

Milan, 7th *Settemb*: 1771.

Heaven has at last revived us with a little rain for a couple of days in succession. I have received your few lines,¹ and it was all thought out most economically, as you wrote little on the first side, but absolutely nothing on the second side, [5] for so many 1000s of characters could weigh a letter down so much that it would have to be pulled to Milan with 6 horses. Heavens! What expense! Blank paper is always cheaper to transport than that with writing on it. I will reply directly to my brother in Augspurg.² I will not get very involved in their insignificant dealings. We now have [10] our heads full with other matters, since the poetry³ has arrived late and remained in the hands of the poet⁴ for changes to this and that until 2 days ago. It will hopefully turn out well, but Wolfgang now has his hands full with *composing*, since he also has to *compose* the *ballet*⁵ which links the two acts or parts with each other. That Archduke *Maximilian*⁶ has become a cathedral canon [15] was nothing exceptional in my eyes: since my return from *Italy* I had already been saying everywhere in Salzburg that it would happen. The rest will also follow:⁷ just be patient! I regret that I cannot put everything in writing here. Salzburg is not the only goal in this first step! — — — — I hope you are well, and I do not doubt that Nannerl will continue to take her [20] herbal soups, for she has experienced how they help her. If *Secretary Troger*⁸ is still in Salzbg., give him a couple of boxes of the famous Spilman Hansl pillules⁹ to take with him. But if he has already departed, as I suspect, enquire diligently in the inns and at the post, for there will doubtless be various others travelling through Salzburg to Milan [25], and any one will take it with them; it is enough if you address it for delivery at His Excellency Count von Firmian's or *al Illmo: Sgr: Padre: Collmo: il Sgr: Leopoldo Troger Secretario Reggio nello Stato della Lombardia à Milano. in Casa di S: Ecc: Il Sgr. Conte di Firmian.*¹⁰

[30] These pillules are necessary for me, for I know that they are of service to me when, because of the constipations, my dizziness comes, and I have had this most of the time since my departure from Salzburg, but not so severely as to vomit or to be forced to lie in bed. Now that I have been taking the pillules for only 3 days, I notice that my head is getting lighter. But, unfortunately, I [35] have only 8 left. We kiss you both many 1000 000 times and I am as always your

L Mozart

¹ BD: No. 0243a, lost.

² Augsburg in southern Bavaria.

³ BD: The text for Mozart's commission, *Ascanio in Alba*, had been sent to Vienna for approval.

⁴ BD: Giuseppe Parini (1729-1799), cf. No. 0242/11.

⁵ BD: Nothing remains of this ballet except an autograph bass part bound into the score. It is conceivable that the bass part was used, according to the custom of the time, for conducting purposes. There is no further mention of this ballet in the letters; it is possible that the two ballet masters, Le Picq and Jean Favier (cf. Nos. 0158/54-55; 0245/6-7), took the score with them as soon as it was finished.

⁶ BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Maximilian Franz (1756-1801), "one of the two youngest" sons of Maria Theresia mentioned in No. 0034/88.

⁷ BD: Perhaps the hope of some employment opportunity.

⁸ BD: Leopold Troger, court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. Father of Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, cf. No. 0224/8-9. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

⁹ BD: Laxatives, cf. line 30; No. 0246/62-63. It is not clear whether "Spilman" is a profession (musical entertainer) or a surname (surnames often being placed before the personal name).

¹⁰ = "To the most illustrious, beneficent and honorable Sgr. Leopoldo Troger, Royal Secretary to the Government of Lombardy in Milan. In the house of His Excellency Sgr. Count von Firmian." BD: 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.

Because Nannerl has not written, Wolfgang is not writing anything either.
We commend ourselves to all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies.
Have you received the salary for the month of August?¹¹ –

¹¹ BD: Leopold was worried that his salary would be stopped because of his long absence. This did in fact happen for the months of October and November, cf. No. 0261.