À / Madame / Madame Constance de Mozart / née de Weber / à / <u>Vienne</u>. / on the Hoher Markt / in the Walseck house / c/o Herr von <u>Puchberg</u>¹

Berlin, 23rd May

[5] Dearest, most treasured, most precious little wife! –

It was with exceptional pleasure that I received your sweet letter of the 13th here; – but only just this moment did I receive your previous one of the 9th, because it had to be *redirected* to *Berlin* from *Leipzig*. – The first thing for me is to count up for you all the letters I have written to you, and then those that I have received. –

[10] I wrote to you onthe 8th April² from the post-office Budwitz.³ – the 10th – from Prague.4 the $13^{th 5}$ from Dresden. and the 17^{th 6} the 22nd |: French: | from *Leipzig*. ⁷ the $28^{\text{th }8}$ and the $5^{\text{th }}$ May 9 the $9^{\text{th }10}$ from Potsdam [15] from Leipzig. and 16th 11 from Berlin¹² the 19th and now the 23rd – [20] so that makes 11 letters.

I received from you that of the 8^{th} April on the 15^{th} April in Dresden. :| 13 on the 21^{st} – in Leipzig :| 14 on the 8^{th} May in Leipzig. :| 16 on the 14^{th} – in Leipzig. :| 16

¹ BD: Johann Michael Puchberg (1741-1822), 1768-1777 in charge of a factory and wholesale business for finished and semi-finished silk layers, velvet, ribbons, cloth and gloves. He resumed this activity in 1785 in association with his brother. The landlord of the premises on the *Hoher Markt* in Vienna was Franz, Count [Graf] Walsegg-Stuppach, who commissioned the *Requiem* from Mozart in 1791. Member of various Masonic lodges from 1773 onwards. It was probably in Masonic circles that he met Mozart. He was also in contact with Joseph Haydn, who wrote to him in January, 1792, in connection with Mozart's death. He represented Constanze for a time regarding Mozart's estate. Mozart dedicated to him the string trio divertimento in E^b KV 563 (cf. No. 1094/23; No.1121/11) and perhaps also the piano trio in E KV 542 (cf. notes on No. 1077/50 and No. 1083/18). In the course of three years, Puchberg lent Mozart a total of at least 1415 florins (cf. note on No.1076). Constance paid the debt some years later when her financial position improved. Puchberg died in poverty in 1822.

² BD: No. 1089.

³ BD: Mährisch-Budwitz, c. 50 km north-west of Vienna.

⁴ BD: No. 1091.

⁵ BD: No. 1092.

⁶ BD: Actually written on the 16th, posted on the 17th.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 1097 (lost).

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 1097.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 1097.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 1097.

¹¹ BD: No. 1099.

¹² BD: No. 1101.

¹³ BD: No. 1090 (lost).

¹⁴ BD: No. 1093.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 1098 (lost).

¹⁶ BD: Cf. No. 1098; cf. also No. 1099/22.

thus 6 letters.

