

Milan, 2nd Feb. 1771

I have received 4 letters¹ from you, and you will have seen nothing from me for 2 post-days now, but you will also have guessed that our writing was hindered by the journey to *Turin*. On the 31st January we came back safely from that beautiful city, [5] where we saw a thoroughly magnificent *opera*.² In due time you will hear everything. In future, write to Venice, to Herr Wider.³ We dined today as guests of His *Excellency* Count *Firmian*.⁴ I hardly have time to write, for I must pack.

The music director *Francesco de Majo*⁵ in Naples has died, [10] and Herr *Carattoli*⁶ in *Pisa* has travelled to the other world.

As far as my brother⁷ is concerned, I do not know what I should think or do. If he has hopes of obtaining a post, there are enough people in Augsburg who will give him a hand. Write a letter to him and say to him that you have already transferred 20 florins to him on your own initiative, [15] and could not dare to send more without my foreknowledge; that I am still in Italy and that you have received no letter from me for 3 weeks; that if he cherishes hopes of making a better fortune, he will find enough people who will help him out, as he works with many merchants who must know his circumstances better. I have already sent him 24 florins once anyway, [20] 12 of which I sent later, since he had promised to return the 12 florins immediately, but he did not repay this either, but instead sent his son to Salzburg, whom, as you know, I also helped on his way. You can give good excuses, and I do not want to throw the money away, we need ours ourselves. Such people depend on this, [25] and do not imagine that we will see one kreuzer of this money again.

Esteemed *Dr. Bridi*⁸ has not said a word about the 2 *concertos*, and so there is no hope of seeing anything until he comes back from his journey in *July*, since he has travelled with Count *Wolkenstein*⁹ to Naples and Rome.

[30] We hope to reach Salzburg by St. Joseph's Day¹⁰ or, at the latest, in Easter Week. Our compliments to all Salzburg. We kiss you both 10000 times and I am as always

your
Mzt.

¹ BD: No. 0229a, lost.

² BD: Besides the opera by Paisiello mentioned in the note to No. 0229/10, one opera by Pugnani and one by Platania were performed in that season.

³ BD: Giovanni Wider (Wieder) (1707-1797), merchant, previously in Salzburg, now in Venice. The Mozarts certainly had a letter of recommendation from Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, who did business with him. They intended to stay with him in Venice.

⁴ "S: Excellz: Gr: Firmian". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

⁵ BD: Francesco di Majo (1732-1770), cf. No. 0184/116.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0125/133 for a list of *opera buffa* singers in Vienna. Francesco Caratoli (c. 1705-1772), *basso buffo* from Modena. The reports of his death here and in No. 0231/18 are false. He died in Vienna in 1772.

⁷ BD: Cf. financial help to him mentioned in No. 0222/21, 28.

⁸ BD: Probably Antonio Giacomo Bridi (1721-1799), uncle of the Giuseppe Antonio Bridi who sang in a private performance of *Idomeneo* in Vienna in 1786 and himself a "good clavier player". Mentioned in various letters from No. 0155/34 onwards, most recently in No. 0227/12. It is possible that the two concertos were among the pieces mentioned in this last place.

⁹ BD: Mentioned in No. 0166/7.

¹⁰ BD: 19th March. Leopold and Wolfgang returned to Salzburg on Thursday in Holy Week, the 28th March, 1771.