

0399. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM; POSTSCRIPT BY NANNERL

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de
Musique / à / Man[n]heim¹*

Salzb., 29th Deceb.,
1777

My dear wife and dear Wolfg.,

[5] Now we wish you both the happiest of New Years! God grant that the year 1778 make us more content than the one that is past, we hope for that from the mercy and grace of God, and from the talent, diligence and skill, but especially from the good heart, of our dear Wolfgang, who will surely do everything to bring himself fame, honour and money in order to save us [10] and not to expose his father to the sneering mockery and laughter of certain persons whom I cannot name, which would certainly put me under the ground. His happiness, his fame will be the sweetest revenge for us, a taste of which we can already sense now. Count Starnberg² was at Count Arco's³ to visit him during blood-letting. The talk came round to Adlgasser's⁴ death. [15]. C. Arco. Now you are in a predicament, aren't you? – The young Mozart would have been of good service to you now. Co. Starnberg. Yes, that is the truth, I suppose he couldn't wait. Co. Arco. What, wait? That is a joke! Who could have foreseen this sudden event – and even then – what are you people likely to have given him beyond his shitty – florins? [20] It is his good fortune to be gone! That abominable treatment of him had gone on long enough. Co. Starnbg. Yes, I must admit, he was treated far too badly. It is clear that everyone must admit that he is the most able clavierist in Europe. But he could surely have waited. Co. Arco, very heatedly! Yes, a shit! Things are going very well for him in Manheim; [25] there he has found good company with whom he is going to Paris: you people will not get him any more. It serves you right! The same thing will happen to you with Hagenauer.⁵ Co. Starnbg: With the New Year, he will now receive a salary. Co. Arko. That will be something proper, but, even then, you people have made him the butt of your teasing long enough and dragged him around by the nose. [30] Then the talk turned to me – where Count Starnberg maintained that he believed there was no one to be found who has more skill in teaching than me. You will note that Count Arco always said you people – he took Count Starnberg and the whole company together in order not to have to mention the Prince,⁶ and thus *par politique*⁷ placing the blame on the conference of hearts on the other side of the bridge.⁸ [35] As far as Hagenauer is concerned, he will travel to Gurk with the Bishop of Gurk, Prince Auersperg,⁹ in order to lay out a building there with him. If the Archbishop's decision turns out badly, he will make no objections, but simply never come back again.

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Master of music in Mannheim.”

² “Graf Starnberg”. BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1748-1819), cathedral canon in Salzburg.

³ “gr: Arco”. BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), Royal High Marshall [Obersthofmarschall].

⁴ 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. Cf. No. 0041/17. His last hours are described in No. 0395/20 ff.

⁵ BD: Not the sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer, but his brother, Johann Georg Hagenauer (1748-1835), later a director of works in Gurk and Passau.

⁶ “Fürst” BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9.

⁷ = “By politic means”.

⁸ BD: i.e. in the Archbishop's residence.

⁹ “Fürst Auersperg”. BD: Joseph Franz Anton, Graf Auersperg (* 1734), 1763-1771 Bishop of Lavant; 1772-1783 Bishop of Gurk; 1783-1795 Bishop of Passau; member of Salzburg cathedral chapter.

¹⁰That in the future you are only going to write once a week: this is exactly what I wanted to say to you myself, [40] since there would not be much to write anyway for each post-day now, and the letters are so expensive. If I have something to write, I will continue to write every post-day. If not, sometimes a post-day will be missed out, but I will always indicate that to you in the following letter.

[45] I am getting a lot to write now anyway, since I have thought of ways of stirring up a multitude of persons in Vienna in order, if it is still possible, to procure a letter of recommendation from the court in Vienna to the Queen of France.¹¹

Although they will have the most perfect news in Manheim of the dangerous circumstances¹² [50] in which the Elector¹³ of Bavaria found himself, I will nevertheless write out here the report¹⁴ which I received from Munich, dated the 24th December. It is as follows: –

Up till now, we have had to thank the Italian nation for most of the intrigues and confusions at our court. Now the only thing lacking [55] is that we should we should lose our Illustrious Elector¹⁵ by this means as well. Prince Gonzaga¹⁶ has a niece¹⁷ who spent long years of her upbringing in the monastery at Nymphenburg, but had few hours of health. The Prince afterwards took her to Italy where, against the will and intention of her old uncle, she fell in love. Afterwards, he forced her to travel back to Munich with him, [69] and the Elector had to accept her as a lady at court.

