

0164. MOZART TO HIS SISTER,¹ SALZBURG

*Cara sorella mia.*²

[Milan, 3rd March, 1770]

I am indeed wholeheartedly glad that you had such a good time, but you must believe that I have not had a good time, but, yes, I could not count how often, I believe that we were certainly at the *opera* 6 or 7 times and were then at the *fiesta di balo*,³ [5] which begins, as in Vienna, after the *opera*, but with the difference that there is more order in the dancing in Vienna. We also saw the *facchinad*⁴ and the *chicherad*,⁵ that is, a *masquerade*, which is fine to see because people dress as porters or as house servants, and there was a boat with many people in it, [10] and many also went on foot, 4 or 6 bands of trumpets and *timpani*, and also a number of bands of *violins*, and other *instruments*. The *Chiccherata*, this is a masquerade which we also saw today, that is: *Chiccheri* is the Milanese name for the same as what we call *petits maitres*,⁶ or conceited personages, who then all went on horseback, but which was attractive to watch. [15] I am just as glad that Herr von *Amann*⁷ is better now as I was troubled when I heard that he had had an accident. What kind of *mask*, then, did *Madame Rosa*⁸ have, what kind did Herr von M \ddot{o} lk⁹ have, what kind did the Prince¹⁰ and Herr von Schiedenhofen¹¹ have? I ask you to write telling me if you know, you will be doing me a very great favour. [20] Today we are guests of Count *Firmian's*¹² esteemed steward¹³ to mark the last day.¹⁴ There we will have something to gabble about. *Addio*, farewell. Next post-day I will write you a Milaneshish letter. I am etc.

Wolfgang Mozart
3rd March, 1770

[25] P.S. Kiss Mama's hands 1 000 000 000 000 times in my stead, compliments to all good friends and a thousand compliments to you from When-you-catch-him-then-you've-really-got-him,¹⁵ and from *Don Diarhella*,¹⁶ especially from behind, and¹⁷

¹ BD: Mozart is obviously replying to a letter (No. 0162b, lost) from his sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), (1751-1829).

² = My dear sister.

³ = Dance gala.

⁴ BD: Correctly: "Facchinate".

⁵ BD: Correctly: "Chiccheri" – mocking ladies' fashions.

⁶ BD: ≈ dandies. Cf. No. 0164/12-13.

⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0162/27 – his mysterious "misfortune".

⁸ BD: The Italian portrait painter Maria Rosa Barducci married court sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer in Salzburg Cathedral in November, 1764. Cf. No. 0093/231.

⁹ BD: Probably Franz von M \ddot{o} lk, a son of the Royal Chancellor [Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von M \ddot{o} lk (1714-1776), cf. No. 0158/5.

¹⁰ "Prinz". BD: The Carnival Prince?

¹¹ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

¹² "Graf Firmian". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

¹³ BD: Steward/house administrator [Haushofmeister] Don Fernando (Ferdinandi) Germani and his Austrian wife Therese Germani.

¹⁴ Presumably the last day of Carnival.

¹⁵ "Wanstenderwischtsohastenschon".

¹⁶ BD: "Don Cacarella": until recently a widespread term in use in Austria for diarrhoea.

¹⁷ BD: End of page.