

0450. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, PARIS

*À Monsieur / Monsieur le chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart Maître
de / Musique / à / Paris / Rue gros chenet / vis à vis celle du /
croissant à l'hôtel des / 4 Fils emont.*¹

Salzb., 28th
May, 1778

[5] My dear wife and dear son!

On the 25th inst. I received your letter² of the 14th, in the meantime you will, I expect, have received the one³ I sent off on the 11th inst. I am infinitely glad that both of you are safe and sound, and that everything is going well at this season of the year. You need only remember what I have always written about Paris [10] and how I have always pressed you to go there; just be patient, it is bound to get even better. – News! *Ceccarelli*⁴ left for Italy with the regular post in the night of the 18th and will be back here on 1st November. He has accepted a decretum for 3 years at 800 florins per annum, 20 ducats⁵ going and 20 ducats coming or return journey. [15] He has therefore kept his lodgings with the wig-maker Peter Rosentretter in the Fencing-Master's House⁶ and pays half the money per month. Since he has just had a number of fine clothes made here, his trunk was too small and he left most of his arias here with us in a great pile. He was as great a friend to Pimperl⁷ as Bullinger,⁸ [20] and never in my life have I seen such an upright, good Italian, not to say *castrato*, as him. The whole town is glad that he is coming back. – Now they really are building rooms in the garden behind the Archbishop's box at the theatre, where the columns are:⁹ upstairs for cards games, and what is downstairs? – Baths! – Yes, yes, baths. Just as they sometimes had baths at the theatres for the heathen¹⁰ emperors in Rome, [25] and like *i bagni di Nerone*¹¹ in *Pozzoli* by Naples. Derisory! – Soon, soon we will end up in St. Sebastian.¹² – Since we are just talking about madmen, I must tell you both that Auer Sandl¹³ came back home on the evening of the 23rd, and now, as long as it lasts, is very sound-minded indeed.

Now for something sensible! The whole of *Mirabell*¹⁴ is being palisaded with lightning conductors¹⁵ [30] and little scaffoldings have been fixed at all 4 corners of the roof, where the conductor wire crosses backwards and forwards and then is led into the city

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, knight, music director in Paris, Rue Gros Chenet opposite the house of the crescent at the hotel of the 4 sons of Aymon.”

² BD: No. 0449.

³ BD: No. 0448.

⁴ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

⁵ BD: 20 ducats = 90 florins. The journey to and from Italy was covered.

⁶ “im fechtmeister Hause”. BD: Getreidegasse 8.

⁷ BD: The Mozart's dog in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0291/37.

⁸ 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. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

⁹ BD: Hall with columns at Mirabell, no longer extant.

¹⁰ BD: Leopold writes “Haydnisch” instead of the standard “heidnisch” for “heathen”. Perhaps intentional?

¹¹ = “Nero's baths”. BD: Cf. No. 0191/14.

¹² BD: Next to the Brethren House of St. Sebastian was the madhouse.

¹³ BD: Susanna Auer, daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, sub-tenant at the Mozarts'. After the dramatic events described in No. 0448/9 ff., she was admitted to hospital in Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: “Mirabell” was the Archbishop's summer residence with gardens in Salzburg.

¹⁵ BD: On the recommendation of Father Dominicus Beck (cf. No. 0321/38), in 1778 Dean of the philosophical faculty.

