

0203. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE, SALZBURG

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg / par Mantua¹

From the country estate outside *Bologna*.²
11th August, 1770

On the 4th, namely one day after you wrote³ to me, you will have received a letter⁴ of the 28th from me, [5] and in the meantime also the letter⁵ of the 4th inst.

Yesterday, after hearing Holy Mass in *Bologna*, we arrived here at this country estate, which is roughly as far away from the town as Maria Plain⁶ is⁷ from Salzburg. Now, for once, we have properly caught up on sleep, [10] and it will not be necessary to give you a description of the splendour of the provision made for us. You can imagine the rooms and beds; the linen sheets are finer than some noblemen's shirts etc. Everything is of silver, even the chamber-pot and the night-light etc. In the evening, we, namely Wolfgang with Her Excellency the Countess⁸ and the young Count⁹ and myself with His Excellency the Field Marshal,¹⁰ [15] went for a drive in 2 *sedias*.¹¹ We have a footman and a servant at our service, thus 2 persons, and the footman sleeps in our anteroom so as to be on hand if necessary, and the servant has to dress Wolfgang's hair. His Excellency has lodged us in the first rooms |: in Salzburg we say ground floor :| [20] which are the best rooms in summer because of the heat in the upper rooms, since, during the whole day and especially at night, we do not feel the least heat. Besides our rooms, there is the *sala terrena*, where we dine and where everything is fresh, cool and pleasant. The young Count, who is Wolfgang's age and is the only heir, possesses great talents, plays the *clavier*, [25] speaks German, Italian and French, and has 5 or 6 teachers every day in different branches of knowledge and exercises. He is already an Imperial Chamberlain.¹² As you can of course imagine, this young gentleman and Wolfgang are the best of friends.

We will stay here for some time – how long I do not know. [30] Perhaps the whole of this month, until the worst of the heat has passed. And my leg?¹³ – – It is, praise God, fine. Everything has closed up, and all the skin is gradually peeling. Only, in the evening, due to the movement throughout the whole day, no matter how careful I try to be with it, a small swelling appears down at the ankle, but this always disappears in the night and dilates less each day. [35] My gracious hosts never let me stand, but I must always sit and lay my leg up on another chair. Today they even had 2 chairs placed suitably for me in the chapel for the Mass. Every day, before 12 o'clock, there is Holy Mass, where the young Count is an altar boy; after Mass, they pray a Rosary, the Litany, the Salve Regina and the De Profundis. [40]

¹ BD: Note (by Frau Mozart? Nannerl?) beside the address: "N^o: 35 from Bologna".

² BD: The tenant was Giovanni Luca, Margrave [Markgraf] Pallavicini-Centurioni (1697-1773), from 1731 in the service of Austria, from 1754 field marshal. The Mozarts had been recommended to him by Count [Graf] Firmian, governor general of Lombardy. Cf. Nos. 0172, 0173, 0199 etc. The owner was Conte [Count] Giacomo Bolognetti, cf. No. 0204/4. Today a hospice for children.

³ BD: No. 0201a, lost.

⁴ BD: No. 0200.

⁵ BD: No. 0202.

⁶ BD: Pilgrimage church about 5 km outside Salzburg, frequently specified by Leopold when asking for Masses to be read for particular needs, e.g. No. 0032/39 *et passim*.

⁷ BD: Pilgrimage church near Salzburg.

⁸ "S^r: Ex: der Gräfin" (Pallavicini).

⁹ "H: Grafen".

¹⁰ "S^r: Ex: den H: Feldmarschall".

¹¹ BD: Small carriage, two wheels, two seats, two horses, the driver on one of the two horses.

¹² "Kays: Cammerherr".

¹³ BD: Leopold is still concerned about healing of his leg after the coach accident, cf. No. 0194/29 ff.

You are invited to share the choicest figs, melons and peaches! And I am most happy to be able to write to you that, unending thanks be to God, things are going well for us. If I had not laid aside the salves and plasters,¹⁴ I would still have had a long haul ahead of me, [45] for this drew all the salts and acid matter and water to itself and, since the body is provided with enough of these moist things through daily food and drink, I would have had to wait a long time for the end of it. If nature itself had made this opening, it would of course have been a disastrous move to prevent such an efflux. But since it resulted purely from an unforeseen accident, [50] it was enough, and more than enough, to have an open leg for 6 weeks. Let this be a warning to everybody not to apply plaster, but to use nothing apart from paper and constant urine to prevent the accumulation of acidic matter.

Please tell Music Director *Lolli*,¹⁵ to whom I commend myself, that I will certainly pass on his *compliments* [55] and that I have already spoken to some old acquaintances of his. We forgot to congratulate Nannerl on her name-day.¹⁶ I was always going through my melancholy thoughts about my leg. It is very sad to hear that it is getting more expensive in Salzburg all the time. Is no-one coming up with means to deal with these increases? – – [60] My special compliments to Herr von Schiedenhofen¹⁷ and his gracious mama. I will reply to Herr von Schiedenhofen's letter¹⁸ at the first opportunity. Today I received all 3 letters¹⁹ at once. I must close. His Excellency's letters are being sent into town, so this one must go with them too. We kiss you and Nannerl 1000 times. Wolfgang has just gone for a drive with the Countess. We commend ourselves to everyone – to all etc. [65] and I am as always
your Mozart.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0202/15 ff.

¹⁵ BD: Giuseppe Francesco Lolli (1701-1778), from Bologna, initially employed as a tenor, mentioned as such in the *Salzburger Hofkalender* of 1741. 1752-1763 deputy music director in Salzburg; from 1763 music director. Composed some oratorios, masses and vesper psalms as well as music for a stage play. Leopold Mozart hoped to obtain Lolli's old post and approached numerous Salzburg personages to obtain their support.

¹⁶ BD: An error on Leopold's part. They sent their congratulations in No. 0199/2-3.

¹⁷ 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. Cf. No. 0143/29-30. Often mentioned in running jokes in Mozart's letters.

¹⁸ BD: No. 0202c, lost.

¹⁹ BD: Nos. 0202a-c, all lost.