

*Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg*Vienna, 4th *September*,
1773.

Now the poor Jesuits are finished!¹ I call them poor, [5] for only those in places of influence, namely the rabbis and all the *Corpus Religionis*² could be called rich, the individual members of the order gained nothing from it.

By the 16th of this month, the Jesuit monastery at court³ has to be vacated. Their ecclesiastical treasures, their cellar with wine, their wealth has already been sealed, their order is abolished.⁴ They can dress as secular priests, [10] and it is said that each will receive 300 florins per annum. That is not so bad at all! If he gets Masses on top of that, he may |: a young one :| get himself a fine room and an orderly housekeeper, for otherwise he will not have much to do anyway, because they will not let them preach and hear confession any more. The public is very distressed, and I hear a Papal *breve* is to be printed, [15] saying that under pain of communication, no-one should write, yes, not even speak, against the abolition of the Jesuits. Many good Catholic Christians are of the opinion that His Papal Holiness has no authority to command except in matters of faith, and that they can even say that they would have left the poor Jesuits in peace and quiet [20] if they had been as poor as the poor Capuchins, for in Rome they have already made a start with collecting their possessions *ad pias causas*⁵. That was also very easy, for even if the Pope takes it for himself, it is of course once again being used *ad causas pias*. Here the Court did not accept the first Papal *breve*, because, as I hear, it was issued with the statement [25] that the possessions of the Jesuits were to be used *ad causas pias*. The Court did not want to have laws dictated to it. His Holiness then accordingly allowed His Majesty⁶ the freedom to use the possessions of the Jesuits as seems fit. Everything is still in confusion.

No-one knows who will get the church and the schools etc. *N.B.* [30] this scenario is, of course, true of all Hereditary Imperial lands.

Mad:^{me} Rosa,⁷ who was living at Herr Fliegel's,⁸ the Court gilder, has made things more comfortable for herself and has moved in with the animal painter,⁹ who can naturally give her a more comfortable and more entertaining lodging, because he is unmarried. A couple of days ago I met Herr von Edlbach,¹⁰ [35] who asked me if I knew of his story with *Md:^{me} Rosa*? – Of course, I knew nothing. He then told me that he had agreed with that certain watch dealer¹¹ from Geneva, whom *Rosa* had painted in Salzburg and whom he met at the *opera*, that they should go

¹ BD: Cf. No. 0210/15 ff.

² "Body of religion". BD: = religious establishment.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0289/41-42.

⁴ BD: In Austria from 10th September, 1773; the original *breve* was issued by Pope Clement XIV on 21st July.

⁵ For pious causes.

⁶ "S^{er}: Mayst:". BD: Emperor [Kaiser] Joseph II.

⁷ BD: Cf. note on No. 0093/231. The Italian portrait painter Maria Rosa Barducci married court sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer, distant relative of the merchant Joseph Hagenauer, in Salzburg Cathedral in November 1764. Cf. Nos. 0292/2 ff.; 0292/2 ff.

⁸ BD: Presumably "Flügel". Not identified.

⁹ BD: Joseph Roos (Rosa), moved from Dresden to Vienna in 1772 to become director of the Imperial Art Gallery. Cf. No. 0293/4.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0289/50. Benedikt Schlossgängl von Edlenbach (* 1744 or 1748), son of the court counsellor and professor Franz Joseph Schlossgängl von Edlenbach; married to Marie von Ployer.

¹¹ BD: Described as "watchmaker" in No. 0293/8. Otherwise unknown.

together to pay a visit to *Md.^e Rosa*. An Imperial valet, with whom Herr von Edlbach stays, took them there [40] so that they did not have to be asking continually where the lodging of Herr Fliegel was, and also in order to recognise *Md.^e Rosa*. When they were near the lodging, they did indeed see this *Mad.^{me} Rosa* at the window; she, on noticing these 3 gentlemen, drew back in order, as they thought, to hurry to meet them. But when they came to the door, the maid met them [45] and said *Md.^{me}* was not at home. The gentlemen turned a fine red. The *Genevan* watchdealer said to the maid that her mistress had left her head at home, because they had seen it at the window. Since she did not wish to speak to him, she should finely and cleanly lick his a—. In the meantime, as they went back down the stairs, the maid had time to pass on the honey-sweet message. [50] *Md.^{me} Rosa* afterwards went to the window again and as she saw them looking up, clapped her hands and laughed at them, and the watch-dealer patted his a ——. How do you like the story? — How do you think Herr von Edlbach is taking it? — What will the Imperial valet think of this *Mad.^{me} Rosa*, especially since the watch-dealer explained to them the entire history and cause of this occurrence, [55] namely: In Salzburg, he had had himself painted twice: *en miniature* in his snuffbox, for which he paid her 6 ducats, then full-size, which he also paid for, and also gave her a *little case* and other things *etc.* At his departure, she kept the *portrait* back, partly because it was not finished, partly because she wanted to let it dry out more, with the promise that she would send it on to him. [60] She *commissioned* him to send a piece of a certain taffeta, and she wrote to him in Vienna that she would not send him the portrait before he sent her the taffeta *etc.* Now the story of *Md.^e Rosa* is being spread astonishingly in the whole town by this man. There are the fruits of the abhorrent character of such a self-serving woman, [65] who, in order to preserve her honour in a matter of some gifts, provokes such scenes, and even if she is innocent, gives people the opportunity to speak abhorrently about her. Prince Kaunitz¹² did not summon *Md.^e Rosa* to come, he is not even in Vienna, but on his estates in Austerlitz in Moravia. Herr *Gasman*¹³ was ill, but is better. [70] I do not know what connection this is supposed to have¹⁴ with our stay in Vienna. Crazy people are simply mindless everywhere! We and everyone else commend ourselves *etc. etc.* and I am as always your
Mzt mp¹⁵

We shall not be staying here very much longer now. With the next post I will give you more details.

[75] I must finish, Wolfgang has no more time now to smear anything onto paper, for otherwise we are in danger of missing the set time for the post.

¹² “Fürst Kaunitz”. BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, from 1753 State Chancellor [Staatskanzler]. Cf. No. 0034/89.

¹³ BD: Florian Leopold Gassmann (1729-1774), in Vienna from 1762, court music director from 1772. Instigated the “Musicians’ Society” [Tonkünstler-Societät], in whose concert of 3rd April, 1781, Mozart gave his first public performance in Vienna.

¹⁴ BD: The rumour circulating in Salzburg (presumably that the Mozarts were interested in a possible vacancy due to Gassmann’s illness or demise) had a certain plausibility.

¹⁵ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.