ditch, where the ducks and fish may be put into an acute state of anxiety and alarm. I would advise them to fortify the residence thoroughly as well and the Prince¹⁶ should always have lightning conductors over him [35] so as to ward off the effect of the malevolent wishes and curses of the public because of the new tax measures.¹⁷ The one who they say made many of the suggestions and even actually travelled around the administrative courts¹⁸ as the Prince's Commissioner¹⁹ and examined all the farmers and other estates has passed over into eternity; [40] and who is it? The Lodrons' administrator, Wenzl Hafner.²⁰ Roughly 3 weeks ago he developed a slightly sensitive blue mark on the side of his leg where one carries the keys in the trouser pocket. He thought the keys had been pressing on him, and the barber Günther²¹ joined him in that belief, he smeared it with soap spirit: – but it spread into his knee and the doctor administered pills etc. etc. [45] and doses of medicine. He always arranged to be carried to church in a chair. In short! The blue mark was already a sign of inner gangrene, the whole thing broke out within a period of 2 days, and he died before anyone believed it on the morning of the 23rd after receiving the sacraments on the evening of the 22nd. I went with the funeral on the 25th. [50] Now I finally know how becoming it is for Countess von Lodron to weep,²² and also that she can weep, for she wept quite astonishingly at the window as they carried the administrator through the archway.²³ I would not have believed that he was two or three years younger than myself. He was only 55 years old. Ah well! If foxy's dead, his hide is sold – if he lives on, then he'll grow old!²⁴ – People make their own speculations, of course; the maliciously minded said that the new tax rates, costing an arm and a leg, did not spare him either. [55] But he died of a kind of dropsy of the heart and inner gangrene. – As we are talking about dying anyway, I must tell you both that Constable Clessin's boy²⁵ is also dead. He got constipation, a swollen stomach, *Barisani*²⁶ made every effort, but in vain. – Hilber Sepperl²⁷, the chambermaid, passed into eternity. [60] She developed a raging fever, was taken to the hospital, remained in constant fever, mostly delirious, and died on the 23rd. – Now I would like to tell you something which is not far removed from death. In the night from the 20th to the 21st I was wakened by something without knowing what it was, but immediately fell asleep again. In the morning, Tresel²⁸ told me while waking me [65] that when she went to the water closet at one o'clock at night, she suddenly heard a terrifying crash, as if thunder had struck, and that the closet was shaken. Now, when she then immediately heard a loud groan, or whatever it was, she was apparently seized with such terrible fear that she ran into her room

¹⁶ “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. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

¹⁷ BD: Changes in the land tax were being discussed.

¹⁸ “Pflegergerichte”.

¹⁹ “Fürst: Commissarius”.

²⁰ BD: Johann Wenzel Hafner († 23rd May, 1778, aged 56), chief administrator to the Counts [Grafen] Lodron.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0296/29. Surgeon/barber and town councillor Johann Joseph Günther.

²² “gräfin von Lodron”. BD: Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780), wife of hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. For the family Mozart KV 247, KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H), KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, “Pepperl”) was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.

²³ BD: At that time a road went through an archway in the Lodrons' town palace.

²⁴ BD: Reminiscent of the name of a party game of the day.

²⁵ BD: Franz Clessin von Königsklee, died 15th May, 1778, aged 13. Son of Johann Dominikus Clessin von Königsklee, captain and master of the Salzburg Archbishop's bodyguard. Cf. Nos. 0417/210.

²⁶ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Cf. No. 0270/28.

²⁷ BD: Josepha Hilber, chambermaid [Kammerjungfrau] died in St. John's Hospital of “putrefaction fever”, aged 27.

²⁸ BD: Tresel: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household.

and crept into bed. – [70] Then, as she went to church in the morning, she not only heard but saw the misery: where *Grenier*²⁹ now lives and *Captain Freytag*³⁰ was formerly, part of the rock of the Capuzinerberg³¹ had collapsed and demolished the rear part of the inn “At the sign of the Pike”³² and part of the 2 neighbouring houses. Luckily, the maid with the children [75] heard an astonishing rain of sand. She woke the innkeeper – he ran to the men of the *Hiendl family*³³ sleeping behind, they sprang out of their beds, the maid took the 2 little children on her arm and woke the slightly older boy, but when she could not wake him, she ran out with the children so that she could then come to fetch the boy, [80] but hardly was she outside when it fell. Luckily, a terrible amount of sand had been pressed down before this so that the wall fell outwards and the boy, with the bedframe, was forced all the way down to the cellar. He shouted for help, they came to the cellar with candles: then the boy crawled out of the rubble and dust, since the most terrible stones were leaning on the rubble and heaps of weighing sand³⁴ [85] and the broken pieces of the bedframe were peeping out here and there. So no-one, praise God, was killed. But what about the groan which Tresel heard? – We will come to that immediately. Beforehand I must tell you that our esteemed paymaster³⁵ has bought the apartment of Fräulein Kuefstein,³⁶ God rest her soul, near Loreto.³⁷ Now, how does that rhyme with the groan? – Perfectly! – [90] The paymaster built another staircase. Joseph the tailor³⁸ was now without employment and had to leave the house because of the building work. – Just be patient, the groan is coming soon. Now, to provide Joseph with a place to stay until he found something, I put him in the first little room under the roof. Now we’re getting closer and closer to the groan! This very night, [95] he came home later and could not get into the house. He crept around and finally knocked at young Catherine’s,³⁹ the silk spinner’s daughter, at which point Nanndl⁴⁰ then opened the house door for him. But now he could not get in upstairs because the stair door was closed and we had no idea that he was not at home. So he sat on the stairs under the lantern and fell asleep. The crash woke him [100] and then he either yawned, groaned or farted. But he did not have the courage to tell us he was there, as he is a timid, humble person, and thus spent the night on the stair until he could go out to the first Mass. Nor would we have known this if we had not heard from Nandl that she had let him into the house after 11 o’clock. Let’s move on! [105] The *trivium* and model schools in Seiler’s Inn⁴¹ were until now the greatest vexations for the house of Hagenauer arising from the inn. Now, to the delight of the entire neighbourhood, the innkeeper⁴² in the Milchgässl, Eschenbacher, has bought Seiler’s Inn for 12 000 florins. Now the schools have to move out – but where? – The city council must take them into the Crown House,⁴³ [110] complete

