

Milan, 19<sup>th</sup> Octob.,  
1771

Herr *Marcobruni*<sup>1</sup> commends himself, he is here with me, and at this moment we will go to the theatre, for on the 16<sup>th</sup> there was the *opera*<sup>2</sup> and on the 17<sup>th</sup> the *Serenata*,<sup>3</sup> [5] which was received so astonishingly well that they have to *repeat* it today. The Archduke<sup>4</sup> recently ordered 2 *copies*. All *noble gentlemen*<sup>5</sup> and other people speak to us continually on the street to *congratulate* Wolfgang. In short, I feel sorry that Wolfgang's *serenade* has vanquished *Hasse's*<sup>6</sup> *opera* so thoroughly that I cannot describe it. Your last letter<sup>7</sup> and Nannerl's *postscriptum* will have my answer with the next post. [10] You will see<sup>8</sup> Italy with greater pleasure than would be the case now amid this abominable noise. *Addio*. We kiss both of you many 10000 times. I am as always your  
Mzt mp<sup>9</sup>

Pray! And thank God!

Our compliments to all friends, both gentlemen and ladies.

[15] Herr von Troger<sup>10</sup> commends himself particularly to you and Nannerl, who are sighing for Milan so much.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

<sup>2</sup> BD: *Ruggiero ovvero L'eroica gratitudine*, text by Metastasio. Hasse's last opera. Cf. No. 0239/17.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0242/11. Mozart's serenade, *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 1212/324-325. BD V, p. 308, gives the final cast list (Persons: Venus; Ascanio; Silvia, a nymph descended from Hercules; Aceste, a priest; Faun, one of the principal shepherds).

<sup>4</sup> "S. K. H: Erz. Ferdinand". BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia and bridegroom in the wedding being celebrated in Milan.

<sup>5</sup> "Cavalier".

<sup>6</sup> Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), in Vienna from 1764. Hasse admitted in a letter to Abbé Ortes (cf. No. 0235/7, 19) on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1771, that the opera was not a success. His doubts before the performance are captured in a letter of 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1771.

<sup>7</sup> BD: No. 0249a, lost.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Leopold now seems convinced that Wolfgang will find employment in Italy.

<sup>9</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0155/41. Secretary to the governor general of Lombardy, native of Salzburg.