

0182. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG; POSTSCRIPTS BY WOLFGANG, JOSEPH
MEISSNER AND LEOPOLD

Rome, 2nd May, 1770

Your *catarrh* will hopefully have gone a long time ago. The latest news is that Herr Meissner¹ arrived from Naples at midday today and is off again to Florence in 2 days and from there to Salzburg as the crow flies, thus reaching there very soon. [5] He asks to be commended to everyone. His High Princely Grace² has already written.³ You want to know⁴ whether Wolfgang is still singing and fiddling etc. etc. He fiddles, but not in public – He sings, but only whenever one puts some words in front of him – He has grown a little, – I am neither fatter nor thinner – and we have also become accustomed to the Italian food. [10] We are leaving earlier than I thought because I have the opportunity of going to Naples with 4 *Augustinians*,⁵ namely on the 8th May. Otherwise I have nothing to write to you about. I hope God will keep you and Nannerl in good health and will bring us safely not only to Naples and back, but also home again as well in due time. I will not stay in Naples much longer than 5 weeks, [15] and then go via *Loretto*⁶ to *Bologna* and *Pisa* and those areas and wait in whichever place is coolest and healthiest for the great heat to pass.

Herr Meissner says to me that he has not seen a letter from Salzburg since the beginning of February. Now I also know the reason why *Mademoiselle Rosa*⁷ has no mother. [20] My compliments to all friends, both ladies and gentlemen. We kiss you and Nannerl 10000 times and I am as always your

Mzt.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

I am, praise and thanks be to God, well, and kiss Mama's hand, as I do my sister's face, nose, neck, and my terrible pen, and arse, if it is clean. [25] *Wolfgang Mozart. Rome, 1770*

JOSEPH MEISSNER'S POSTSCRIPT TO MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART:

That I am no lover of writing – that will be known to you,⁸ even without this, yet I know how to write that I am well, praise God. Likewise, I write that I continue to commend myself to your friendship. Joseph Meissner
To *Madame Marianna* my most obedient compliments.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[30] Today Herr Meissner and Wolfgang *performed* in the German *College*.⁹

¹ BD: Cf. No. 0176/95-96. Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

² "S": Hochf: Gnaden". BD: Siegmund Christoph von Schrattenbach (1698-1771), Prince-Archbishop [Fürsterzbischof] in Salzburg from 1753 following long association with the cathedral. Leopold's employer.

³ BD: No. 0180, lost.

⁴ BD: No. 0181a, lost.

⁵ BD: Leopold contacted various Augustinian monasteries in Italy, presumably recommended by friends in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0181/20.

⁶ BD: Pilgrimage centre, cf. Nos. 0165/26-27; 0036/47-48.

⁷ BD: The Italian portrait painter Maria Rosa Barducci married court sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer in Salzburg Cathedral in November 1764. Leopold's attempted meeting with the "mother": No. 0173/30 ff. [And see note on No. 0194/50.]

⁸ "[du]/dir" - the personal/intimate form of address, as opposed to the formal "Sie/Ihnen".

⁹ BD: = Collegium Germanicum, cf. No. 0176/72. BD V, p. 253, quotes a diary entry describing the event, at which Mozart ["a boy of 12 or 13"] delivered a prolonged improvisation on a theme given to him on the spot by

the director of music, played various sonatas presented to him, accompanied two arias and then performed on the organ in the church.