²⁹ BD: Ludwig Grenier (1734-1811), captain in the engineers and official architect [Kameralarchitekt, Landschaftsarchitekt]. Lived in the Felixpforte on the Kapuzinerberg.

³⁰ BD: Probably Felix Johann Freytag von und zu Freydenfeld (1737-1814), from 1775 captain-lieutenant [Kapitänleutnant]. From 1790 captain and deputy commander of Salzburg castle [Hohensalzburg].

³¹ BD: Kapuzinerberg: mountain on the south-east edge of Salzburg on the right bank of the river.

³² BD: “Zum Hecht”, Linzer Gasse 26. The main damage was in the Linzer Gasse.

³³ BD: Residents with the name “Hierdl” are recording in the census of 1794.

³⁴ “Maltersand”. BD: Used in measuring grain.

³⁵ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), Royal Paymaster, mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.

³⁶ BD: Maria Klara, Countess [Komtesse] Kuefstein (1703-1777), daughter of Salzburg city defence commander [Stadtkommandant] Hilfgott, Count [Graf] Kuefstein. She died unmarried. Cf. No. 0382/32.

³⁷ BD: Loreto Church in Salzburg, in today’s Paris-Lodron-Strasse.

³⁸ BD: Not identified.

³⁹ BD: Mentioned in No. 0448/13-14.

⁴⁰ BD: Nanndl = the old housemaid, Maria Anna (cf. Nos. 0451/9; 0448/11).

⁴¹ BD: “Sailerwirth”, in the “Löchl” opposite Hagenauer’s business premises. The model school [“Normalschule”] had just been opened on 6th November, 1777.

⁴² BD: The inn is at today’s Brodgasse 4.

⁴³ “Kronhaus”. BD: Today Getreidegasse 14.

with the schoolmasters, and must also go on paying 500 florins a year to the theatre so that what is now being built will also yield a return. I must tell Wolfg. that the English teacher Schwarz,⁴⁴ the one in Munich when we passed through, is here. He has as many as 15 pupils, most of them pay a *carolin* or a *louis d'or*⁴⁵ per month. [115] These include Czernin,⁴⁶ Peterman,⁴⁷ Kynburg,⁴⁸ Althan,⁴⁹ Wolfegg,⁵⁰ Sigerl Lodron,⁵¹ Lerbach⁵² etc. etc. Bullinger⁵³ and Wishofer⁵⁴ have lessons together at six o'clock in the morning for 9 florins. *Voila le bonheur des fripons!*⁵⁵ – until they find out about it in Munich. Kirsinger⁵⁶ is his protector, although they all know what happened in Munich, since *Msr. Schneid*,⁵⁷ *Perusa's*⁵⁸ secretary, has told everybody. [120] He deals with it all quite audaciously, as if he were the most honest of fellows. He has even dined at the Cathedral Provost's,⁵⁹ along with Count Wolfegg. All from the desire to learn English! The famous Carl Besozzi⁶⁰ was here; he played twice at court, 2 concertos each time, all of his own composing, which, even if they proved to be somewhat in the older style, were very solid and good and in a certain way having something of the manner of our Haydn.⁶¹ [125] But his oboe in fact offers all that one can hear on this instrument; I found he was quite different from when I heard him that time in Vienna. In short! He has everything! The clarity and purest intonation in the fastest runs and leaping passages is indescribable; he distinguishes himself particularly in the held notes, [130] swelling and diminishing with an incomprehensibly long breath without swaying even in the least from his pure intonation. But this *messa di*

⁴⁴ BD: Mentioned in No. 0315/19 ff.

