

0635.¹ MOZART TO MARIA ANNA THEKLA MOZART,² AUGSBURG

à / Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marianne / Mozart / à / Augsburg /
in der Jesuitengasse
Ma très chère Cousine!³

Vienne, 21st d'octobre, 1781⁴

I had been eager for a letter⁵ from you ever since I arrived here, dearest cousin: [5] – how would it turn out? – and it was indeed as I imagined it. – For once I had let 3 months pass, I would not have written again – even if the executioner were standing behind me with a naked sword; – for I would of course not have known how, when, where, why, and what? – [10] I had to wait for a letter out of necessity. – [10]

In the meantime, as you will probably know, many important things⁶ have happened to me, in which I had not a little to think about, and many vexations, annoyances, cares and worries, which can also in fact serve to excuse my long silence; – [15] as far as everything else is concerned, I must tell you that the gossip which people were happy to circulate about me is partly true and partly – false; – I cannot say more at this time except, purely for the sake of calming you, that I do nothing – without reason – and indeed – without well-founded reason. – [20] If you had shown more friendship and trust in me and had turned to me directly |; and not to others – to name them – |; but let us stay silent on that! – If you had turned to me directly, you would certainly know more than all the others – and, if it were possible, more than – I myself! – Yet – Now, so that I do not forget – please be so kind, dearest, best of cousins, and deliver personally the accompanying letter to Herr Stein⁷ at once; [25] – and beg him that he might please answer at once –, or at least tell you what you should say to me about it in your letter; – for I hope, dear little cousin, that this may be the point at which our *correspondence* really gets started!⁸ – As long as the letters do not cause you too much expense! – If you are willing, as I hope, to honour me with an answer, then simply deign to *address* the letter as the last time, [30] namely On St. Peter's Square, at the Eye of God, on the second floor,⁹ although I no longer live there, the address is simply already so well known to the post that if a letter is sent directly to my *lodgings*, I receive it a day or a couple of days later. – Now may live go well for you, dearest, best of cousins! And keep me in your so valued friendship; [32] of mine you can be completely assured; I remain, madam, eternally

P.S. My compliments / to your esteemed father¹⁰

Ma très chère Cousine¹¹

and / esteemed mother, as well as to Fräulein *Juliane*.¹²

Your most sincere cousin ad frd.

¹ BD: Original lost, owned by Aloys Fuchs in 1840. Copy c. 1858. Schiedermaier II.

² = “To Mademoiselle Marie Anne Mozart in Augsburg in the Jesuitengasse [= Jesuit Street or Lane] / My very dear cousin”.

³ BD: Mozart's cousin in Augsburg, Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in the letters as the “Bäsele” [“little cousin”], cf. No. 0358; No. 0353/181; No. 0355/159-160; No. 0848/83 ff.

⁴ Date taken from DME.

⁵ BD: There must have been at least one letter from Mozart's cousin between No. 0531 and No. 0635. The “3 months” suggest that it is a reply to a letter from Mozart written about the end of July, 1781.

⁶ BD: Perhaps referring mainly to the departure from service with the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, of which his cousin apparently already knew.

⁷ BD: No. 0634, lost. It obviously included an order for an instrument, cf. No. 0636/11-12. Johann Andreas Stein (1728-1792), built organs and keyboard instruments. Active successively in Strasbourg, Augsburg and Vienna. Mozart greatly appreciated his pianofortes. He appears frequently in the letters, esp. Nos. 0349/32 ff. and 0352/61 ff. His annual production was typically between 20 and 25 instruments, costing 300 florins and more each.

⁸ BD: This appears not to have happened. This is the last known letter to his “little cousin”.

⁹ Actually the address of the Weber family.

¹⁰ BD: Leopold's brother Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.

¹¹ = “My very dear cousin”.

¹² BD: Probably Maria Juliana Creszentia Mozart (*1768), a cousin of Maria Anna Thekla.

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

[40] *Mad^{me}* Weber commends herself to you along with her 3 daughters,¹³ and asks you for a favour. – Herr *Bartholomei*,¹⁴ book dealer |: whom you will undoubtedly know :|, has requested the *portrait* of *Alois*,¹⁵ now Lange, to have it engraved; now, next March it will be 2 years without any word regarding either the *portrait* or the preceding payment; – [45] and its return was once again promised for last March. – *Mad^{me}* Weber therefore begs you to enquire about it a little, since she would like to know what her position is. – *N.B.* it is the same portrait which *Baron Götz*¹⁶ had in Munich. – I believe you saw it too. – It is therefore a very poor show on his part to hand it to a third party without informing anyone. [50] – *Adieu ma chère*,¹⁷ write to me soon. –
*Vienne le 23 d’octobre 1781*¹⁸

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0592/18. Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793), married Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779) in 1756. They had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son. The daughter Aloisia was a particularly gifted singer and became a focus for Mozart’s romantic aspirations in Mannheim and afterwards. Cf. No. 0405/29. Mozart stayed in the Weber home in Vienna for some time; in 1782 he married Constanze, one of the daughters. Cf. No. 0405/29.

¹⁴ BD: Friedrich Albert Bartholme (Bartholomä), book dealer in Ulm, then Augsburg, and finally Strasbourg.

¹⁵ BD: Aloisia Weber (c. 1760-1839) was 17 when Mozart met first her. She was already singing at court in Mannheim. She became a focus of Mozart’s romantic aspirations. The family moved to Munich in 1778. In 1779 she was given a leading position at the German Opera in Vienna [Deutsche Oper]. Cf. No. 0405/30. The portrait seems to be lost.

¹⁶ BD: Baron Götz, mentioned in No. 0537/35. Not clearly identified. Possibly the author of the text of the melodrama *Leonardo und Blandine*, cf. No. 0994/68.

¹⁷ = “Adieu, my dear.”

¹⁸ = “Vienna, 23rd October, 1781”.