

0536.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MUNICH

À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfg: / Amade Mozart / Munic

Salzb., 11th Nov.,
1780

*Mon très cher Fils*²

I am writing in haste at half past 9 at night, since I have had no time the whole day, [5] *Varesco*³ was late in bringing the book⁴ to me, and Count Sepperl Überacker⁵ was here with me from 5 o'clock until now. Today 2 fellows⁶ were made shorter by a head; they are from a large band of whom they caught 4 at once here.

I return herewith the book and the scheme so that His *Excellency* Count Seeau⁷ can see that everything has been done as directed. [10] In a week the whole copied-out book will follow by post-coach, just as *Abb.*⁸ *Varesco* wishes it to be printed: it will also include the necessary remarks.⁹

Here too is the *aria*:¹⁰ it seems to me it will be good as it is now. If not – – [15] simply write quickly. I also include an order of payment for 15 florins, which you can have paid out at your convenience if necessary from Herr Pichler, iron stockist, where the salt warehouses once were. Meanwhile keep the money order in your wallet until you need the money. I would wish to know precisely the address of your quarters [20] so as to be able to address the letters securely. Tomorrow we have no shooting¹¹ because I and the Paymaster¹² are eating at the *Theatines*; instead it will be on Tuesday or Wednesday, Count Überacker is donating the first prize, the target is Catherl¹³ as she falls over the step at Kerschbaumer's¹⁴ cellar and shows her naked arse. The poetry for it has not yet been written. [25] The terrible bumping that a post-coach¹⁵ gives to a poor arse: – I have only experienced this once, but it will not catch me again. One must indeed experience the difference in everything. Here it has not only snowed, snowed or thrown snow down, but yesterday and the day before, the 9th and 10th, there

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

² = “My very dear son!”

³ In 1780, Mozart received the commission to compose the opera seria *Idomeneo, Rè di Crete*, for the 1781 carnival season in Munich. It was arranged that Abbate Varesco, court chaplain in Salzburg, should produce a new libretto, drawing on both the old ones. (c. 1736-1805), court chaplain in Salzburg from 1766, wrote the texts for *Idomeneo* KV 366 and *L'oca del Cairo* KV 422. The latter was his response to Mozart's request for an opera buffa for Vienna.

⁴ BD: Fair copy of the libretto for *Idomeneo*, cf. No. 0535/21.

⁵ “gr: Sepperl”. BD: Wolf Joseph, Count Uiberacker, Court Councillor and member of the airgun-shooting company.

⁶ BD: A 29-year-old baker's apprentice and a 31-year-old tanner's apprentice, from Swabia in Bavaria respectively. Cf. No. 0547/29.

⁷ “S. E: Graf Seeau”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0300/11.

⁸ Abbate = Abbé, man entitled to wear ecclesiastical garments.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0535/23-24. Stage directions etc.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0535/29. Mozart wanted changes in one of the arias for *Idomeneo*.

¹¹ BD: The airgun-shooting sessions apparently took place usually on Sunday. The shooting of airguns at humorously decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksman's company” or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for all food and drinks consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

¹² BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), Royal Paymaster [Hofzahlmeister], mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.

¹³ BD: Katel, Katherl, Katerl, Catherl, Chatherl: 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.

¹⁴ BD: A merchant with premises in Salzburg

¹⁵ BD: Replying to Mozart's description in No. 0535/5 ff.

was a terribly cold wind and all the roads were frozen solid; [30] but today the weather has broken and is tending more towards rain. What you write to me about the singing personnel¹⁶ is <sad. The best> will therefore have to be provided by the <music *composition*>. I wish I had heard *Md.^{me} Mara*¹⁷ singing; write telling me how she sings. You can easily imagine how I am looking forward like a child to the outstanding orchestra. [35] I hope that I can get away soon, but I will certainly not come with the post-coach, my two plum stones¹⁸ are worth more to me. Now I must finish, it is time – but before that to the *Rosary* etc., afterwards to sleep, your sister has sleepy eyes, she kisses you, Pimperl¹⁹ is snoring and I am your faithful father

L Mozart

[40] Our *compliments* to the *Canabich*²⁰ household and to both the Wendling *families*,²¹ then to *Figlio*²² Becke and to all who know us and desire to know us.

Have you handed over the letters with the money?²³ Let them give you a confirmation, and send the confirmation in, especially for the one that the valet gave you. [45]

All commend themselves to you, especially the Countesses *Londron*.²⁴

¹⁶ BD: Responding to Mozart's description in No. 0535/43-46.

¹⁷ BD: Gertrud Elisabeth Mara, née Schmebling (1749-1833), fled with her husband from the Prussian court after constant disputes with Frederick II.

¹⁸ BD: Leopold is referring to his testicles.

¹⁹ BD: The family dog in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0291/37.

²⁰ BD: The family of (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). He joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter was Rosa. Cf. No. 0535/56.

²¹ BD: The families of the flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797) and his brother, the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786), both of whom met the Mozarts in 1763, cf. No. 0057/2-6. Their wives and daughters were also musicians and are mentioned several times in the correspondence up until 1790 (No. 1138/21-22). Both brothers came from Alsace and both died in Munich. For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368; he also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling.

²² BD: "Son": Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich and important Munich contact for the Mozarts, described himself thus in No. 0535/71.

²³ BD: Cf. Nos. 0537/31 ff.; 0539/36 ff.; 0540/17 ff.

²⁴ "Comtessen". BD: Daughters of hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. His wife was Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780). For her name-days (13th June) in 1776 and 1777, Mozart composed divertimenti: in 1776 KV 247, in 1777 KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H). In February, 1776, he furthermore wrote for her and her two daughters, Aloisia and Giuseppina, the concerto for three claviers KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, "Pepperl") was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.