She had been there, with the greatest reluctance, for a short time when she developed the pox, and nothing less than the most evil kind. It may be that, at the beginning, the esteemed medici¹⁸ did not properly understand it, but the main thing was that the Italians knew how to keep quiet about it and cover it up so long that, in the end, they had to keep her in the palace [65] – where otherwise everyone has to get out at the least sign of pox, and even with all gentlemen of the court and office bearers, if one of them had pox in the house, they had to stay away from the court at least 6 to 8 weeks. Besides this, all the talk of this Marquese Riva before the Elector was always in the most painfully sympathetic tone, until the Elector finally expressed some apprehension [70] and also spoke about it himself: yes, they were even so imprudent as to conduct the Elector, on occasions, up the stairs where her room was and her people were cooking for her. – It was then on 9th December that the Elector had the first alteration¹⁹ with headache. On the 10th, the Senior Master of the Hunt²⁰ took him out hunting, and indeed in the most severe cold, [75] in which they were out for 6 hours. In the evening there was the vigil²¹ for Empress Amalia;²² once again, they led him past the room of the patient to the Theatine church, where he was

¹⁰ BD: Cf. points raised in No. 0394/20 ff.

¹¹ BD: Marie Antoinette, cf. Nos. 0388/66 ff.; 0407/57 ff.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0398/52.

¹³ “Churfürst”. BD: Elector [Kurfürst] Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777) was also an outstanding viola da gamba player as well as a composer. Cf. No. 0337/90.

¹⁴ BD: No. 0396a, lost. The “informant” was probably Johann Baptist Becke. The reports on the last days of Maximilian III Joseph given in Nos. 0399/53 ff. and 0401/6 ff. have been shown to be generally accurate.

¹⁵ “Durchl: Churfürsten”.

¹⁶ “Fürst Gonzaga”.

¹⁷ BD: Marchesa de Riva; cf. line 69.

¹⁸ BD V, p. 463, lists six physicians involved, three of them the (disputing) personal physicians.

¹⁹ BD: The Elector’s “first alteration” was already on 8th December, 1777. After attending mass as Grand Master of the Chivalric Order of St. George, he suffered from a headache in the evening. Although the headache that gone the next day, he felt a tiredness in his limbs and a rash had appeared on his skin.

²⁰ “Oberstjägermeister”. BD: Johann Theodor, Baron [Freiherr] von Waldkirch, Actual Privy Councillor [Wirklicher Geheimer Rat].

²¹ BD: A liturgical celebration on the evening before a particular festival.

²² “Kayserin Amalia”. BD: Maria Amalia (1701-1756), mother of the Elector, daughter of Emperor [Kaiser] Joseph I (r. 1705-1711), later married Karl Albert (who became Emperor Karl VII 1742-1745). She died on 11th December, 1756.

