

1182. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN<sup>1</sup> BY VIENNA

*À / Madame / Madame Costance de Mozart / à / Baaden.<sup>2</sup> / to be delivered to the esteemed Legal Officer.<sup>3</sup>*

Dearest, most treasured little wife! –

[Vienna, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1791]

It was with indescribable pleasure that I heard the news<sup>4</sup> you had received the money safely;<sup>5</sup> – I cannot remember writing to you saying you should settle all the accounts! How then could I, as a reasonable creature, write that?<sup>6</sup> – It is like this: – it must have happened in the midst of busy thoughts! – which is certainly possible at the moment, when I have so many important things in my head. – my intentions were focused only on the spa. – [10] the rest is for your use – – and whatever else has to be paid, for which I have already made my calculations, I will settle myself when I arrive there. – At just this moment *Blanchard*<sup>7</sup> will either rise – or make fools of the Viennese for the third time! –

The adventure with *Blanchard* is not at all to my liking today – [15] it robs me of the conclusion of my business – *X.Y.*<sup>8</sup> promised to call on me before he drove out there – but did not come – perhaps he will come when the fun is over – I will wait until 2 o'clock – then I will throw a little food into my stomach – and go looking for him everywhere. – This is not a pleasant life at all. – Patience! It will certainly get better – then I will rest from it all in your arms! [20] –

I thank you for your advice not to rely completely on *X.Y.*<sup>9</sup> – but in cases of this kind one must have dealings with only one person – if one turns to 2 or 3 – and the business goes everywhere – one then becomes in the eyes of others, which is unacceptable, a fool or an unreliable man. [25]

– But now you can give me no greater pleasure than if you are happy and in good spirits – for as long as I know for sure that you lack nothing – all my efforts are sweet and pleasant to me; – for the most threatening and confused situation in which I could ever find myself [30] becomes a mere trifle when I know that you are in good health and spirits. – and now I hope that everything may go truly well with you – make use of your little table jester<sup>10</sup> – both of you should often think and speak about me – love me eternally as I love you, and be eternally my *Stanzi Marini*, as I will eternally be your

[35]

*Stu!*<sup>11</sup> – *Cracker backer* –  
*snip – snap – snore* –  
*sweetly boy.*  
*snai!*<sup>12</sup> –

<sup>1</sup> BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Next to the address (in Constanze's hand?) there is a sum: 
$$\begin{array}{r} 49 \\ 27 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$

1 florin 25

<sup>3</sup> “Hr: Syndikus”. BD: Johann Georg Grundgeyer, Constanze's landlord in Baden (cf. note on No. 1153/17).

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 1181 (lost).

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1179/2-3.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Mozart had in fact told Constanze to settle only the spa accounts; cf. No. 1179/2-3.

<sup>7</sup> BD: François Blanchard (1753-1809), hot air balloonist. After two unsuccessful attempts, in March and May, 1791, Blanchard successfully travelled from a park in Vienna to Gross-Enzendorf outside the town on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1791. The Viennese had previously seen an unmanned and moored balloon rise in 1784.

<sup>8</sup> BD: One short word crossed out by Nissen.

<sup>9</sup> BD: One letter crossed out by Nissen.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Süßmayer.

<sup>11</sup> BD VI corrects “stu” to “str” in analogy with No. 1089/15: Str. = *Serviteur* = servant. DME has “stu”.

Give <Süssmayr>.<sup>13</sup> a clip round the ears, and say you had to swat a fly which I had seen!

[40] – adieu. Catch! – Catch! – – sm – sm – sm 3 smacking little kisses, sugar-sweet, are flying towards you!<sup>14</sup> –

Wednesday. Vienna, the 6<sup>th</sup> Jullii, 791

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<sup>12</sup> “Stu! – *Knaller paller* – / *schnip – schnap – schnur* – / Schnepeperl / Snai”. No overall sense recognisable. According to *Idioticon Austriacum, das ist: Mundart der Oesterreicher...*, Ignaz von Sonnleitner, Vienna, 1824, “Schnepeperl” can be a term of endearment for boys called “Joseph”. Mozart seems to use “Snai” for Süssmayer. BD: Reminiscent of No. 1092/26.

<sup>13</sup> Reconstructed text from DME.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 1157/23-24; 1170/37-39.