

0179.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO HIS SISTER,<sup>2</sup> SALZBURG

*My dear sister,*

[Rome, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1770]

*I assure you that I await every post-day, with incredible urgency, some letter from Salzburg. Yesterday we were at St. Lorenzo, and heard the vesper, and this morning the sung Mass, and then this evening the second vesper, [5] because it is the Feast of My Lady of Good Counsel. In recent days we were in the Campidoglio<sup>3</sup> and saw various beautiful things: if I wanted to write about everything that I saw, this little piece of paper would not suffice. I played in two invitation concerts,<sup>4</sup> and tomorrow I will play in another one.<sup>5</sup> This evening we saw a contralto, a castrato, who much resembled Sig. Meissner,<sup>6</sup> whom we had the honour of seeing in Naples. [10] Immediately after dining we play at boccia, this is a game I learned in Rome. When I come home, I will teach it to you. Tell Sig. von M $\ddot{o}$ lk<sup>7</sup> that I am glad and join you in congratulations that his esteemed father is in better health, and that I ask him to do me the favour of paying my respects, in my place, to his esteemed father<sup>8</sup> and his esteemed mother and his esteemed sister and brother and brother-in-law and cook and to everything and everyone. [15] Regarding what I wrote to you about last time,<sup>9</sup> I would ask you to do it for me and to reply to me. When this letter is finished, I will finish a symphony of mine which I have begun. The aria is finished, one symphony<sup>10</sup> is with the copyist (who is my father)<sup>11</sup> because we do not wish to give it out for copying, otherwise it would be stolen. To all my friends my compliments, and kiss my mother's hand on my behalf, [20] because I am |: tra la li ra :| your*

*Rome the head of the world  
25th April, anno 1770.  
in the coming year 1771*

*Wolfgango<sup>12</sup> in Germany and Ama=  
deo Mozart (in his own hand) in Italy.*

behind as in front  
[25] and doubled in the middle<sup>13</sup>.

POSTSCRIPT BY LEOPOLD MOZART:

I kiss both of you!

POSTSCRIPT BY MOZART TO JOACHIM VON SCHIEDENHOFEN:<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This letter mixes Italian and German. The translation from Italian is in cursive print.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), 1751-1829.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Probably the two events mentioned in No. 0177/42 f.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0181/13.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Probably Franz von M $\ddot{o}$ lk, one of Nannerl's admirers. Cf. No. 0158/5.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Franz Felix Anton von M $\ddot{o}$ lk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler].

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0177/71, a collection of rules of arithmetic.

<sup>10</sup> BD: The symphonies could well be KV 95 (73n) and 97 (73m); other suggestions include KV 81 (73i) and 73 (75a).

<sup>11</sup> BD: Leopold took this work upon himself out of fear that professional copyists would make and sell unauthorised copies.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Deliberate avoidance of three consonants in succession as in Italian renderings of his name: "Wolfgango" [Gazzetta di Mantova, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1770] and "Volfang" [Gazzetta Toscana, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1770].

<sup>13</sup> BD: Typical playing with numbers, here describing the year 1771.

To Sig. von Schiedenhofen.

May Your Lordship pardon me for never writing, but, not having had time, I could not do my duty. Here is a menuetto by Sig. Pick,<sup>15</sup> which he danced in Milan.

POSTSCRIPT BY LEOPOLD MOZART:

[30] Letters to me must in future go to Rome, for *Sgr. Marcobruni*<sup>16</sup> is Director of the Post and takes care of everything. Whom have we met here? – – Our fine Count<sup>17</sup> *Gerstorff*.

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach while Leopold and Wolfgang were travelling.

<sup>15</sup> BD: This was the second time that Mozart had written out this menuet, the previous copy being for his sister (cf. No. 0171/74). "Pick": Carlo de Picq (also Pick, Le Picq), 1749-1806, cf. Nos. 0158/54-55, 0166/24. In 1772 involved in the ballet *Le gelosie del serraglio* [KV Anh. 109 (135a)], written for *Lucio Silla* (KV 135). The aria KV 584 makes a playful reference to him.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0170/57, 60.

<sup>17</sup> "Graf Gerstorff". BD: The Mozarts met someone of this name in Frankfurt in 1763, cf. No. 0065/10-11.