

Mannheim, the 26th
November, 1777

My dear husband,

You wish to know why we travelled here in such haste: then you should know that Prince Daxis¹ was no longer in Dischengen,² and he had long since sent all his musicians to Regensburg³. [5] When we were in Hohen Altheim⁴, Prince Daxis was visiting another nobleman on his estates. Where, then, should we have gone? To Würzburg, perhaps? At that time the bishop would have been in Bamberg, and going on from Würzburg we would have had to go through the Spessert⁵ Forest; so we preferred to go then to Man[n]heim,

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[10] and, moreover, everyone who knows Mannheim, including gentlemen of the court, advised me to come here. The reason that we are still here is that I have a mind to spend the whole winter here; I am only waiting for an answer from the Elector.⁶ The music supervisor, Count Savioli,⁷ is a very fine gentleman, and to him I said that he might *omy ts tul Lelctsr tumt blcmhsl ft fo nsw* [15] *bmd wlmulr isr trmvleefng mnywmy, F wshed wfou ts otmy ulrl mnd fnotrhct tul yshng cshnt*.⁸ He promised me he would do his best, but I should be patient until the gala days⁹ were past. All of this happened with the knowledge and at the instigation of Cannabich.¹⁰ When I told him that I had been to Savioli and what I said to him, he said to me that he believed [20] that, more likely than not, it would happen. Now Cannabich was talking about this before the *Cshnt umd opskln wftu tul Lelctsr*¹¹. Now I must wait and see. Tomorrow I will collect my 150 florins¹² from Herr Schmalz,¹³ for the landlord will undoubtedly rather hear the jingling of money than of music. Of course, I would not have believed that they were going to honour me with a watch¹⁴ here, [25] but that is simply how it is now. I would have been gone a long time ago, but everyone said to me, Where do you want to go for the winter, then? – – This time of year is very bad for travelling indeed. Stay here, sir. Cannabich also greatly wishes it; so now I have simply

¹ “fürst daxis”. BD: Cf. No. 0347/192. Prince [Fürst] Carl Anselm von Thurn und Taxis (1733-1805); ruled 1773-1805.

² BD: Dischingen, north-west of Dillingen on the Danube.

³ Regensburg.

⁴ BD: Hohentalenheim, one of the residences of Count [Graf] Öttingen-Wallerstein. Cf. No. 0348/56-57.

⁵ The Spessart, traditionally a difficult passage for travellers. BD: Cf. No. 0385/111.

⁶ “khurfürsten”. BD: Cf. No. 0363/30. Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

⁷ “graf savioli”. BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court in Mannheim. Mozart was presented to him by music director Holzbauer on 4th November, 1777. Cf. No. 0360/55.

⁸ Family code: “say to the Elector that because it is now [15] bad weather for travelling anyway, I would wish to stay here and instruct the young count.” BD: The “young count” [grafen] is Karl August, the illegitimate son of the Elector.

⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0363/84, 85; 0376/4. Continuation (till 23rd Nov.) of the celebrations of the name-day (19th Nov.) of the Electress, Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her.

¹⁰ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78.

¹¹ Family code: “Count had spoken with the Elector.”

¹² BD: A further credit, cf. No. 0377/11.

¹³ BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0370/106 f.

tried it, and since one cannot force such a thing with haste, I must simply wait with patience, and I hope I will soon be able to give you good news. [30] I already have two pupils in advance, without the arch-pupil,¹⁵ who, more likely than not, will each give me 1 Louis¹⁶ per month. Of course, this cannot be done without the arch-pupil. Now let us leave it as it is, and as it will be. What use, after all, are the superfluous speculations about what will happen, since we do not know, yet – – we do know! – – what God wills.¹⁷ [35] Now it's spiritedly *allegro, non siate so peggio*.¹⁸ Whatever happens, when we leave here, we will travel in a straight line – – where? – to Weilburg,¹⁹ or whatever it is called, to the Princess, the sister²⁰ of the Prince of Orange,²¹ whom we knew so well *à la Haie*.²² There we will stay, *nota bene*, as long as we find we like the officers' meals²³ and receive at least a firm sum of 6 Louis d'or.²⁴

