

Dearest little wife of my heart!

[Frankfurt, 30th September, 1790]

If only I already had a letter from you, I would feel everything was in order. – I hope you have received my letter from Efferding and the one from Frankfurt.² – in my last one I wrote saying you should speak to Redcurrant-Face;³ [5] – what I would most prefer, to be on the safe side, would be to receive 2000 florins as a *transfer* from H;⁴ – but then you must pretend another reason for it, namely that I have a *speculation* in mind of which you know nothing; – My love! I can doubtless be sure of earning something here – but it will certainly not be as sure as you and various friends imagine. – I am well enough known and respected here, that much is sure. – Now – let us see. – But, whatever happens, I prefer to play a safe game, therefore I would like to do the business with H,³ because that way I receive money and do not need to pay any, but simply work, and that is what I want to do, most willingly indeed, for the sake of my little wife. – [15] When you write to me, always write *poste restante*.⁵ – Where do you think I am staying? – in the same house as *Böhm*;⁶ and so is Hofer. – We are paying 30 gulden⁷ per month, and even this is exceptionally little.⁸ – We also have our board with them. Whom do you think I met here? – The girl with whom I so often played hide-and-seek in the Aug-Gottes⁹ – [20] her name was Buchner, I think. – Now her name is *Mad:me* Porsch,¹⁰ and she has married for the second time. – She asked me to send you all best wishes from her when I write. –

Since I do not know if you are in Vienna or in Baaden,¹¹ I am *addressing* this letter to Hofer's wife¹² again. – I am looking forward like a child to being with to you again [25] – if people could see into my heart,¹³ I would almost have to be ashamed. – Everything is cold for me – ice-cold – Yes, if you were with me, I would perhaps find more pleasure in the charming behaviour of people towards me, – but, as it is, it is empty – *adieu* – love – I am eternally,

Frankfurt am Main

[30] the 30th Sept. 790

loving you with his whole soul, your
Mozart mp¹⁴

¹ BD: Original lost, *olim* Arturo Toscanini. Copy Bspk. Edition NissenB.

² BD: Letters 1133 and 1135.

³ BD: Stadler(?), cf. No. 1135/28, No. 1139/38.

⁴ BD: Here and line 12: Certainly Franz Anton Hoffmeister (1754-1812), composer and publisher, Mozart's main publisher during his lifetime. He signed to share the liability on Mozart's loan.

⁵ Post held at the post office, from where it is to be collected directly.

⁶ BD: Johann Friedrich Böhm (1740/50 – 1792), director of a well-known touring troupe of actors.

⁷ Effectively 30 florins.

⁸ BD: In a letter of 12th June, 1790, to Fritz von Stein, Goethe's wife estimated prices in Frankfurt at the time of the coronation as follows: A single room 11 florins per day, meals for the day 2 florins (= gulden).

⁹ BD: "God's Eye". The house in Vienna in which Cäcilia Weber lived and where Mozart stayed for a short time in 1781 after the rupture with Archbishop Hieronymus.

¹⁰ BD: Now a respected member of the National Theatre, performing both in the opera and in tragic roles in plays.

¹¹ BD: The spa Baden, about 25 km south of Vienna where Constanze had already been treated earlier in the year, cf. note on No. 1128.

¹² BD: Josepha, Constanze's elder sister.

¹³ BD: Cf. the parallel passage in No. 1139/19 ff.

¹⁴ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.