

[Vienna, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1762]

On the 4<sup>th</sup> I wrote both to His High Princely Grace<sup>3</sup> and to the gracious Father Confessor,<sup>4</sup> and formulated both missives<sup>5</sup> in the form my best friends demanded. [5] I also enclosed a comprehensive apology for not being able to reach Salzburg at the appointed time; in short, I cannot reach Salzburg before Christmas or New Year. The circumstances of all this I will have to give you in person in due time. While reading this, you will be thinking of our esteemed Court Sculptor;<sup>6</sup> [10] yes, perhaps you have already reflected to yourself on whether all who come to Vienna are enchanted into staying there. It is almost true; but my reasons will solve the puzzle for you.

The letter<sup>7</sup> which I received from His Excellency the Royal High Steward<sup>8</sup> on the 28<sup>th</sup> November is dated the 29<sup>th</sup> Octobris and thus reached my hands one month after being sent, or, more precisely, on the first Sunday in Advent,<sup>9</sup> and indeed direct from the post-office. [15] But I must conclude that it was not waiting at the post-office before that date because I myself had asked about it at the post-office once, and Estlinger<sup>10</sup> 3 times. The letter is written so politely and in a fairly friendly manner, so that one would almost not suspect anything malicious. Enough; if relevant, I will reveal the reason to that gracious patron who told you. [20]

That your son Herr Joseph<sup>11</sup> has left for Venice is delightful, but it is a pity for us that we did not have the honour of seeing him before his departure. Could he then not have travelled to Venice via Vienna and Constantinople? – – The circumstances of Herr Lorenz<sup>12</sup> move me, and I share in your sadness. [25] Now, this is simply how things are. God will do what advances the salvation of his soul. By all appearances there was little hope of anything good, and yet I still hope for it.

Good that we are not at home now! We are shying away from the pox; it would even like to climb up to us.<sup>13</sup> – – You see, now you know the reason why we do not want to come home. [30] I hope it all passes off felicitously.

The Ironic Hare<sup>14</sup> was very happy to have been served to you; the important thing is that it was good. I would only wish that more things of the same kind would come into your hands. The preceding was written yesterday. Now I have received today your letter<sup>15</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Schiedermaier IV.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>3</sup> “S: Hochf: gnaden”. Leopold’s employer, the Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Ferdinand Joseph Mayr (1733-1792), confessor to the Archbishop until his death in 1771.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Nos. 0043 and 0044.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Hagenauer (1732-1810), a distant relative of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer already mentioned often in the correspondence. Trained in Bavaria, Vienna and Italy (1759-1765). Served the Archbishop of Salzburg until 1774.

<sup>7</sup> BD: No. 0035a, the answer to No. 0038.

<sup>8</sup> “OberstHofMster”. BD: Salzburg Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786). member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8).

<sup>9</sup> BD: 28 November 1762.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Joseph Richard Estlinger, bassoonist and copyist, occasional “factotum” to the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0035/43.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Hagenauer’s second son, Ignaz Joseph Hagenauer (1743-1780), cf. No. 0032.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1744-1770), third son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, currently a student but now taken ill.

<sup>13</sup> BD: They were staying on the third floor; colourfully ironical explanation for staying in Vienna.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Perhaps a roast hare. Context unknown.

<sup>15</sup> BD: No. 44a.

inst. And I received it just as I came back home from Herr von Wallau's.<sup>16</sup> [35] In truth, I had already decided to leave all of a sudden and arrive in Salzburg on the Feast of St. Thomas.<sup>17</sup> But as I came to Herr von Wallau and informed him of this, yes, left it to his decision and his word, he took responsibility. Yes, he said to me, a fortnight or three weeks would not prevent His High Princely Grace<sup>18</sup> being lenient with me for satisfying the wishes of the Hungarian nobility as well. [40] For I must tell you that for 3 weeks now we have been plagued constantly with requests to leave for Pressburg<sup>19</sup> after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.<sup>20</sup> Now, this solicitation became more pressing when we spoke with the most important Hungarians<sup>21</sup> at the public banquet<sup>22</sup> on the Emperor's birthday.<sup>23</sup> [45] So tomorrow we leave for Pressburg, only I do not envisage holding out there for more than a week. Herr von Wallau himself wishes to write to our court, for he has taken the matter upon himself; otherwise I would leave immediately. For I do not in fact know if I will profit so much from Pressburg. In the meantime, say to His High Worthiness and Grace<sup>24</sup> the gracious Father Confessor, [50] with my most obedient compliments, that if I were in any way in danger of losing the favour of His High Princely Grace by this, I am ready to go to Salzburg at his first nod. Now there are still many things that would keep us here for at least another month. For, just imagine, Count Durazzo,<sup>25</sup> music director<sup>26</sup> at the court here, [55] has not yet been able arrange for us to play at his *accademie*<sup>27</sup> or public *concert*. If we were able to agree on this, we could hold out here until Lent and until Easter, and earn a pretty sum every week. You will be thinking that Vienna turns everybody insane. Yes, in truth, if I hold Salzburg and Vienna alongside each other in certain respects, I would soon end up in confusion. [60] Enough. If God grants us health, I hope to wish you a blessed New Year straight from the coach. In the meantime, I wish the maidens Ursula and Francisca<sup>28</sup> a good recovery, but to you, and in particular to your esteemed wife, I wish long endurance, and am

Your

[65]  
10<sup>th</sup> Decembris, 1762

Sincere friend  
Mozart

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<sup>16</sup> BD: Gottfried von Wallau, Imperial Court Councillor's Agent [Reichshofratsagent], in this capacity representative of the Salzburg Prince [Fürst] in Vienna between 1752 and 1770. Cf. No. 0042/29.

<sup>17</sup> BD: 21 December.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Perhaps a roast hare. Context unknown.

<sup>19</sup> "Sr Hochf: gnaden".

<sup>20</sup> BD: 8 December.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Probably primarily the Pálffy family.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0042/21.

<sup>23</sup> BD: 8 December (1708).

<sup>24</sup> "H: ihro Hochwürden und gnaden".

<sup>25</sup> BD: Jacobo, Conte di Durazzo (1717-1794), from 1754 General Director of Spectacles ["Generalspektakeldirektor"], from 1760 also Music Count ["Musik-Graf"] in Vienna, from 1764 Imperial Ambassador ["Kaiserlicher Gesandter"] in Venice..

<sup>26</sup> "Music-Director".

<sup>27</sup> "Academy" is often used in the correspondence for public concerts.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Two of Hagenauer's daughters, Ursula (1753-1831) and Franziska (1755-1836). Ursula remained unmarried and took over the family business from 1800. She married the lawyer and civil servant Franz Pichler (1753-1820); in 1831 she sold the family business to her accountant, Joseph Schüler.