[40] For some days now, Herr Starkl²⁵ from Würzburg has been here. The day before yesterday, the 24th, I once again dined, together with Cannabich, at the home of the Senior Master of the Hunt, von Haagen,²⁶ and in the evening I was *al solito*²⁷ at Cannabich's, and Sterkl turned up there. He played 5 *duetti*,²⁸ but so fast that nothing could be made out, and not clear at all, and not in time. And that is what they all said. [45] *Mad:selle* Cannabich²⁹ played the 6th, and in truth – – better than Sterckl. Now I must finish because I have no more space³⁰ to write in, for in bed I cannot write, and I do not want to stay up because I am so feeling so sleepy. I will certainly write more in the coming days, but today I can't do any more, because of the space on the paper, as must be clear. I'll certainly get hold of more paper for the next letter. [50] *Addieu*. Good heavens, now I have to go on writing. I kiss Papa's hands,

and I embrace my sister from the bottom
of my heart and am always, sir,

¹⁵ BD VII: The “two pupils” came via Cannabich (cf. No. 0388/50-51), but Mozart cancelled the commitment after calling on them three times in vain (cf. No. 0419/46 ff.). BD: The “arch-pupil” was perhaps the Elector's illegitimate son.

¹⁶ BD: 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

¹⁷ BD: “Now let us...”: Leopold understandably reacts with outrage, cf. No. 0385/9 ff.

¹⁸ = “Now it's spiritedly happy, do not be lazy.” Should read: *pigro*, not *pegro*. Perhaps deliberately adjusted for the sake of the rhyme.

¹⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0385/27 ff.

²⁰ “zu der Prinzessin, die schwester des Prinz von oranien”. BD: Princess [Prinzessin] Caroline von Nassau-Weilburg (1743-1787), daughter of Wilhelm IV. Very musical, praised by Schubart (1739-1791) [“She was previously an outstanding singer, certain physical reasons led her to abandon singing and devote herself entirely to the clavier. She immediately plays difficult concertos by Schobert, Bach, Vogler, Beecké and others with ease. She is always successful in the Allegro and Presto, but never in the Adagio and Largo: for, because of the excessive susceptibility of her nerves, she abhors everything sad. She has good people in her orchestra.”]. The piano/violin sonatas KV 26-31 were dedicated to her. Mozart visited her in 1778 with Fridolin and Aloisia Weber. Cf. No. 0102/24 etc.

²¹ BD: Willem V of Orange, cf. No. 0102/13, 98, 102.

²² BD: “in the Hague” (in 1765).

²³ BD: Wolfgang expects, as in Hohenaltenheim (cf. No. 0370/14), to eat at the officers' meal table, which did in fact happen (cf. No. 0416/18).

²⁴ BD: 66 florins, cf. No. 0416/33 ff.

²⁵ BD: Johann Franz Xaver Sterkel (1750-1817), from 1744 priest (hence “Abbe”), from 1778 chaplain and keyboard soloist in Mainz. 1779-1782 travels in Italy. In charge of music successively in Mainz, Würzburg, Regensburg, Aschaffenburg, Munich, again Würzburg. Also composed.

²⁶ “Oberstjäger v: Haagen”. BD: Franz Karl Joseph, Baron [Freiherr] von Hacke (1745-1780), senior master of the hunt [Oberstjägersmeister] and senior forester [Oberstforstmeister]. Cf. No. 0373/80.

²⁷ = “As usual”.

²⁸ BD: Probably from Sterkel's numerous sonatas for violin and keyboard.

²⁹ BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her.

³⁰ BD: This remark is a joke: it comes at the top of a new page. See “could” etc. in line 57.

[55] Mannheim, 26th Nov:^b
1777.

your faithful son,
Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

If I could find any more space,³¹ I would write 100 000 compliments from the 2 of us, I mean the two of us, to all good friends, both ladies and gentlemen, especially to the A. Adlgassers,³² Andretters,³³ and Arco³⁴ (Count), Herr B Bullinger,³⁵ the Barisanis,³⁶ [60] and Beranitzky,³⁷ C Czernin,³⁸ (Count) Cussetti,³⁹ and the three esteemed Calcants, D the gentlemen Daser,⁴⁰ Deibl⁴¹ and the *Dommes[n]eer*,⁴² E *Mad^{selle}* Eberlin Waberl,⁴³ Herr Estlinger,⁴⁴ and alle *Esln*⁴⁵ in Salzburg, F Firmian,⁴⁶ (Count and Countess, and the little bungler), the little Franz,⁴⁷ and the *Freyhof*⁴⁸ at Peter's, G *Mad^{elle} Mad: et deux Mons.* Gylofsky,⁴⁹ and to the Councillor,⁵⁰ then Herr Gretri,⁵¹ and Gablerbrey,⁵² H the Haydns,⁵³ [65] the Hagenauers,⁵⁴ and little Theresa Hollbrey,⁵⁵ J, Joli (Sallerl),⁵⁶ to Herr Janitsch the violinist,⁵⁷ and to Jacob at the Hagenauers,⁵⁸ K, Herr and Frau von Kürsinger,⁵⁹ Count and Countess Kühnburg,⁶⁰ and Herr Kassel,⁶¹ L, Baron Lehrbach,⁶² Count and Countess Litzauw,⁶³ Count and Countess Lodron,⁶⁴ M, the gentlemen Meissner,⁶⁵ Medlhammer⁶⁶ and Moserbrey,⁶⁷ N, our Nannerl,⁶⁸ the Court Jester Father Florian,⁶⁹ and all nightwatchmen, O,

