

0413.¹ MARIA ANNA MOZART TO HER HUSBAND, SALZBURG

Monsieur / Monsieur Leobolt / Morzart Capellemeister / à / Saltzburg²

Man[n]heim, the 1st feberari
1778

My dear husband,

Your letter³ of the 25th has arrived safely, and from it I had the pleasure of learning of your good health. [5] Wolfgang is not yet back from Kirrcheim⁴ and will not arrive here until the coming Wednesday. Herr Weber⁵ has written to his wife that the Princess⁶ will not let them go before that, so I must also be content with that. But as far as his journey⁷ to Paris is concerned, your uneasiness certainly cannot be greater than mine: if only *Monsier Grim*⁸ were in Paris, [10] I would be relieved of my worries, he could perhaps take him into his own house or in some other way contribute to his good fortune, for he is certainly a true friend to us, one on whom one can rely. I have just this moment received a letter⁹ from Wolfgang, he is in Worms and is coming back tomorrow.¹⁰ How happy I will be when I see him again. [15] The news¹¹ in your letter from Salzburg, the articles concerning the war – the Court Chamber Adviser¹² always writes them out and is always waiting longingly for me to receive your next letter, for here everything is kept quiet and one hears nothing but lies, so we treat what you write to us as articles of faith. The people in the Palatinate say it would be impossible for the <Elector¹³> to stay in <Munich>: [20] in short, they consider

¹ This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Director of Music in Salzburg."

³ BD: No. 0401, dated 26th January, 1778.

⁴ BD: Kirchheimbolanden.

⁵ BD: Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779): after two years studying law, became a high administrative official [Amtmann in Zell zu Wiesental und Stetten]. Married Maria Caecilia Stamm (1727-1793), daughter of Otto Stamm, secretary to the Palatine government; they had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son. Forced to leave his position in 1763, was then employed at the court in Mannheim as a bass, prompter and music copyist. Moved to Munich with the court in 1778, then to Vienna when Aloisia was engaged there as a singer in 1779. He died shortly afterwards on 23rd October, 1779. His younger brother was Franz Anton Weber, father of the composer Carl Maria von Weber. Cf. No. 0405/29.

⁶ "Fürstin". BD: Princess [Prinzessin] Caroline von Nassau-Weilburg (1743-1787), daughter of Wilhelm IV. Very musical, praised by Schubart (1739-1791) ["*She was previously an outstanding singer, certain physical reasons led her to abandon singing and devote herself entirely to the clavier. She immediately plays difficult concertos by Schobert, Bach, Vogler, Beecké and others with ease. She is always successful in the Allegro and Presto, but never in the Adagio and Largo: for, because of the excessive susceptibility of her nerves, she abhors everything sad. She has good people in her orchestra.*"]. The piano/violin sonatas KV 26-31 were dedicated to her. Mozart visited her in 1778 with Fridolin and Aloisia Weber. Cf. No. 0102/24 etc.

⁷ BD: Wolfgang intended to travel to Paris in one coach with members of the Mannheim court music. The plan at this stage is for his mother to return to Salzburg.

⁸ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

⁹ BD: No. 0413.

¹⁰ BD: But the date given in line 6 (4th February) is surely more accurate.

¹¹ BD: The potential conflict involving Prussia, Austria and Bavaria, as mentioned in many recent letters.

¹² "hofkammer Rath". BD: Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] Serrarius. Wolfgang and his mother moved into his house at the end of 1777. Cf. No. 0390/4 ff. His step-daughter, Therese Pierron, became Mozart's pupil (cf. No. 0390/7-8). He wrote for her the sonata for clavier and violin KV 296 (dated 11th March, 1778).

¹³ "Curfirst". BD: 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 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30. When he succeeded the childless Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria in December, 1777, the

<Manheim and the Palatinate> to be <more elegant and more beautiful than Bavaria and Munich>. Your having the opera people¹⁴ in the house is certainly in order, as long as they do not ruin the heating oven in the new room by heating a lot and making a lot of mess as is the custom with Italians. Regarding Wolfgang's taking his things with him,¹⁵ [25] you need not worry, he has to take everything and the big chest with him, I won't let it be done any other way, for me the small case is big enough. The list of marksmen¹⁶ will no doubt become shorter again when the 2 gentlemen¹⁷ from Wallerstein leave again. That Captain Becke¹⁸ is seeing that he belittles Wolfgang – I readily believe it. For until now he has been treated like a God in his surroundings and around Augspurg,¹⁹ [30] but once they had heard Wolfgang they immediately said, He puts Becke in the shade and there is nothing in which they are equals. All imaginable greetings to all our good friends, gentlemen and ladies, especially to *Monsieur* Bullinger²⁰ and *Mademselle* Sallerl.²¹ I kiss you both a million times and remain your faithful wife, [35] Marianna Mozart

I would have liked to have written more, but they²² have already sent for me to come up, for I have to be with them the whole day, and do not get back to my room until half past 10 in the evening. *Adio*, once again, keep well.

lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate were re-united for the first time since the Treaty of Pavia in 1329, unleashing international unrest.

¹⁴ BD: There was a plan to have opera buffa in Salzburg after the early departure of an unsuccessful theatre troupe. Cf. No. 0410/28 ff.

¹⁵ BD: A much-discussed point. Cf. Nos. 0402/27 ff; 0406/100 ff.; 0408/19 ff.

¹⁶ BD: The shooting of airguns at humorously 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.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0410/41. Anton Janitsch (1753-1812), violinist; court musician in Wallerstein 1774-1779 and 1782-1785. Visited Salzburg in January, 1778, with the cellist Joseph Reicha; they reported on Mozart's performance in Wallerstein (cf. Nos. 0379/65; 0422/67 ff.).

¹⁸ “hauptmann becke”. BD: Notger Ignaz Franz von Beecke (1733-1803), keyboard player, later superintendent of music in Wallerstein, cf. No. 0111/33-34. The first publication of his compositions was in Paris. He took part in a keyboard “competition” with Mozart in Munich in winter 1774/75, cf. No. 0312/22.

¹⁹ Augsburg.

²⁰ 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).

²¹ BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as “Sallerl”, was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [konfektmeister] Mathias Joly.

²² BD: “they” = the Serrarius family. Cf. line 16. On the structure of the day, cf. Nos. 0388/53; 0408/39 ff.