⁴⁵ BD: 1 carolin = 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

⁴⁶ BD: Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin zu Chudenitz, son of the "old" Czernin, brother of Gräfin Antonia Lützwow (1738-1780). Nephew of the Archbishop of Salzburg. Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] and thus responsible for the theatre in Vienna. Cf. Nos. 0340/7; 0379/60.

⁴⁷ BD: Karl, Baron [Freiherr] von Petermann († 1807), Imperial and Royal Lt. Col. [k. k. Oberstleutnant], *confidant* of the Archbishop; lived in the Archbishop's residence as a bachelor. Supervised the education of the Archbishop's nephew, Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin. In 1776 corresponded with Prokop Adalbert, Count [Graf] Czernin in Prague about a pension for Mozart.

⁴⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0034/41. Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], Privy Councillor [Geheimer Rat], from 1764 Chief Stablemaster [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

⁴⁹ BD: Michael Franz, Count [Graf] Althan, at that time a student at Salzburg University.

⁵⁰ BD: Anton Willibald, Graf von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Waldsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg in 1762, Knight of the Order of St George, allegedly provincial director of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge "Apollo" under the name Prunelius.

⁵¹ BD: Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787), son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant. Cf. No. 0359/121.

⁵² BD: Franz Christoph, Baron [Freiherr] (later Count [Graf]) von Lehrbach, Imperial Senior Master of the Hunt, Imperial Senior forestry master; later Court War Councillor [Hofkriegsrat]; gave Mozart a letter of recommendation to his uncle in Munich in 1777. Cf. Nos. 0379/67.

⁵³ BD: Cf. line 19.

⁵⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0352/38. Presumably "Wieshofer". Ex-Jesuit. Amateur viola player with Bullinger, cf. No. 0446/39.

⁵⁵ = "You see the happiness of the scoundrels!"

⁵⁶ BD: Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), director of the Privy Chancellery [geheime Kanzlei]; from 1774 Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler], a position between the President and Director. Member of the eclectic lodge "Zur Fürsicht" ["Under the sign of Providence"] in Salzburg.

⁵⁷ BD: Actually Schneider, mentioned in No. 0448/150.

⁵⁸ BD: Maximilian, Count [Graf] Perusa mentioned in Nos. 0379/71 and 0448/147, studying at Salzburg University. Took lessons with Leopold.

⁵⁹ "domProbst". BD: Virgilius Maria Augustin, Count [Graf] Firmian (1714-1788), Cathedral Provost, a younger brother of the Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786).

⁶⁰ BD VIII: Carlo Besozzi (1738-1791), son of Antonio Besozzi (1714-1781), oboist and composer of oboe concertos and wind quintets. Served in Dresden 1755-1792. His 2 uncles are mentioned in No. 0411/64-65.

⁶¹ BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763.

*voce*⁶² came altogether too often for me, and had the same sad effect on me as the notes of the glass instrument, or harmonica, for it was almost the same kind of sound. Herr *Besozzi* commends himself to you, [135] he is still in service in Saxony, is only going to Turin because he has received citizenship from the king⁶³ there, otherwise, because he was born in Naples, he could not inherit from his 2 relatives,⁶⁴ of whom one, the bassoonist, has died. I commended you to him most fervently. I also asked him to convey compliments to *Abbate Gasparini*⁶⁵ etc. etc. The Archbishop⁶⁶ gave him 20 ducats. [140] The Archbishop of Ollmütz⁶⁷ was consecrated on the 17th. If you had not had so much to do for other people in Manheim, you could have looked out your Mass⁶⁸ and sent it to me.

Among the court musicians there was always chatter started by *Brunetti*⁶⁹ as to who should write the Consecration Mass, and he thought he could arrange it so that Haydn [145] would receive an order from the Archbishop, but the Archbishop gave no answer, and Counts Czernin and Starnberg,⁷⁰ to whom *Brunetti* and Haydn's wife⁷¹ turned, gave them no answer at all. I performed Wolfgang's Mass with the organ solo,⁷² but took the Kyrie from the Spaur Mass;⁷³ I had them written out, and duly received the 6 ducats.⁷⁴ Now, since the Prince⁷⁵ in Olmütz [150] also gave 30 ducats⁷⁶ expressly for the musical entertainment and the *serenata*,⁷⁷ the Archbishop sent that to me for distribution. I wrote the distribution out on paper, sent it to the Archbishop for approval and to let him see that I had not put myself on the list, in order to secure myself against all calumny, and then distributed it. [155] N.B. He crossed *Abbate Varesco*⁷⁸ off the list. Personal physician Wolf⁷⁹ from Ollmütz was also there, for whose little daughter Wolfg. composed an aria in Ollmütz back then. The master of ceremonies⁸⁰ at that time also recognised us and left me the address of *Msr. Hay*,⁸¹ who afterwards became Dean of Cremsir⁸² and has now been invested as

⁶² BD: Swell and then diminishing of the note.

