

*Mon très cher Père!*¹ –

*Vienne ce 10
de dec.^{bre} 1783*

I am just writing to you in the greatest haste that I have already bought the *opera* the *Rauchfangkehrer*² for 6 ducats³ and have it at home. – [5] if the post-coach goes to Salzburg on the coming Sunday, I will send it along with the 2 *concertos*; – if not, I will simply send them by letter post. – Regarding the money, I would then ask you simply to deduct the 4 ducats⁴ which you were kind enough to lay out me; – the *opera* *frà due Littiganti*⁵ has not been translated into German. – to judge by your letter, you think the *Rauchfangkehrer* is an Italian *opera*. [10] – No, it is a German and furthermore a Miserable *original* piece with *Doctor Auernbrucker*⁶ of Vienna as its author. – You will remember that I told you about how Herr Fischer⁷ *satirised* it publicly on stage. – no doubt Herr Kuhne⁸ will have the fine little text book for it? – I ask you to pass on many greetings to him and to her from both of us. [15] –concerning Herr Lange and his wife,⁹ only this much is true: that he has received permission from His Majesty¹⁰ to go on a journey for some months; – and before their departure they will give an *opera* for their benefit, and this will be my Abduction from the Seraglio. – but not a word concerning Herr Schröder¹¹ is true. –

[20] Meanwhile you will have already have received my last letter. – Do everything you can to make my libretto¹² turn out well. – I would wish I could also bring the two ladies down from the *bastion* in the first *act* when they sing the *arias*. – I am happy to let them sing the entire *finale* up there. –

[25] Regarding the poor, round, fat and dear little boy,¹³ both of us are truly sorry. – Now I must close, dearest, best of fathers! – We both kiss your hands, and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children,

W: et C: Mozart

[30]

to Gretl, Heinrich and Hannchen¹⁴

1.000000000 little kisses. – *Adieu*

P.S. to Nannerl from both of us: 1st a couple of clips round the ears

2nd a couple of blows on the cakehole, 3rd a couple of raps, 4th a couple of

[35] clouts. – 5th a couple of biffs, and 6th a couple of thwacks in the teeth. –

¹ = “Vienna, this 10th day of December, 1783 / My very dear father!”

² BD: *Der Rauchfangkehrer* [The Chimneysweep], a musical comedy in three acts by Antonio Salieri.

³ BD: = 27 florins.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0770/87.

⁵ BD: *Fra i due litiganti il terzo gode: dramma giocoso* by Giuseppe Sarti (1729-1802), text by C Goldoni.

⁶ BD: Josef Leopold Auenbrugger; Mozart heard his two skilled daughters playing the piano in summer, 1773.

⁷ BD: Johann Ignaz Ludwig Fischer, pupil of Raaff, distinguished singer. Mozart wrote at least one “*scena*” for him.

⁸ BD: Actor/manager; cf. No. 0765/32 etc.

⁹ BD: Joseph and Aloisia Lange. He was an actor, Aloisia was a distinguished singer, one of the Weber daughters and thus Mozart’s sister-in-law, but also his first major romantic interest.

¹⁰ “S: M: Erlaubnüss”. Permission from the Emperor, Joseph II.

¹¹ BD: The actor Friedrich Ludwig Schröder; cf. No. 0604/78. What Mozart is referring to is not known.

¹² BD: *L’oca del Cairo*, on which Verasco was working in Salzburg.

¹³ BD: The Mozarts’ first child died in the home of his wet-nurse while his parents were in Salzburg.

¹⁴ 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.

P.S. We ask you not to forget the matter with *Tomaselli*:¹⁵ then, if you could send us a couple of little *Loretto* children¹⁶ at a suitable opportunity? But then most importantly about young *Liserl*, who frequently came to the house, *Theresel's* cousin.¹⁷ If she wants to come to Vienna, we will take her right away.¹⁸

[40] Now *adieu* in earnest.

¹⁵ BD: The ointment recipe mentioned in No. 0770/92.

¹⁶ BD: The Mozarts had often had Masses read for them at "The Holy Child at Loretto", e.g. No. 0103/143-144. Small replicas of this famous figure could also be purchased.

¹⁷ BD: *Therese Pänckl*, serving girl in the Mozart household in Salzburg.

¹⁸ BD: Mozart's experiences with "Liserl" were not happy. (Cf. No. 0793/24 ff.)