

*Mantua*, 11<sup>th</sup> January  
1770

We reached here yesterday and, one hour later, namely at 6 o'clock, went to the opera.<sup>1</sup> We are well, praise God. [5] Wolfgangerl looks as if he has been on a military campaign, namely slightly red-brown, especially around the nose and mouth, from the air and the open fire. As, for example, His Majesty the Emperor<sup>2</sup> looks. My good looks have as yet not suffered much, otherwise I would be plunged into despair. I cannot yet tell you anything about this place. Today I called on His Eminent Highness the Prince of Taxis,<sup>3</sup> [10] but he was not at home, and his gracious lady<sup>4</sup> under such obligation to write letters that she could not speak to us, her fellow countrymen.

But downstairs in the house we saw a couple of soiled little kitchen goddesses<sup>5</sup> who danced around quite joyfully on seeing us, their fellow countrymen. It seems to me that they do not particularly like being in Italy. [15] Tomorrow we are invited to the eminent Count *Francesco Eugenio*'s,<sup>6</sup> the *Conte d'Arco*, at midday. Then it will be possible to write a little more about this place. In the meantime, I must tell you one thing or another about *Verona*. We saw the *amphitheatre* and the *Museum Lapidarium*. You can read about it in Kaysler's<sup>7</sup> travel notes, and I will bring a book with me about the antiquities of *Verona*. [20] Herr von Helmrich,<sup>8</sup> to whom I commend myself, will surely lend you the second part of Kaysler so that you can at least travel in your living room, even if you cannot be with us. I would weigh the letters down too much and make them too expensive if I enclosed all the newspaper pages which report on Wolfgang in *Mantua* and other places. Here I enclose one in which there are 2 mistakes, [25] namely they write actual Music Director and aged not yet 13 years<sup>9</sup> instead of 14 years. But you know how such things go, the newswriters write what they please and whatever occurs to them. I could send more enclosures, for the poets in *Verona* were competing to write the best ode to him. [30] Here is a transcript of a *sonnet* composed impromptu in our presence by a scholarly amateur,<sup>10</sup> in the same way as Music Director *Daniele Barba* himself sang the most beautiful verses about Wolfgang *extempore* etc.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> there will be the usual weekly *concert* here in the hall of the *Accademia Filarmonica*, to which we are invited.<sup>11</sup> Then we will go straight to Milan. [35] Since the weather is cold and the road frozen, we will go via *Cremona*.<sup>12</sup> If the weather is warm, and the roads consequently bad, we must go via *Brescia*. Everything is safe,<sup>13</sup> here one hears of nothing, as in Germany. By my honour, I have hardly time to write this letter. For this reason

<sup>1</sup> BD: *Demetrio*, opera in three acts by Johann Adolph Hasse, text by Metastasio. First performed Venice, 1732.

<sup>2</sup> "S<sup>c</sup>: Mayst: der Kayser". BD: Joseph II.

<sup>3</sup> "T: H: Fürsten v Taxis". BD: Fürst Michael II von Thurn und Taxis (1722-1789).

<sup>4</sup> BD: Johanna, née Countess [Gräfin] Lodron (\* 1735), sister of the Hereditary National Marshal [Erbländmarschall] of Salzburg.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Presumably from Salzburg.

<sup>6</sup> "Tit: H: Grafen". BD: Francesco Eugenio (1707-1776), Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], cousin of the Salzburg Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Travel guide: Johann Georg Keyssler, *Neueste Reisen durch Deutschland*, ..., Hannover, 1751 and 1752.

<sup>8</sup> BD: One of the two Helmreichen zu Brunfeld brothers in Salzburg.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Leopold himself had also given wrong information about Wolfgang's age in announcements made during the Italian journey. He was presumably aware that this letter and enclosure would be read generally in Salzburg.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Presumably "*Si rapuit sylvas...*" by Antonio Maria Meschini (Deutsch Dok p. 94).

<sup>11</sup> BD: Wolfgang's concert was on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1770, only the second concert in the new hall. Cf. No. 1212/227-228. The program included three symphonies by Wolfgang, probably KV Anh. 215 (66c), Anh. 217 (66d), Anh. 218 (66e).

<sup>12</sup> BD: This was in fact the route.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Probably meaning that there was no danger from robbers. In contrast, cf. No. 0181/24 ff.

we had to miss out the *opera* today. As soon as we are in Milan I will write to you again, [40] and write to me in Milan. You can add below: *per ricapito del Sgr. Troger, Secretario di S. Exllza il Sgr. Comte Carlo de Firmian.*<sup>14</sup> Now I have to go to bed. Keep well, both you and Nannerl. We kiss you 1000 times. We drink to your health every day, Wolfgang never forgets. Farewell, I am as always your

Mzt

[45] All imaginable good wishes to all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen.  
I cannot write to anyone, I am a plagued man.

Nothing except getting dressed and undressed, packing and unpacking, and, on top of that, no warm room. We are freezing like a dog. Whatever I touch is ice. And if you ever saw the doors and the locks on the rooms! Perfect prisons – ! [50] Bring the enclosed letter to Herr *Friderici*<sup>15</sup> in *Gera* to the post so that it is on its way soon and properly. It is an order for a *clavier*.

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<sup>14</sup> c/o Sgr. Troger, Secretary of His Excellency Count Karl Firmian. BD: Troger's sister lived in Salzburg, where he visited her in 1771. Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Friederici, musical instrument maker in Gera.