⁶³ BD: King of Sardinia, Victor Amadeus III (1726- 1796, r. 1773-1796). Turin was the capital.

⁶⁴ BD: Cf. note on line 122.

⁶⁵ BD: Quirino Gasparini (c. 1725-1778), music director in Turin 1760-1770. Like Mozart, he wrote a setting of *Mitridate*. Cf. No. 0218/21.

⁶⁶ BD: Cf. note on "Prince", line 34. – Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁶⁷ BD: Anton Theodor, Count [Graf] Colloredo-Mels und Wallsee, a cousin of the Salzburg Archbishop. Bishop of Olmütz 1777-1811. Cf. No. 0403/68.

⁶⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0388/90. Of the "Mass" mentioned here, probably only the Kyrie (KV 322/296a) was written; cf. Nos. 0423/56; 1446.

⁶⁹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

⁷⁰ "gr. Czernin und Starnberg". BD: Czernin: see above; Starnberg: cathedral canon Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (cf. Nos. 0399/13, 30, 32).

⁷¹ BD: Maria Magdalena Haydn, née Lipp, singer and wife of Michael Haydn.

⁷² BD: KV 259 (1776); the organ solo comes in the Benedictus.

⁷³ BD: KV 258. Probably written for the consecration of Count [Graf] Friedrich Franz Joseph Spaur, cathedral canon, later cathedral dean in Salzburg.

⁷⁴ BD: 6 ducats = 27 florins.

⁷⁵ "Fürst". The bishop who had just been consecrated.

⁷⁶ BD: 30 ducats = 135 florins.

⁷⁷ BD: Cf. 0448/242. *Il Parnasso confuso*, cf. No. 0403/66 ff. BD VII: Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741 1786), first studied in Naples, later in Rome. Several of his operas were performed in Venice 1773-1776. 1776-1777, he was music director in Salzburg.

⁷⁸ BD: Abbate Giambattista Varesco (c. 1736-1805), court chaplain in Salzburg from 1766, wrote the texts for *Idomeneo* KV 366 and *L'oca del Cairo* KV 422.

⁷⁹ BD: Dr. Joseph Wolff (1724-1778). In thanks for the treatment for pox in 1767, Wolfgang composed an aria for his daughter [probably lost; not KV 53 (47e)]. Wolff was in Salzburg in May, 1778. Cf. No. 0121/70.

⁸⁰ BD: Not identified.

⁸¹ BD: Cf. No. 0121/75. Johann Leopold Hay (1735-1794), chaplain in Olmütz in 1767; later Bishop of Königrätz. Visited the sick Wolfgang frequently and taught him card games.

⁸² BD: Kremsier, north-east of Brno.

