

0640. 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 10 de 9bre  
1781

Mon très cher Père!<sup>1</sup>

[5] I say thank you a thousand times for your congratulations on my name-day; – and send you mine in return for St. *Leopold's* Day; – dearest, best of fathers! – I wish you every good thing imaginable, all that can be wished. – Yet no, my wishes are not for you, but entirely for me. – So I wish you that you will always continue in good health, [10] and that you should live countless years yet, to my happiness and greatest pleasure. – For myself I wish that everything that I do and undertake might be according to your wish and pleasure – or rather that I might do nothing – which does not – turn out to your greatest joy. – and this is truly my hope – for whatever can contribute to your son's good fortune – [15] must of course, by the nature of things, also be pleasing to you! –

Herr von Auerhammer,<sup>2</sup> his gracious wife and the 2 *fräuleins*, |: in whose house I am presently writing :| also send their congratulations.

Recently, at the theatre, I spoke to Geschwendtner,<sup>3</sup> who told me that Frau Spät<sup>4</sup> is dead. [20] I hope that I may perhaps learn the certitude or incertitude of this news from a letter from you.

Today they are expecting the Duke von Württemberg<sup>5</sup> and there is therefore a *redoute*<sup>6</sup> tomorrow. – On the 25<sup>th</sup> there is to be a open *redoute* at Schönbrun.<sup>7</sup> – But in this case they are in very Great *Embaras*;<sup>8</sup> for, according to the general opinion, [25] the Grand Prince<sup>9</sup> is to stay here only 10 days, and St. *Catharine*<sup>10</sup> |: in whose honour the ball is held :| falls, according to the Greek calendar, on 6 *December* – so – no-one knows what will happen. Another piece of comedy: – the *acteurs*<sup>11</sup> were sent a message from the Emperor<sup>12</sup> that each should choose a role to be performed before the Grand Prince. – [30] *Lang*<sup>13</sup> therefore requested Hamlet. – But Count Rosenberg,<sup>14</sup> who does not like *Lang*, said that could not be because Brockmann has always played this role the whole time. – Now, when Brockman was told of this, he went to Rosenberg and said to him that he could not play it either, and that the whole *play* could not be performed [35] – and why? – because the Grand Prince himself was

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<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1781. / My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: Auernhammer: Johann Michael von Auernhammer (†1782); his daughter Josepha was a pupil of Mozart's with professional ambitions.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner, city councillor and merchant in Salzburg.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Maria Elisabeth Späth, née Haffner (\*1753), daughter of a prominent mayor and merchant in Salzburg. Mozart wrote the Serenade KV 250 (248b) for the celebration on the eve of her wedding.

<sup>5</sup> “herzog”. BD: Friedrich Eugen, Duke of Württemberg. His brother Ludwig Eugen had made Mozart's acquaintance in Lausanne in September, 1766.

<sup>6</sup> BD: A celebratory event, usually a ball, for invited guests only, in contrast to the “open *redoute*” for the general public.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Palace in Vienna, largely reconstructed by Maria Theresia after 1743. Includes the oldest zoo in the world.

<sup>8</sup> = “Embarrassment”.

<sup>9</sup> “grossfürst”. BD: The Grand Prince of Russia mentioned in No. 0615/34.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Catherine the Great, Czarina of Russia (1729-1796).

<sup>11</sup> = “Actors”.

<sup>12</sup> “kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

<sup>13</sup> BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780; six children; separated around 1795.

<sup>14</sup> “gr.”. BD: Franz Xaver Wolf, Count [Graf] (later Prince [Fürst]) Orsini-Rosenberg (1723-1796), administrator in Vienna, later “General Director of Spectacles” in Vienna.

Hamlet. – The Emperor |: they say – they say – they say – :| therefore sent Brockman 50 ducats. –

Now I know of nothing more that is new – once again I say thank you thousand times, and Repeat my Good Wishes, and will soon write to my sister myself. [40] I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally

Your most obedient son,

W: A. Mozart

*P: S:* I send my thanks and compliments to all who have *congratulated* me – [45] *apropos*,<sup>15</sup> is it true that the Elector of Bavaria is close to death?<sup>16</sup> – Adieu.

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<sup>15</sup> (Here:) = “By the way”.

<sup>16</sup> “Churfürst”. BD: He did not die until 1799: Elector Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.