³¹ BD: Mozart does in fact achieve a complete "litany" from A to Z, with greetings to persons in Salzburg and elsewhere. Cf. Nos. 0362/143; 0385/77.

³² BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777). Salzburg court organist and composer. Cf. No. 0041/17

³³ BD: Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), high official. Cf. No. 0288/50.

³⁴ BD: Leopold Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Arco (1764-1832), probably a pupil of Leopold.(?) Cf. No. 0337/111.

³⁵ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor. Cf. No. 0459/1.

³⁶ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Archbishop of Salzburg. Cf. No. 0270/28.

³⁷ BD: Not definitely identifiable. Cf. No. 0344/112.

³⁸ BD: Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin zu Chudenitz, nephew of the Archbishop. Cf. No. 0340/7.

³⁹ BD: Count [Graf] Giovanni Battista Gussetti (1744-1789), purveyor of materials in Salzburg, music lover, amateur violinist and horn player, member of Czernin's amateur orchestra. Cf. No. 0446/37.

⁴⁰ BD: Johann Georg Daser, a Salzburg tailor. Cf. Nos. 0132/54; 0355/51.

⁴¹ BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (? 1698-1783), oboist, also violinist, in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0063/84.

⁴² Dommesner = cathedral sacristan.

⁴³ BD VII: Maria Barbara Gertrudis Eberlin (1740-1806), daughter of Salzburg music director Eberlin.

⁴⁴ BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional helper for the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0035/43.

⁴⁵ = "Donkeys".

⁴⁶ BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

⁴⁷ BD: Not identified.

⁴⁸ BD: The graveyard at St. Peter's Benedictine church, Salzburg.

⁴⁹ BD: "Miss, Madam and the two Monsieurs Gilowsky": "Katherl", her parents and brother. Cf. No. 0034/17.

⁵⁰ BD: Johann Joseph Anton Ernst von Gilowsky (1739-1789), court councillor [Hofrat]. Cf. No. 0034/17.

⁵¹ BD: André-Ernest Modeste Grétry (1741-1813), French composer.

⁵² BD: Gablerbräu, an inn and brewery in Salzburg.

⁵³ BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806) and family.

⁵⁴ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), the Mozarts' landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁵⁵ BD: Probably a daughter of the owner of the Hollbräu brewery, Joseph Michael Knosp.

⁵⁶ BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0062/41

⁵⁷ BD: Anton Janitsch (1753-1812), court musician in Wallerstein 1774-79 and 1782-85. Cf. No. 0410/41.

⁵⁸ BD: An employee of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), see above.

⁵⁹ BD: Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), chancellor. Cf. No. 0895/49.

⁶⁰ BD: Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), court official. Cf. No. 0034/41.

⁶¹ BD VII: Joseph Thomas Cassel († 1788), court violinist 1777-1788.

⁶² BD: Franz Christoph, Freiherr (later Graf) von Lehrbach, cf. No. 0403/13-15.

⁶³ BD: For Antonie, Countess [Gräfin] Lützwow, Mozart wrote the clavier concerto KV 246. Cf. No. 0319/37.

⁶⁴ BD: For Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780), Mozart composed divertimenti KV 247, KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H); for her and her two daughters the concerto for three claviers KV 242. Cf. No. 0319/27.

⁶⁵ BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), singer. Cf. No. 0053/99.

⁶⁶ BD: Joseph Mödlhammer, landlord of an inn in the Getreidegasse in Salzburg.