Provost of Nicklsburg;⁸³ [160] he is held in the highest esteem at the Imperial Court, and will probably yet become a bishop. The cathedral dean in Brno, Count Corinsky,⁸⁴ is bishop and Baron Post⁸⁵ has become cathedral dean in Brno.⁸⁶ Canon von Grimm,⁸⁷ however, is unfortunately in the worst of circumstances due to many debts. The first unit of Hussars marched through on 17th May, the 2nd on the 20th, the 3rd on the 22nd, the fourth on the 24th. [165] All paraded past, then there was a day of rest, and the whole day, especially in the evening, half the town were out in Riedenburg; as in Paris,⁸⁸ the talk here is always of hopes of peace, while at the same time the most astonishing preparations for war are being made; it is the same between France and England, between Russia and the Turks. One depends on the other. [170] The King of Prussia⁸⁹ wishes a properly established peace between the Sublime Porte and Russia⁹⁰ so that he can then be all the surer of Russian help. The Turks want to wait until Russia declares itself to be on the Prussian side and until Prussia attacks the Emperor,⁹¹ so that they can then be all the more sure about tackling the Russians, who will then not only station part of their troops [175] with the Prussians, but will also not be able to receive supported from Prussia. Prussia would like, and must endeavour, to advance into foreign land in order to gain money, victuals and recruits, for even if they have enough money in cash for a couple of companies, they have no credit for the future: in Holland and Genoa the Emperor has pre-empted them [180] and already negotiated many millions; Prussia came too late, and, in order to extricate themselves from the Prussian demands, Genoa and Holland have already silently offered money under the table to the House of Austria. England cannot give Prussia any money at the moment, so Prussia has taken the troops from Wesel etc. and those from Magdeburg etc. and assembled them in the Anhalt region; [185] it is said that 30 000 men from Saxony will join them, to be commanded by Prince Heinrich,⁹² and then advance with them through Franconia and the Upper Palatinate into Bavaria and take back again what Austria has taken into its possession,⁹³ while at the same time procuring money, recruits and victuals for their army on foreign ground and territory: only it is not quite going to work out like that. [190] One could smell what was cooking. In the area around Straubing etc. a strong corps has taken up position, Eger has been garrisoned strongly, in Breznice⁹⁴ 6000 men have marched in and drawn a cordon as far as Aussig, where General Lobkowitz⁹⁵ is in position with a corps. If Prussia wants to break through into the Upper Palatinate, that will leave the fortress at Eger and its garrison in their rear. The rest of the Austrians [195] advance into Saxony, one part gathers to pursue him and cut off his retreat. So, in order to carry out his plan, he has to lay siege to Eger beforehand or even take it. –The King is in position near Glatz with his main

⁸³ BD: Nikolsburg in Moravia.

⁸⁴ “gr. Corinsky”. BD: Matthias Franz, Count [Graf] Chorinsky, Baron [Freiherr] von Ledske (1720-1786), Cathedral Dean, later the first Bishop of Brno.

⁸⁵ BD: Dr. Phil. Johann Leopold, Baron [Freiherr] von Post (1735-1779), studied in Rome. Became General Vicar of the Diocese of Brno.

⁸⁶ “domdechant”.

⁸⁷ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph von Grimm, Knight [Ritter] († 1796 aged 67), was transferred to a monastery in Znaim/Znojmo for a year as a punishment for his general conduct and accumulated debts.

⁸⁸ BD: Cf. Frau Mozart in No. 0449/18-19. Prussia, Austria and Bavaria were involved in the War of the Bavarian Succession.

⁸⁹ “König von Preussen”. BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

⁹⁰ “BD: Cf. No. 0446/176.

⁹¹ “Kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790.

⁹² “Prinz Heinrich”. BD: Cf. No. 0036/69. Heinrich (1726-1802), brother of Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia. Successful military leader in Seven Years’ War.

⁹³ BD: Cf. No. 0401/41.

⁹⁴ BD: Březnice, south-east of Pilsen.

⁹⁵ BD: Joseph Maria Karl, Prince [Fürst] Lobkowitz (1725-1802), Imperial Calvary General [k.k. General der Kavaliere], later field marshal [Feldmarschall].

army – the Emperor near Königsgratz. The Prussians are genuinely bivouacking in a camp. The Austrians, however, are still cantoning in villages and localities [200] and there has not even been an additional campsite marked out, which confuses the King, since the Austrians are positioned so close together that they could immediately close ranks and go anywhere they wished. There are such abatis in the woodlands that not a soul can get through. That's how it stands with the Austrians – they are in possession and waiting to see who will try to take anything from them. – They will never attack. [205] The forward positions on each side are only 3 hours apart. In short! The position of the Austrians is such that they have drawn a cordon, so to speak, from Eger as far as their possessions in Poland. All the supplies come from Hungary, and the Hungarian nobility have declared themselves willing, if required, N.B. the entire nobility, to mount and take the field with their own people at their own expense. – [210] We are glad that you are both well! We, praise God, are in good health. I believe I have already written to you once saying it would be advantageous to think in good time about cooking for yourselves; one saves a great deal. My dear son! Try to retain the friendship of the Duc de Guines,⁹⁶ I beg you, and to curry favour with him; I have often read in the newspapers [215] that he enjoys the highest esteem at the Royal Court. Since the Queen is now pregnant,⁹⁷ there will be great festivities at the birth: there you could get something to do that might make your fortune, since in such cases everything is done that the Queen happens to demand. You write: Today I have given the Duke's Mademoiselle⁹⁸ her 4th lesson, and your wish is that she should already write down ideas herself [220] – do you think everyone has your genius? – – it is going to come! She has a good memory. *Eh bien!*⁹⁹ Let her steal – or, put politely, apply. – At the beginning nothing happens until courage comes, with variations you have chosen a good path, simply continue! – – If *Msr. le Duc* hears even the smallest thing from his *Mselle* daughter, [225] he will be beside himself; this is truly a fortunate acquaintanceship! – Concerning the opera which you are to write, I have already written to you with my reminders in the last letter. I repeat my statement that you should consider the material carefully, read through the poetry with Baron Grimm, and come to an agreement with Noverre¹⁰⁰ regarding expression of the affects, follow the taste of the nation in singing, [230] which will then be elevated and distinguished from others by your modulation and your writing of the parts. – Rudolph¹⁰¹ has offered you the position of organist¹⁰² at *Versailles*? – – Is it his to give? – – he wants to help you to get it! You should not dismiss that at once, you must bear in mind that the 83 louis d'or are earned in 6 months. – that half a year is left to you for other earnings. [235] – that it is probably service in perpetuity, whether you are ill or healthy. That you can leave it

