

*À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart maitre de la Chapelle /
de S:A:R L'archeveque / de et à / Salzburg.*

*Vienne ce 17 de mars
1780.*

Mon très cher amy^{1,2}

[5] Yesterday, the 16th, I arrived here, praise and thanks be to God, utterly alone in a post-chaise; – I almost forgot the time: – 9 o'clock in the morning; – I drove as far as Lower Haag³ with the post-coach – but this burnt my arse and what it hangs from so badly that I could not possibly hold it out – so I wanted to continue my journey with the *ordinaire*.⁴ [10] – But Herr Escherich, a government official, had also had enough of the post-coach and we kept each other company as far as Kemmelbach – in Kemmelbach I wanted to wait for the *ordinaire*,⁵ but the esteemed postmaster assured me that he could not possibly allow me to travel with it because there is no major post office here – I therefore had to travel by *extra poste*⁶ [15] – arrived in St. Pölten dog-tired at seven o'clock in the evening on Thursday the 15th – lay down to sleep until 2 o'clock at night, and then drove straight to Vienna. – I am writing this – where? – in Messmer's⁷ garden on the Landstrasse – the gracious old lady⁸ is not at home – but the former Fräul. Franzl,⁹ now Fr. von Bosch – who charged me and is truly charging me [15] with conveying 1000 compliments to you and my sister – listen, upon my honour, I would hardly have known her anymore – she is so corpulent and fat; – she has 3 children – 2 young misses, and a young gentleman; – the young miss is called Nannerl, is four years old, and one would swear she was 6 – the young man 3 – and one would swear he was already 7 – [25] and the child aged $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year one would certainly take for 2 – they are so strong and vigorous in their growth. – Now about the Archbishop¹⁰ – I have a charming room in the same house where the Archbishop is lodging – *Brunetti*¹¹ and *Ceccarelli*¹² are lodging in another house – *che distinzione!*¹³ – my neighbour is – Herr von Kleinmayern,¹⁴ who heaped every courtesy on me on my arrival [30] – he is in fact a charming man as well –

¹ BD: This is the only letter to his father in which Wolfgang uses the intimate form “*Mon très cher amy!*”.

² = “To Monsieur Leopold, Music Director to High Royal Highness the Archbishop of and In Salzburg. / Vienna, this 17th day of March, 1780. / My very dear friend!”

³ BD: Haag am Hausruck, between Ried and Lambach.

⁴ A larger, slower post-coach driving to a set timetable.

⁵ BD: Franz Anton Mesmer, doctor and magnetizer.

⁶ BD: A smaller, faster post-coach made available on demand.

⁷ BD: Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815), the famous “magnetizer”. A brief memorial to his methods is found in the first finale of *Così fan tutti*. Sang (tenor) and played numerous instruments (violoncello, harpsichord, glass harmonica). After an initially promising, but then unsuccessful, treatment of the blind pianist Maria Theresia von Paradis (cf. No. 0764/17-18), Dr. Mesmer had to leave Vienna. He went to Paris via Munich and Switzerland, staying in Paris until 1789 and attracting great attention.

⁸ BD: Maria Anna Mesmer, née von Eulenschenk. 10 years older than her husband Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer.

⁹ BD: Franziska Oesterling, lived in Mesmer's house, was his first magnetism patient and also married his stepson.

¹⁰ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

¹¹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261. Cf. No. 0346/10.

¹² BD: Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815), the famous “magnetizer”. A brief memorial to his methods is found in the first finale of *Così fan tutti*. Sang (tenor) and played numerous instruments (violoncello, harpsichord, glass harmonica). After an initially promising, but then unsuccessful, treatment of the blind pianist Maria Theresia von Paradis (cf. No. 0764/17-18), Dr. Mesmer had to leave Vienna. He went to Paris via Munich and Switzerland, staying in Paris until 1789 and attracting great attention.

¹³ = “What a distinction”.

At 12 noon – unfortunately a little too early for me – we already sit down to eat – those eating are the 2 esteemed personal and poisonal valets, the esteemed supervisor, Herr *Zetti*,¹⁵ the confectioner, 2 esteemed cooks, *Ceccarelli*, *Brunetti* and – your humble servant – *N.B.* the 2 esteemed personal valets are sitting at the top – [35] I do at least have the honour sitting above the cooks – Well – I find myself thinking I am in Salzburg – at the table simple, coarse jokes are made; no one makes jokes with me because I do not speak a word, and if I have to say something it is always with the greatest seriousness – as soon as I have finished the meal I go my way. – In the evening we have no meal, instead [40] everyone is given 3 ducats¹⁶ – with that one can leap a long way. – The esteemed Archbishop is so kind as to glory in his retinue – robs them of their earning opportunities – and does not pay them for it –

Yesterday¹⁷ we already had music at 4 o'clock – there were quite certainly 20 of the highest nobility there – *Ceccarelli* has already had to sing at *Balfi's*¹⁸ residence [45] – today we have to go to Prince *Gallizin*¹⁹ – who was also there yesterday – now I will wait and see if I am given anything; if I am given nothing, I will go to the Archbishop and say to him quite frankly: – If he does not wish that I should earn anything, he should then pay me so that I do not have to live from my money; –

[50] Now I must finish, for I will hand in the letter when passing the post office, and must immediately go to Prince *Gallazin* – I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally your

P.S. Rossi the *buffo* is here –

I was at the Fischers'²⁰ – I cannot

[55] describe the joy that

these people felt –

Everyone in the house commends themselves –

now I hear that there are *concerts*

in Salzburg? – there I am indeed

[60] losing out horrifyingly! – *Adieu*.

My address is –in the Teutonic²¹ House in the Singerstrasse.

most obedient son
Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

¹⁴ BD: Franz Thaddäus von Kleinmayr(n) (1733-1805), from an old Salzburg family. Studied law and wrote several publications. An important administrative official. Briefly shared a room with Mozart in Vienna in 1781 (cf. No. 0583/28-29).

¹⁵ BD: A quartermaster.

¹⁶ BD: = 13½ florins.

¹⁷ BD: i.e. on the day of Mozart's arrival.

¹⁸ BD: The Count [Graf] Pálffy who married Maria Gabriela, Countess [Gräfin] Colloredo, sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg; their daughter Josepha Gabriela (* 1765) became one of Mozart's pupils.

¹⁹ "Fürst". BD: Prince [Fürst] Golicyn, Russian ambassador in Vienna.

²⁰ BD: Friends of the Mozarts since 1768.

²¹ "im deutschen Haus". BD: Originally the property of the Teutonic Order.