Between the 13th and 24th April, as you see, there is a gap, so there I must have lost a letter from you – as a result I had to go 17 days without letters! [30] – then if you too had to live through 17 days in the same circumstances, one of my letters must have gone astray as well; – praise God, we will soon have overcome these misfortunes; - only after I have fastened myself around your neck will I tell you in full about how I felt then! - yet - you know my love for you! – where do you think I am writing this? – [35] in my room in the inn? – No; – at an inn in the zoo |: in a garden house with a fine view : | where I ate quite alone today so as to be able to concern myself only with you; – the Queen¹⁹ wants to hear me on Tuesday; but not much is required for that. I had them announce me only because it is the custom here, and she would take offence. [40] - My dearest little wife, you are certainly going to have to look forward to me more than to the money when I return. – 100 Friedrichs'dor²⁰ are not 900 florins, but 700 fl; 21 – that, at least, is what they told me here. – 2^{ndly} , Lichnowsky²² left me because he had to hurry, and consequently I had to find my own food |: in that expensive place Potsdam: $|; -3^{\text{rdly}}|$, I had to lend $[...]^{23}100$ fl. because his purse was shrinking [45] - I could hardly refuse [...], you know why. -4^{thly} , the *concert* in *Leipzig* turned out badly, just as I always said it would, I have therefore made a round trip of 32 miles²⁴ almost for nothing; the blame for this rests squarely on Lichnowsky alone, for he would not leave me in peace, I had to go back to *Leipzig* again. – yet – [50] more of that when we are together; – here 1^{stly} there is not much to be earned with a *concert*, and 2^{ndly} – the king²⁵ does not like to see it. – You must certainly be satisfied with me on one point: that I am so fortunate as to enjoy the King's favour: – what I am writing down here remains between the two of us. – On Thursday the 28th, I am leaving for Dresden, where I will spend the night. On the 1st June I will sleep in Prague, [55] and on the 4^{th} – the 4^{th} ? – with my dearest little wife; – 26 <set up your dear, most beautiful nest nice and neatly, for my little boy does indeed deserve it, he has behaved very well indeed and wishes himself nothing except to possess your most beautiful [. . . .]. Just imagine, while I am writing like this, the little villain creeps onto the table and [shows] himself to me [questioningly], [60] but I, not slothful, [give] him a hefty biff on the nose – but the [lad] is only [...], now [in fact] the rascal is even more on fire and can hardly be reined in.> I do indeed hope that you will drive out to meet me at the first post stage? – I will arrive there at midday on the 4th; – Hofer²⁷ |: whom I embrace 1000 times :| will no doubt also be

¹⁷ BD: No. 1093.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 1098.

¹⁹ "Königin". BD: Friederike, née Landgräfin von Hessen-Darmstadt (1751-1805), spouse of King Frederick William II of Prussia.

²⁰ "Golden Fredericks". BD: Presumably the fee for the 6 keyboard sonatas and 6 string quartets ordered (cf. No. 1105/34-35). He must have received this commission in Potsdam before 5th May and Mozart may have informed Constanze of this in the lost letter of that date. According to NissenB, p. 536, the king made Mozart an offer of "Three thousand thalers per annum salary" if he stayed in Berlin.

²¹ BD: Presumably correcting a figure given in one of the lost letters (9th or 13th May).

²² BD: He was travelling with Prince [Fürst] Karl Lichnowsky, who was later, from about 1795-1806, a patron of Beethoven. In 1789 he married the daughter of Countess [Gräfin] Wilhelmine Thun, who was also closely associated with Mozart.

²³ BD: At both these places, Nissen had crossed out a single word, which must surely be Lichnowsky.

²⁴ BD: For Austria and Bavaria, a "mile" was very long: 7.4 km.

²⁵ BD: Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia, cf. No. 1091/16.

²⁶ BD: From here until "reined in" at the end of line 61, Nissen had crossed everything out. Ludwig Schiedermair succeeded in reconstructing most of it by photographic means.

²⁷ BD: The violinist Franz de Paula Hofer (1755-1796), a friend of Mozart's. He married Josepha Weber, Mozart's sister-in-law, on 21st July, 1788.

there, I hope; – if Herr and Frau von Puchberg also drive with you, [65] all the people I wished would be together. And do not forget $Carl.^{28}$ – but now the most essential thing; – you must take some trusted person |: $Satmann^{29}$ or someone like that :| with you, who can then drive to the customs in my coach with my baggage so that I do not have this unnecessary $seccatura,^{30}$ but can drive home with you dear people. – Let there be no doubt about that! – [70] Now adieu – I kiss you a million times and am eternally

your most faithful spouse W. A. Mozart mp³¹

²⁸ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858.

²⁹ BD: Obviously a professional scribe; cf. No. 1022/80.

³⁰ Italian: "a tedious or vexatious task".

³¹ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.