in the cold again for an hour. During the hunt he had a great shock, since his postillion, who had the relée²³ for him, almost sank in the bog with all four horses before his eyes. – [80] On the 11th he fainted on the toilet seat, the pains in his head became very hefty, and his face completely red, like strophulus. He had to stay in his room – he was given light medication and it was declared to be measles. On the 12th, 13th and 14th, his condition was still good, but on the 15th it became so severe that his personal physician Sanftl²⁴ ordered that he should stay in bed. Now it became worse from day to day. [85] They did not want to cancel the theatre performances, to avoid inducing even greater anxiety in the public, who were despondent anyway. It was for this reason, too, that no public prayers were organised, until finally the Augustinian Fathers themselves held a Votive Office on the 17th, upon which others immediately followed, and then in all churches 3, 4, even 5 Votive Offices [90] were held by each group of officers – each estate – yes, by all guilds and artisans, such that the sadness, the press in the churches, the weeping and praying of the people cannot be described. From the 19th to the 20th and 21st, it was at its most dangerous. In the night from the 20th to the 21st, he was already half dead, and if the personal valet and the Vice-Stable Master, Herr Segesser²⁵, [95] had not always been by him, we would have had no Elector anymore. Others thought that he was sleeping, but the two of them did not wait for the medicus on duty to run and bring the personal physician, but decided to take hold of the Elector and shake him energetically, which brought him to himself and caused him to vomit, [100] with nothing but mucus, through his mouth, throat and nose. Now, since then, it has been going quite well, but we are not yet out of danger: God will stand by us! Over his whole body, internally and externally, he is full of scabs, yet they are, praise God, the benign ones; but he has the most indescribable pains and is unrecognisable because of the swelling, [105] and his whole back is also raw from lying. Apart from her few hours of sleep, the Electress²⁶ does not leave his side. Woschitka²⁷, who had to be by the Elector day and night, must now also take to his bed ill, and it is thought that he will also get the pox. It is most fortunate that the minister Count Perchem²⁸ did not die before the Elector's eyes. [110] On the 18th he was still with the Elector at quarter to 3 – went home, Prince Zeil,²⁹ Count Noccorola³⁰, and Father Wigand³¹ sat at the table along with his wife – daughter – and Laureta Minuzzi.³² He ate the soup with the best of appetites, and during the [. . .]³³ meat course he seized Prince Zeil by the hand, said: God, I feel terrible, sank in his arms, and was dead. Father Wigand from Waldsassen [115] gave him the General Absolution as fast as possible. Until this very hour, the Elector knows nothing of his demise, they only say to him that he is ill &c. –

²³ BD: Correctly “relais”, = “change of horses”.

²⁴ BD: Dr. Joseph Johann von Gott von Sänfftel, personal physician to the Elector of Bavaria. Qualified in 1728, ennobled 1772.

²⁵ “Baron Segesser”. BD: Franz Christoph II Segesser von Breitbrunn, deputy to the Chief Master of the Stables [Vizeoberstallmeister].

²⁶ “Churfürstin”.

²⁷ BD: Franz Xaver Wo(t)schitka (c. 1727-1796), Electoral Valet and Chamber Virtuoso [Churfürstlicher Kammerdiener, Kammervirtuos] in Munich, cf. Nos. 0399/106; 0464/99.

²⁸ “Graf Perchem”. BD: Maximilian Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Berchem († 1777), Actual Privy Councillor [Wirklicher Geheimer Rat], in charge of the Bavarian Elector's palaces. Cf. Nos. 0345/22; 0399/108 ff.; 0406/57 ff.

²⁹ BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee, a life-long supporter of Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0138/48; 0261/6.

³⁰ BD: Nogarola. Dinadaus Joseph, Count [Graf] Nogarola (1753-1827), educated in the Electoral Page School [kurfürstliche Pagerie] in Munich, became a captain and then a major. Another possibility is Franz, Count [Graf] Nogarola, Electoral Chamberlain [kurfürstlicher Kämmerer] from 1768.

³¹ BD: Father Wigand, a Cistercian from the monastery in Waldsassen.

³² BD: Laureta Minuzzi: possibly a relative of Karl Albert, Count [Graf] Minuzzi, Actual Privy Councillor [Wirklicher Geheimer Rat], Lieutenant General [Generallieutenant] and Captain in the Electoral bodyguard.

³³ BD: Two or three words destroyed by the seal.

