

1193. MOZART TO HIS WIFE, BADEN¹ BY VIENNA

Dearest, most treasured little wife! –

Friday at half past 10
at night.

[Vienna, 7th and 8th October, 1791]

I have just come in from the opera;² – it was just as full as ever. – [5] The *duet Man and Woman*³ etc. and the Little Bells⁴ in the first act were as usual repeated – as was the Boys' Trio⁵ in the 2nd Act – but what gives me the most joy is the silent applause! – One sees clearly how this opera is waxing strongly and increasingly. Now to the life I am leading: – immediately after you had set sail, I played 2 games of *billiards*⁶ with Herr von Mozart |: [10] who wrote the opera being performed at Schickaneder's :|. – Then I sold my nag for 14 ducats.⁷ – then I sent *Joseph*⁸ to call *Primus*⁹ to bring black coffee, at the same time puffing away at a wonderful pipe of tobacco; then I did the *instrumentation* for almost the whole of Stadler's *Rondó*.¹⁰ In the meantime, a letter came from Stadler in Prague; – the Duschecks¹¹ are all well; [10] – it seems to me they cannot have received a letter from you at all – and yet I can hardly believe that! – Enough – they all know about the wonderful reception of my German opera¹² already. –

The strangest thing in all this is that on the evening when my new opera was performed for the first time to so much applause, on the same evening *Tito*¹³ was performed for the last time in Prague, also with exceptional applause. – All the numbers were applauded.¹⁴ – *Bedini*¹⁵ sang better than ever before. – The *little duet in A* for the 2 Girls¹⁶ was *repeated* – and they would have liked – if they had not been sparing *Marchetti*¹⁷ – to have had the *Rondó*¹⁸ repeated too. – For *Stodla*¹⁹ |: Oh Bohemian miracle! – he writes :| [25] there were shouts of *bravo* from the parterre and even from the *orchestra*. But I also put some real hard work into it, he writes; – he also wrote |: *Stodla* :| that he [. . . .]²⁰ and now I see that he

¹ BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now she had returned, on 7th October, 1791, with her sister Sophie and probably the two-month-old Franz Xaver.

² BD: *The Magic Flute*, whose première took place on 30th September, 1791.

³ BD: No. 7, “*Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen*”.

⁴ BD: “*Das klinget so herrlich*”.

⁵ BD: No. 16, “*Seid uns zum zweitenmal willkommen*”.

⁶ BD: Mozart's estate included 1 billiard table with green cloth and 5 balls.

⁷ BD: Mozart's financial situation obviously no longer permitted keeping a horse, although riding had been recommended to him for health reasons.

⁸ BD: Probably Joseph Preisinger, landlord of the inn “Zur goldenen Schlange”.

⁹ BD: Supposedly the nickname of the waiter Joseph Deiner in the inn “Zur goldenen Schlange”.

¹⁰ BD: i.e. the third movement of the clarinet concerto KV 622. Stadler: BD: The clarinetist Anton Paul Stadler (1753-1812), who stayed on in Prague for some time after Mozart returned to Vienna. Stadler worked constantly on extending the range of his instrument.

¹¹ BD: Franz Xaver Duscek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague, and his wife Josepha (1753-1824), a singer. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

¹² BD: *The Magic Flute*.

¹³ BD: *La clemenza di Tito* KV 621, final evening 30th September, 1791.

¹⁴ BD: These five words added afterwards by Mozart at the end of the page.

¹⁵ BD: See the list of singers in the “*Verzeichnüß*”, No. 1189/17.

¹⁶ BD: No. 7, “*Ah perdona al primo affetto*”.

¹⁷ BD: See the list of singers in the “*Verzeichnüß*”, No. 1189/16.

¹⁸ BD: No. 19, “*Deh per questo ostante solo*”.

¹⁹ BD: = Stadler; Mozart mimics the dialect pronunciation.

²⁰ BD: Half a line crossed out by Nissen. DME speaks of “c. 6 words”.

is a donkey – [. . . .],²¹ not *Stodla*, I mean – – he is only a bit of a donkey, not a complete one – but that <Süssmayer>²² – Yes, him, he is a real donkey. –

[30] At half past 5 I went out beyond the Stubenthor²³ – and took my *favourite* walk across the *glacis* to the theatre – what do I see? – What do I smell? – – It is *Don Primus* with the those pork chops! – *che gusto!*²⁴ – I eat to your health – it is just striking 11; – perhaps you are already asleep? – Sh! Sh! Sh! – I will not wake you! –

[35] Saturday 8th. – You should have seen me yesterday at my evening meal! – I could not find the old cutlery, so I took out a snowdrop-white set – and the double candlestick with wax candles in front of me! – According to the letter from [. . . .],²⁵ the Italians should already have passed through here²⁶ – Duscheck’s wife, too, has certainly received one letter from you, [40] for he writes: the *affection*²⁷ was very satisfied with Mathie’s copy, she said: I like the DONKEY – or *DONKEY* the way he is. – Press [. . . .]²⁸ so that he copies for [. . . .],²⁹ for he made a very urgent request to me about it. – Now you will no doubt be in the middle of the best swimming as I write this.³⁰ – The *hairdresser* came *punctually* at 6 o’clock – and *Primus* had already got the fire going at half past 5 and wakened me at quarter to 6. [45] – Why does it have to rain now, of all times? – I was hoping that you would have fine weather! – Just keep yourself nicely warm so that you do not catch cold; I hope that the baths will make for a good winter for you – for it was only the wish that you should remain well that made me urge you to go to Baaden. – [50] Now time is passing truly slowly for me because of you – I had foreseen all of that. – If I had had nothing to do, I would have come out at once for a week with you; – but out there it is not comfortable at all for working; – and I would very much like, as far as possible, to avoid any embarrassment; there is nothing more pleasant than when one can live in a degree of peace, for which reason one should work hard, and I am happy to do that. [55] –

<Give Süssmayr>³¹ in my name a couple of solid clips round the ears, and I also ask [. . .]³² |: I kiss her 1000 times |: to give him a few as well – but, for God’s sake, do not on any account be niggardly with him! – By all that is good in the world, I do not wish to be confronted by him today or tomorrow with an accusation that you had not served him fittingly and provided for him [60] – – give him more blows rather than too few –

It would be good if the two of you could attach a crayfish to his nose, knock out an eye, or otherwise cause a visible wound, so that the fellow cannot later deny what he has received from you; – [65] *adieu* dear little wife! – The coach wants to leave. – I firmly hope to read something from you today, and in this sweet hope I kiss you 1000 times and am eternally your

husband who loves you
W. A. Mozart mp³³

²¹ BD: A name of some length crossed out by Nissen. DME speaks of “c. 3 words”.

²² BD: A name of some length crossed out by Nissen. DME reads “Süssmayer[?]”.

²³ BD: One of the four oldest gates of Vienna, for a time also known as the Hungarian Gate. Demolished in 1858.

²⁴ = What a taste!

²⁵ BD: One word crossed out by Nissen.

²⁶ BD: Probably referring to a wandering theatre company.

²⁷ BD: Incomprehensible.

²⁸ BD: One word crossed out by Nissen. Süssmayr?

²⁹ BD: One word crossed out by Nissen. Stadler?

³⁰ BD: The spa treatment.

³¹ BD: Crossed out by Nissen. DME has “Give Süssmayr”.

³² BD: One word crossed out by Nissen. Sophie, Constanze’s sister?

³³ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.