

0594.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de
S: / A: R: l'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg.

vienne ce 12 de may
1781.

Mon très cher Père!²

[5] In the letter which you received by post³ I spoke with you as <if we were in the presence of the Archbishop⁴> – Now, <however, I am speaking entirely with you alone>, my dearest father; – regarding all the wrong that the Archbishop has done me since the beginning of his rule until now, regarding the endless scolding, all the *impertinences* and *insults* which he has uttered to my face, [10] regarding the incontrovertible right I have to leave him, let us remain absolutely silent. For – no objection is possible there; but I wish to speak about what would have led me to leave him – even without the solid reason of an outrage. Here I have the finest and most useful *connaissances*⁵ in the world – [15] am well-liked and respected in the greatest houses – am shown all possible honour – and am further paid for it – and I should languish in Salzburg for 400 florins – without payment, without encouragement – languish and be unable to be of use to you in any way, when after all I surely can be here. What the end result of that be? – always the same: I would have to let myself be mortally insulted [20] or go away again. – I need say no more to you, you know this yourself. Only one thing more: – the whole <city of Vienna already knows my story> – the whole <*nobility* tells me> I should <certainly not let my mind be changed again>. –

Dearest father, they will <soon come to you with fine phrases>, but – [25] they are <snakes, vipers> – all base souls are like this: they are lofty and proud to the point of nausea, and then – <they crawl again> – abhorrent; the 2 <personal valets see the whole dirty business clearly>. <Schlaucher⁶> in particular said to somebody: I – I cannot <say Mozart is in the wrong in the whole matter – he is entirely right. – just let him do the same to me. – [30] after all, he made him look like a beggar boy >, I heard it – <outrageous. The Archbishop admits all his> wrongdoing – has he not had frequent opportunities to <admit> it? Has he for that reason <changed for the better>? – No! – Then have done with it. –If I had not <been worried> that <you could> perhaps <as a result have found yourself> not in the best of situations, things would have been <different a long time ago>. – [35] but, essentially, what can <he do to you>? – <nothing; – if you know that things are going well for me, you can of course easily do without the Archbishop's favour; – he cannot take your salary away from you> – and otherwise <do your duty> – and, as for <things going well with me>, I am your guarantor – otherwise I <would not have taken this step> now – [40] although I must confess to you that after this insult – I – and even if I had had to beg, would have left; for who then will allow himself to be pushed around? especially if – one can have something better. Therefore – <if you are afraid – act so as to give the appearance of being angry with me – take me severely to task in your letters; as long as the two of us know how matters stand>. [45] – <But do not let yourself be misled by ingratiating behaviour>. – Be on your guard>. – *Adieu* –

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

² = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 12th day of May, 1781. / My very dear father!"

³ BD: Mozart's second letter on the same day. The first was sent by normal post and could potentially be opened by court authorities. The second one, presumably taken to Salzburg by a private person, made extensive use of code.

⁴ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] 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.

⁵ = "Acquaintances".

⁶ BD: Franz Schlauka, one of the two personal valets.

I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from my heart – at the next opportunity the portrait, the ribbons, the fine woollen cloth and everything will follow –
Adieu, I am, sir, eternally
[50]

your most obedient son,
Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

My compliments to all
Salzburg, especially to
Katherl,⁷ and *Marchand*.⁸

⁷ 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.

⁸ BD: When Leopold and Nannerl returned from Munich on 14th March, 1781, they took with them Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre Theobald Marchand, who paid for his board lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozart's home over the next three years.