

0663. MOZART TO HIS SISTER,<sup>1</sup> SALZBURG

*À / Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marie Anne / de Mozart / à / Salzburg.*

*Ma très chère soeur!*

*vienne ce 13 fevrier 1782<sup>2</sup>*

Thank you for the booklet<sup>3</sup> you sent me, which I was indeed awaiting with the greatest longing! [5] – I hope that when you receive this letter you will have our dear, our best of fathers with you again.<sup>4</sup> – You should not conclude from the fact that I do not answer you that you are burdening me by writing!<sup>5</sup> – I will always have the greatest pleasure in being granted the honour of receiving a letter from you, dear sister; – [10] If my necessary activities |: to earn my keep |: would allow, God knows that I would answer you! – Have I then never answered you at all? – Well then – it cannot be forgetfulness – nor indolence. – Therefore it is nothing but direct hindrance – pure impossibility! – Do I not write little enough to my father? – [15] Bad enough, you will say! – But, for God’s sake – you both know Vienna, after all! – Does a person |: who does not have a single kreuzer of secure income<sup>6</sup> |: not have enough to think about and to work on day and night in such a place? – – Our father, after carrying out his church duties, and you, after attending to your couple of *pupils*, you can both do what you like the whole day [20] and write letters that contain entire *litanies* – but I cannot. – I recently wrote telling my father how my day runs, and I would like to repeat it to you. – My hair is always *dressed* by 6 in the morning. – At 7 o’clock I am completely attired. – Then I compose until 9 o’clock. From 9 to 1 o’clock I give my *lessons*. – Then I eat, if I am not a guest somewhere, [25] in which case they eat at 2 o’clock and even 3, as today and tomorrow with Countess Zizi<sup>7</sup> and Countess Thun.<sup>8</sup> – I cannot do any work earlier than 5 five o’clock in the evening or 6 o’clock – and I am often prevented from doing so by a *concert*; if not, I compose until 9 o’clock. – Then I go to my dear Konstanz – but there the pleasure of seeing each other is generally soured by her mother’s<sup>9</sup> bitter talk [30] – which I will explain to my father in the next letter – and this is the origin of my wish to liberate and rescue<sup>10</sup> her as soon as possible. – At half past 10 or 11 I get home; – that depends on how I am under fire from her mother, or on my strength in holding it out. – Since I cannot rely on composing in the evenings because of the *concerts* that come up and also because of the uncertainty about whether I might be called on to go here or there, my custom is |: especially if I come home earlier |: still to

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Mozart’s sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), 1751-1829.

<sup>2</sup> = “To Mademoiselle Marie Anne de Mozart in Salzburg. / My very dear sister! / Vienna, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1782.”

<sup>3</sup> BD: The text of *Idomeneo*, needed for a concert in Vienna. Cf. Mozart’s request in No. 0661/8-10.

<sup>4</sup> BD: As was his habit in later years, Leopold had gone to Munich for the Carnival season, cf. No. 0669/6.

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 0662, lost.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Small coin: 60 kreuzers = 1 florin. Mozart is more open about his financial insecurity with Nannerl than with Leopold. What Mozart writes in No. 0660/12 ff. about the financial basis for his marriage are simply optimistic hopes for the future.

<sup>7</sup> “gräfin Zizi”. BD: Anna Maria, Countess [Gräfin] Zichy, wife of Count [Graf] Karl Zichy, Court Counsellor, pupil of Mozart (perhaps his fourth pupil in Vienna).

<sup>8</sup> “gräfin Thun”. BD: Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800), Vienna, appears frequently in the letters as a patroness of Mozart, although only until 1782. Wife of Johann Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason. It was there that Mozart lodged with his wife returning from Salzburg in 1783 and wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425. She was also acquainted with Baron van Swieten. Cf. Nos. 0585/57, 85; 0766/16; 0863/8.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793), married Franz Fridolin Weber in 1756. They had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son. The daughter Aloisia was a particularly gifted singer and became a focus for Mozart’s romantic aspirations in Mannheim and for some time afterwards (cf. No. 0405/29), but he married another sister, Constanze.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0648/84; 0660/64; 0663/31-32; 0669/84.

compose something before going to bed. – Then I often get carried away with composing until 1 o'clock – and then up again at 6 six o'clock. –

Dearest sister! – If you believe that I could ever forget my dearest, my best of fathers [40] and you, then – – yet hush! God knows, and that gives me peace enough; – let him punish me if I am capable of that! – *Adieu* – I am eternally

*P.S.* I kiss the hands of my dearest father,

1000 times if he is already

[45] in Salzburg.

your sincere brother

W. A: Mozart