

Milan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Novb., 1770

You will have received my letter<sup>1</sup> of the 27<sup>th</sup>. All your letters have reached me. – You two will long have been back from Tribenbach<sup>2</sup> already as I write this. If it has rained in Salzburg as it has here, you will have had a fine wet time, [5] or perhaps even a fine cold time, for it may have snowed where you were as it has in the *Bergamasc* mountains, where we can see the snow lying from here.

Wolfgang thanks you, his sister, and all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, for the congratulations<sup>3</sup> on his name-day<sup>4</sup> and hopes, [10] if our dear God lets us see each other safe and sound again, to give you cause for perfect pleasure and joy in everything that you have wished him. In the meantime, until I have the opportunity to do so myself, convey my expression of thanks for the special courtesies which you received at the Schiedenhofens', with the most obedient commendations from both of us. [15] Otherwise I do not know what else I can write, except that we are well, praise God, and wish that it were already New Year's Day, or at least Christmas, for until then there is always, always either something to do or to ponder on, perhaps occasionally a little vexation, such that one would like to lay square eggs,<sup>5</sup> and consequently agitated days. Patience! [20] So much of the business, blessed be God, has already gone well and, God be praised again, gone off with honour! With God's help, we will also successfully chew our way, like the clown in the mountain of d–ng, through the unavoidable vexations which every music director has to put up with from the *virtuoso rabble*.

[25] Didn't Herr Wallner<sup>6</sup> from Berchtesgaden bring a letter or money from Herr Otto<sup>7</sup> in Frankfurt? – –

One must not forget to ask Herr Hagenauer,<sup>8</sup> with my particular compliments, to have Herr Peisser<sup>9</sup> receive the money from the bookseller<sup>10</sup> in Vienna – and expressly N.B. in Viennese *current*. You will find everything in the written list. [30] You will hopefully have had my furs beaten occasionally, otherwise the cockroaches will have been celebrating Carnival in them. Take of yourselves, both of you. We kiss you 100 000 times and I am as always your

Mozart.

To all good friends within and beyond the house our commendation, and in particular do not forget the ladies.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS SISTER:

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<sup>1</sup> BD: No. 0216.

<sup>2</sup> BD: The country residence, north-west of Salzburg, of Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen, who made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. He is mentioned frequently in the correspondence and was obviously a regular visitor to the Mozart's house in Salzburg.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0216a, lost.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Name-day: 31<sup>st</sup> October.

<sup>5</sup> Literally "shite oranges" – an expression of frustration. Cf. No. 0137/5 f.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Probably Andreas Wallner († 1797), spice merchant. Married a sister of Siegmund Haffner jr. Was involved in selling Leopold's violin school.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Organist in Frankfurt, likewise involved in selling Leopold's violin school.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Sometime landlord and friend to the Mozart family.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Rudolph Gräffer published two songs by Mozart (KV 52/46c and 53/47e) in Stephanie's *Neue Sammlung zum Vergnügen und Unterricht* in 1768.

[35] Very dearest sister of my heart,

My thanks to Mama and yourself for the sincere wishes, and I am burning with desire to see you both in Salzburg again soon. Turning to your congratulations, I can tell you that I would almost have suspected that Herr *Martinelli*<sup>11</sup> had formulated your Italian congratulations for you, [40] but, because you are always the clever sister and were able to present it all so craftily by placing Herr *Martinelli's* compliments, written in the same script,<sup>12</sup> immediately below your Italian congratulations, I did not detect it, nor could I possibly have done so, and I immediately said to Papa, Ah! If only I could become so clever and crafty! Then Papa said, [45] Yes, that is true. And after that I said, I'm sleepy. And he has just said, Stop. *Addio*, entreat God that the *opera* may go well. My handkiss to Mama, and my compliments to all who know me. I am as always your

brother Wolfgang Mozart  
whose fingers, because of writing, are  
~~tihred, tihred, tiireds,~~  
tired.

[50]

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<sup>11</sup> BD: Anton Martinelli, Italian teacher at court for pages in training.

<sup>12</sup> Different scripts were used for the German and Italian texts.