At the beginning of this letter, the good friend,³⁴ whom you already know, said this: *I would have written to you a long time ago, but I wanted to wait for the rehearsals of our opera.*³⁵ [120] *So far, however, we have only rehearsed the first act, and it is fairly easy and written entirely shallowly. Next, the prima donna, Madama Marggetti*³⁶ |: that should most likely be Marchetti :| *became so ill that she is still close to death, and they have written to Sig^{ra} Flavis.*³⁷ *Either way, Herr Monza*³⁸ *is the same as you depicted him to me regarding his art and person.* [125] So here you have news from Munich. He also sent me good wishes for the New Year and 1000 compliments to both of you, and asked me to give him word of where you are and how everything is going with you. – The sexton at St. Michael’s and the town chaplain have both suffered strokes. Due to speedy help, bloodletting etc., both have been got back in shape a little, [130] but for how long? – It is only a stay of execution. They are both old, and the esteemed town chaplain³⁹ likes a little glass of wine. Who would you think has become organist at Holy Trinity?⁴⁰ – – Herr Haydn!⁴¹ Everyone is laughing, he is an expensive organist. After every litany he swigs a quart⁴² of wine; to the other services he sends Lipp,⁴³ and he wants a good drink too. – [135] In the meantime, Herr Spizeder⁴⁴ is to teach the Chapel Boys the clavier until there is a further solution. On St. Stephan’s Day,⁴⁵ the actors⁴⁶ opened the theatre with the beautiful piece Sophie, or The Just Prince.⁴⁷ The theatre was so full that over 60 persons had to go away again, but the performance was so bad that yesterday, Sunday N.B., there wasn’t a soul in the balconies, and the parterre was almost empty. Today it will look even sadder. Yesterday evening, Nannerl dined at the Hagenauers⁴⁸ because I was in the Kapellhaus⁴⁹ and then collected her at quarter to 11. Little Pimperl⁵⁰ is still in the best of health, although she is on heat, but not too painfully. Nor does she get out of the house, and no dog comes to her. [145] Herr Deibl⁵¹ comes briefly roughly once a week to enquire about you both, and to send his compliments to you. Now we kiss the two of you a million times; the paper is full, and I am, as always, your

Mzt

³⁴ BD: Cf. line 52.

³⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0369/14. *Attilia Regolo* by Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801), text by Metastasio. Leopold and Wolfgang met Monza in Milan in 1770.

³⁶ BD: Possibly the singer Apollonia Marchetti mentioned in No. 0192/22; also possibly Maria Marchetti, who sang in Jomelli operas in Munich.

³⁷ BD: Not traced.

³⁸ BD: Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801), church music director to the Duke of Milan, composer. Leopold records meeting him and his brother in Milan in 1770. Cf. No. 0166/19.

³⁹ BD: Leopold Lamprecht; he baptised Wolfgang on 28th January, 1756. Cf. No. 0022/22 ff. He died in 1780.

⁴⁰ BD: “heil. dreifaltigkeit”: built 1694-1702 by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach. Nannerl was there almost daily. Cf. No. 0330/4.

⁴¹ BD: Following the death of Adlgasser, cf. No. 0395/22 ff. Haydn: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. On 17th August, 1768, Haydn married Maria Magdalena Lipp (1745-1828), daughter of the court organist Franz Ignaz Lipp mentioned in line 134.

⁴² Leopold says “Viertel”. This often meant a “Viertelfass”, i.e. a small barrel.

⁴³ BD: Franz Ignaz Lipp, from 1754 third court organist in Salzburg, also violinist, tenor and composer. Father-in-law of Michael Haydn.

⁴⁴ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

⁴⁵ BD: 26th December.

⁴⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0392/151; 0380/125 ff.

⁴⁷ BD: *Sophie oder der gerechte Fürst* by Heinrich Ferdinand Möller (1745-1798).

⁴⁸ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁴⁹ BD: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music. Leopold told violin here. Cf. No. 0128/8 etc.

⁵⁰ BD: The family dog in Salzburg, cf. No. 0291/37.

⁵¹ BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (? 1698-1783), oboist, also violinist, in Salzburg.

MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I wish Mama and my dearest brother a Happy New Year!, contentment and good health. I hope I will soon see Mama coming back well, and my wish for you, my dear brother, [150] is that things should go well for you and that you have good health wherever you may go, and for me that I will soon have the pleasure of seeing you again, only on no account in Salzburg.⁵² I commend myself to Mama as an obedient daughter and to my brother as his sincere sister and friend. Young Katerl Gilovsky⁵³ asks that her New Year wishes be conveyed to you both. Yesterday evening we had airgun-shooting.⁵⁴ Bullinger⁵⁵ provided the target, [155] the esteemed paymaster⁵⁶ won it. On New Year's Day, Mama provides the target. As cashier for the two of us, I am still content with the takings. The loss until Mama comes back will not be grave. I ask you to forgive me that I do not write more often or at greater length, but Papa, as you see, seldom lets me, and leaves little space.

⁵² BD: Nannerl was hoping for Wolfgang to find work elsewhere.

⁵³ BD: 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.

⁵⁴ BD: The shooting of airguns at round, decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for everything consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

⁵⁵ 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. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

⁵⁶ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.