she was drying her weeping eyes. The *chapeau*<sup>32</sup> also had a similar linen sheet, was doing the same thing, and held in the other hand his hat, on which the bull's-eye was marked, because it was easier to see than the bouquet. At the top was written:

[60] Adieu, my maiden cousin! – – – My dearest boy, adieu!  
May fortune travel with you, and health, and skies of blue.  
Two weeks we were together, days long as they were glad;  
And that's what makes our parting for both of us so sad.  
Oh, odious fate! – – Ah! – – For hardly were you here, sir,

[65] But you are gone again! – – What eye will shed no tear, sir?<sup>33</sup> – –

Our esteemed paymaster<sup>34</sup> won first prize. The weather was terrible, so we then stayed at home and played card games with the Gilowskys' Catherl<sup>35</sup> and Cajetan Andretter<sup>36</sup> |: who commend themselves :| until after 5 o'clock. – – The two of us spent the rest of the evening together, as usual, at the clavier. – [70] We are alone every day and, if we continue this way through the winter, Nannerl will be able to accompany everything, with thorough-bass figures or without – whether in the easiest or most difficult key, and regardless of the most unexpected changes of course, for in this area she has enough opportunity to practice with your compositions, and we always choose the most difficult, [75] and especially the pieces in C, F, &c. with the minor third,<sup>37</sup> which we often take as an exercise.

Here there is a great commotion among the merchantry because of the new tax.<sup>38</sup> The administrators have already submitted their reports concerning the farmers, but no-one knew how to approach the matter in town. [80] And who is going to take on this responsibility? Well, it was given to Baron Rheling.<sup>39</sup> – Now the Lord Mayor<sup>40</sup> has already called the merchants together twice for discussions. – – They say they – some of them – are giving too much anyway, and will not move in the matter. 2 days ago, Herr Triendl<sup>41</sup> spoke with me outside our house for about an hour in the evening. He is astonishingly incensed! [85] Now we have to wait for the continuation. – – Regarding Herr Hagenauer, the

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would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would donate a first prize and would then also pay for all food and drink consumed during the meeting.

<sup>31</sup> BD: See No. 0359/59-60, the departure scene with Wolfgang and his cousin, the “Bäse”.

<sup>32</sup> BD: =“hat” (French); at the time a general term for a young man.

<sup>33</sup> BD: More literally: “Adieu, my maiden cousin! – – – Adieu, my dear relation! / For the journey I wish good luck, health, fine weather: / We have spent a fortnight most merrily; / this is what makes the parting sad on both sides. / Hated fate! – – Ah! – – Hardly had I seen you appear / but you are gone again! – – Who would not weep at this? – –”

<sup>34</sup> BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9.

<sup>35</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>36</sup> BD: Kajetan von Antretter, son of the Provincial Chancellor.

<sup>37</sup> BD: These must be pieces (sonatas?) in the minor, or with a minor movement. Possibilities are KV 279 (189d) and KV 280 (189e).

<sup>38</sup> BD: According to the “Haslberger-Chronik”, the total tax for the area have been raised by 53,835 florins to 245,101 florins.

<sup>39</sup> “Baron”. BD: Johann Nepomuk, Baron [Freiherr] von Rehlingen-Dietenheim (1740-1808), who later became Chief Tax Inspector to the Salzburg Royal Chamber [Generaleinnehmer der Hofkammer]. Cf. No. 0904/52.

<sup>40</sup> “Bürgermeister”. BD: The merchant Johann Peter Mezger, mayor of Salzburg 1775-1795. A relative of the second wife (Eleonore, 1716-1764) of a previous mayor, Sigmund Häffner the Elder.

<sup>41</sup> BD: Anton Triendl (1721-1796), brother-in-law of Siegmund Häffner the Younger (1756-1787). He took over the firm Häffner in 1787.

architect,<sup>42</sup> the business is now in motion, he wants to go, and the Prince is constantly trying to delay him with all kinds of work and flattery, and no decision has emerged. When such matters arise, I am always glad that you have got away from all these vexations. You are probably right [90] that I have felt the greatest vexations<sup>43</sup> because of the sordid encounters that you had to go through. That was what gnawed away at my heart, what prevented me sleeping, what was always in my thoughts, and in the end would inevitably have consumed me. – My dear son, if you are happy, then I, your mother, your sister, all of us are happy. [95] And that is what I hope for from God's grace, and with the trust which I place in your sensible behaviour. – – We are, thanks be to God, well; I hope the same for you, and then everything is in order. Whatever it is to be, and should be, will happen; it is enough if one makes one's contribution to this with one's common sense. I [for my part]<sup>44</sup> will never cease to provide for the welfare of my children as far as I am able, [100] to teach them what I can tell them, and to continue to expend all efforts for them, as I have done until now, until I die, as ever, your husband and father, Mozart

Herr Francesco von Barisani<sup>45</sup> is sitting beside me, and commends himself to both of you. Tul Lelctsr'o nmthrme cufedrln cshed bl m isrthnmtl cfrchmotmncel fsr ysh.<sup>46</sup> [105]

ABBÉ JOSEPH BULLINGER'S<sup>47</sup> POSTSCRIPT TO MOZART:<sup>48</sup>

Dearest Wolfgang! Allow yourself to enjoy the Rhenish wine thoroughly; drink to my health. I assuredly think of you a thousand times, and participate most vividly in everything that happens to you. Remain my friend, even when so far away, and pass on from me to your exceptional Mama all the best wishes imaginable. [110]  
Your friend, sir,  
Jos. Bullinger

MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I kiss Mama's hands and embrace you. I am glad that you are both well. We, too, thanks be to God, are well. Little Pimpes,<sup>49</sup> who is entirely healthy and in high spirits, lays himself obediently at the feet of both of you, and Tresel<sup>50</sup> joins him. The Eberlins' Waberl,<sup>51</sup> the Adlgassers,<sup>52</sup> Hagenauers,<sup>53</sup> the Gilovskys' Katerl,<sup>54</sup> [115] the Andretters,<sup>55</sup> Bawanzky<sup>56</sup> and all of Salzburg commend themselves to you both.

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<sup>42</sup> BD: Not the sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer, but his brother, Johann Georg Hagenauer (1748-1835), later a director of works in Gurk and Passau.

<sup>43</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0366/85 ff.

<sup>44</sup> BD: Four or five illegible letters (seal damage). Perhaps (in context): "on my part".

<sup>45</sup> BD: Ernst Franz Barisani (1751-1789), one of the sons of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

<sup>46</sup> Family code: *The Elector's natural children could be a fortunate circumstance for you.*

<sup>47</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 tutor 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>48</sup> BD: In Leopold Mozart's hand.

<sup>49</sup> BD: The family dog in Salzburg, cf. No. 0291/37.

<sup>50</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

<sup>51</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin, eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin.

<sup>52</sup> BD: Family of Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings.

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<sup>53</sup> BD: Family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

<sup>54</sup> BD: “Katherl, Katerl, Catherl”, Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon, 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>55</sup> BD: Family of Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house.

<sup>56</sup> BD: Perhaps Joseph Berhandsky von Adlersberg (1735-1813). Cf. No. 0344/112.