⁹⁶ BD: Adrien-Louis Bonnières de Souastre, Comte de Guines (1735-1806). Deutsch Bild No. 306. French representative in Berlin in 1769 and in London 1770-1776. In 1778 governor of the county of Artois. Pierre Vachon dedicated his Op. VII (six string quartets) to Guines.

⁹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0449/20-22. Marie Antoinette married Louis in 1770, but only after an operation in 1777 was he able to consummate the marriage. Marie Antoinette informed her mother, Maria Theresia, of the consummation (letter of 30th August, 1777) and later of the pregnancy (letter of 19th April, 1778). A daughter was born on 19th December, 1778 († 1851).

⁹⁸ BD: The daughter († 1780) of the Duke of Guines took composition lessons from Mozart. Cf. No. 0449/57, 61 ff.

⁹⁹ = “Well then!”

¹⁰⁰ BD: Jean Georges Noverre (1727-1810), internationally active (Stuttgart, Milan), ballet master in Vienna 1755-1774. The Mozarts met him in Vienna in 1773. He became composer and master of ballet at the *Académie royale de Musique* and director of festivities [“*Directeur des Fêtes de Trianon*”] in Paris in 1776. His memoirs mention Mozart aged 12; they certainly met in 1778 in Paris, where Mozart wrote part of the music for *Les petits riens* KV Anh. 10 (299b). Cf. Nos. 0293/51; 0430/182.

¹⁰¹ BD: Johann Joseph Rudolph (Jean Joseph Rodolphe) (1730-1812). 1716-1765 court musician in Stuttgart, and then in Paris musician to Prince Conti; from 1773 member of the Royal music. Composed several operas and ballets, wrote two books on music theory. Cf. No. 0449/101.

¹⁰² BD: Cf. No. 0449/101 ff.

again any time. That you are at court and therefore daily before the eyes of the King¹⁰³ and Queen and thus nearer to prosperity. – That you can obtain one of the two music director posts in the event of a vacancy, – that in due time, if there should be succession, [240] you would be keyboard teacher to their young royal lordships,¹⁰⁴ which would be very remunerative. That no one would hinder you in writing something for the theatre and the *Concert Spirituel* etc. etc., having music engraved and dedicating it to the great acquaintances you have made, since many of the ministers reside at *Versailles*, in summer at least. – that *Versailles* itself is a small town, [245] or at least has many respectable inhabitants, where it would in any case be possible to find the odd girl or boy as pupil – and that is ultimately the surest way to make certain of the protection of the Queen, and to make oneself popular. Read this to *Baron von Grimm* and hear his opinion.¹⁰⁵ By the way, I would forget 100 things I wanted to write to you about if I had not [250] laid out a sheet of paper where I immediately note such things in a few words every time something happens or when something occurs to me that I want to write to both of you about. Now, when I write to you, I fetch the sheet and write out the news, and then I read your last letter and reply. You could surely do it this way too. Whatever I write to you I cross off on the sheet so that I can send what is left there [255] another time; and you, my dear wife, must write the lines nice and close together. You can of course see how I do it. Our dear *Wolfg.* should collect a little, piece by piece, whenever he finds good material for keyboard and send it to us by post-coach. We need it for our pupils. At a suitable opportunity.