⁶⁷ BD: The owner of the Moserbräu brewery, Judengasse 1, was Rupert Egger.

[70] Count Oxenstirn,⁷⁰ the esteemed *Oberbereiter*,⁷¹ and all oxen in Salzburg, P, the Prex's,⁷² Count Pranck,⁷³ Master of the Kitchens, and Count Perusa,⁷⁴ Q, Herr Ouilibet, quodlibet, and all quackers, R: Father Florian Reichsigel,⁷⁵ the Robinigs,⁷⁶ and *maestro* Rust,⁷⁷ S, Herr Suscipe,⁷⁸ Herr Seiffert,⁷⁹ and all swine in Salzburg, T, Herr Tanzberger,⁸⁰ our butcher, our Thresel,⁸¹ and to all trumpeters, U, to the town of Ulm, [75] and Utrecht, and to all *Uhren*⁸² in Salzburg if one puts an h in front of it, W, to the Wiesers,⁸³ Wurstmacher⁸⁴ Hans, and to little Wolfgang, X, to Xantipe, to Xerxes, and to all whose name begins with an x, Y, to Herr *Ypsilon*,⁸⁵ to Herr Ybrig,⁸⁶ and to all whose name begins with a y, but finally z, to Herr Zabuesnig,⁸⁷ H: Zonca,⁸⁸ and Herr Zezi⁸⁹ in the castle. *Addlieu*.⁹⁰ [80] If I had had room, I would certainly have writed something more, and certainly at least compliments to my good friends, but it cannot be thus, I don't know where I could write anything. I cannot write anysible senthing today, for I am completely meside byself. Tapa should not pake offence at it, this is simply today I am how, I can it help not. Weep kell. [85] I good you wish night. Sly soundleep. Wixt the neth post I will certainly site more wrensibly.⁹¹

⁶⁸ Mozart's sister.

⁶⁹ BD: Cf. line 72. Father Florian Reichssiegel (1735-1793), Benedictine, professor 1716-1775, wrote plays.

⁷⁰ BD: Probably the Swedish statesman Axel, Count Oxenstierna. Mozart's rendering means "ox-brow".

⁷¹ BD: Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler], (1731-1816), senior master of the stables. Cf. No. 0354/5

⁷² BD: Dr. Johann Prex, Salzburg physician, met the Mozarts in Paris, and his son. Cf. Nos. 0109/89; 0110/4.

⁷³ "graf". BD: Andrea Gottlieb, Baron(!) [Freiherr] von Pranck (1720-1793). Officer. Cf. No. 0379/71.

⁷⁴ "graf". BD: Probably the Maximilian, Count [Graf] Perusa mentioned in Nos. 0379/71 and 0448/147.

⁷⁵ BD: Cf. line 69.

⁷⁶ BD: Family of factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). Cf. No. 0016/67.

⁷⁷ BD VII: Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741-1786), 1776-1777 music director in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0331/96.

⁷⁸ BD: Not identifiable. Latinised name as nickname?

⁷⁹ BD: Perhaps Johann Gottfried Seyfert of Augsburg, cf. No. 0016/51.

⁸⁰ BD: Nothing known.

⁸¹ BD: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

⁸² = "Watches, clocks." But with an 'h' in front it sounds like *Huren* = whores.

⁸³ BD: Probably family of Ignaz Anton Weiser (1701-1785), merchant, later mayor. Cf. No. 0053/8.

⁸⁴ = "Sausage-maker". BD: The person has not been identified.

⁸⁵ = name in alphabet for letter y.

⁸⁶ 'Ybrig' sounds like 'Übrig' = left over, remaining. A desperate invention as a name?

⁸⁷ BD: Johann Christoph Zabuesnig (1747-1827), merchant, mayor, later priest, writer. Cf. No. 0331/50.

⁸⁸ BD: Giovanni Battista Zoncha (1728-1809), bass in Mannheim then Munich. Cf. Nos. 0485/36; 0570/44.

⁸⁹ BD: Johann Bernhard Zezi, owner of a textiles shop. Cf. No. 0216/64. He was in financial difficulties at this time, but there is no evidence that he was imprisoned in the castle.

⁹⁰ Playing with *adieu* and *lieu* (= place)?

⁹¹ = "I cannot write anything sensible today, for I am completely beside myself. Papa should not take offence at it, this is simply how I am today, I cannot help it. Keep well. I wish you good night. Sleep soundly. With the next post I will certainly write more sensibly."