

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold de Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle /
à / Salzbourg¹

Linz. 31st oct:^{bre}
1783

[5] We arrived here safely yesterday morning at 9 o'clock. – On the first day we spent the night in Vögelbruck². – On the next we reached *Lambach*³ in the course of the morning. – and I came just in time to accompany the *Agnus Dei* on the organ at sung Mass. – for the esteemed Prelate, it was the greatest joy to see me again. – he also told me the *anecdote* concerning himself and you in Salzburg [10]. – We spent the whole day there, and I played on the organ and on a *clavichord*. – I heard that an *opera* would be performed the next day in Ebersperg⁴ in the home of the esteemed Administrator⁵ Steurer |: whose spouse is the sister of Frau von *Barisani*⁶ :|. – almost the whole of Linz would therefore be gathered there. – So I decided to attend as well, and drove there. – [15] at that the young Count Thun⁷ |: brother of the Thun in Vienna⁸ :| came to me at once and told me that his esteemed father had already been expecting me for a fortnight, and I should just drive straight on to see him, for I must lodge with him. – I said I would certainly stop at an inn. – As we reached the gate of *Linz* the next day, a servant was already there to lead us to the old Count Thun, [20] where we are now in fact *lodging*. – I cannot adequately tell you how much courtesy everyone in this house has poured on us. – On Tuesday, 4th *November*, I will give a *concert* here in the theatre. – and because I do not have a single *symphony* with me, I am working at breakneck speed on a new one, which must be ready by then.⁹ – [25] Now I must close, because I absolutely must work. – My wife and I kiss your hands, beg forgiveness that we have inconvenienced you so long, and thank you once again for all the [...] ¹⁰ that we received. Now I wish you well in every way. – To Gretl, Heinrich |: about whom I have already spoken great deal here :| and Hannj¹¹ we send hearty greetings. – [30] To Gretl in particular I send the message that she should not look like a flatterer¹² when singing; for all that licking and kissing is not always pleasant. – Only stupid donkeys can be deceived by that kind of thing. – I at least would sooner be able to tolerate a farmer's boy who is not shy about shitting before my eyes and pissing than to allow myself be coarsely cajoled by such false poking and stoking, [35] which is of course so exaggerated that

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold de Mozart / music director / in / Salzburg”.

² BD: Vöcklabruck.

³ BD: Mozart had also stayed there in 1769 and 1773. The monastery contains manuscripts of works by Mozart and his father.

⁴ BD: Ebersperg, now part of Linz.

⁵ “Pfleger”.

⁶ BD: Wife of Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

⁷ “graf thun”. BD: one of the brothers of Johann Joseph Anton, Graf Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason, husband of Mozart's patroness, Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800). It was there that Mozart lodged with his wife returning from Salzburg in 1783 and Mozart wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425. Cf. Nos. 0766/16; 0863/8.

⁸ BD: His wife appears frequently in the letters as a patroness of Mozart, although only until 1782. She was also acquainted with Baron van Swieten.

⁹ BD: KV 425, the “Linz” Symphony.

¹⁰ BD: One word missing (end of page).

¹¹ BD: Margarete and Heinrich Marchand; Johanna Brochard. Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe joined him in February, 1782. Maria Johanna Brochard (*1775), from 1783 the third boarder learning in the Mozarts' home in Salzburg.

¹² “fuchsschwanz” [lit. “foxtail”]. BD: Grimm gives “flatterer” as one of the possible meanings.

one can smell it and taste it. – Now Adieu. – We kiss our dear sister wholeheartedly. – I am,
sir, eternally your most grateful son, W. A: Mozart mp¹³

¹³ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.