[260] Where, then, are your lodgings, in which area? I cannot find the *Rue Groschenet*.¹⁰⁶ I keep looking around the *Palais Royal* because that is where the theatre is.

¹⁰⁷The *Adlgassers*¹⁰⁸ are still all together. – Young *Victoria*¹⁰⁹ comes 3 times every week for hairdressing coffee; *Nannerl* goes to the *Andretters*¹¹⁰ every Thursday. The *cornet*¹¹¹ is here. – We have already been on the defensive wall in the little *Berhansky*¹¹² Company garden twice. [265] *Fräulein von Schiedenhof*¹¹³ and *Cranach Nannerl*¹¹⁴ have not been here since before New Year. *Schiedenhof*¹¹⁵ and his wife visited us 12 days ago. *Nannerl* was very happy to hear the news about the fashions, she kisses your hands and sends thanks. She is now having a linen cloth made, *Tresel*¹¹⁶ has duly been doing the

¹⁰³ BD: Louis XVI.

¹⁰⁴ “königl: jungen Herrschaft”. – The royal children.

¹⁰⁵ BD: Frequently repeated advice: cf. Nos. 0350/156 ff.; 0452/116 ff.; 0457/152 ff.

¹⁰⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0440/115 ff.; 0453/15 ff. Rue du Gros-Chenêt, north-east of the Palais Royal.

¹⁰⁷ BD: There follow answers to Frau Mozart’s questions in No. 0449/24 ff.

¹⁰⁸ 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. He died on 22nd December, 1777. His last hours are described in No. 0395/20 ff. He left 3 children: *Viktoria* [“Victorl”] (* 1753), *Joseph* (* 1761), and *Anna* (* 1766). There had been talk of separating the children and sending them to other families.

¹⁰⁹ BD: *Viktoria Adlgasser* regularly dressed *Nannerl*’s hair, cf. No. 0334/1. Apparently coffee was part of this meeting.

¹¹⁰ BD: The daughter 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]. Cf. No. 0314/10.

¹¹¹ BD VIII: *Siegbert* [not *Siegmund*] von Antretter (1761-1800), Bavarian cadet, 1780 officer cadet Salzburg. Son of the Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler] *Johann Ernst von Antretter*, cf. Nos. 0288/50; 0450/263; 0403/16-17.

¹¹² BD: Perhaps *Joseph Berhansky von Adlersberg* (1735-1813). Cf. No. 0344/112.

¹¹³ BD: *Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen* (1760-1831), sister of *Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen*, cf. following line.

¹¹⁴ BD: *Maria Anna Kranach*, companion to *Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen*.

¹¹⁵ BD: *Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen* (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Had just married *Maria Anna Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawiack* cf. No. 0348/25. The *Schiedenhofens* had been in frequent contact with the Mozarts.

¹¹⁶ BD: *Tresel*: *Therese Pänckl* (serving girl in the Mozart household).

spinning for her, [270] Frau Hagenauer is always there to help. – Hagenauers,¹¹⁷ Andretters, Mölks,¹¹⁸ Arcos,¹¹⁹ Bullinger,¹²⁰ Sallerl,¹²¹ Mitzerl,¹²² Deibl¹²³ etc. etc., Ferrari,¹²⁴ Ferlendi¹²⁵ etc., Tresel and Pimperl,¹²⁶ everybody commends themselves, especially Counts Khünburg and Lehrbach.¹²⁷ We kiss you both a million times and I am as always your
Mzt

¹¹⁷ BD: Family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

¹¹⁸ BD:

¹¹⁹ BD:

¹²⁰ BD: Cf. line 19.

¹²¹ 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.

¹²² BD:

¹²³ BD: Sallerl, Mitzerl, Deibl: Maria Anna Raab, 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. Rosalie Joly; Franz de Paula Deibl, oboist and violinist.

¹²⁴ BD: Antonio Ferrari, leader of the cellos in the court music and violinist at the cathedral.

¹²⁵ BD: Giuseppe Ferlendi(s) (1755 - after 1802), from Bergamo, oboist in the court music in Salzburg 1777-1778. Mozart wrote for him the oboe concerto mentioned in No. 0423/75 (either KV 217k or KV 314/285d).

¹²⁶ BD: The family dog in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0291/37.

¹²⁷ BD: See line 115 above.