

Mannheim, 10th Dec.
1777*Mon Très cher Père!*²

There is currently nothing in the offing with the <Elector³>. The day before yesterday, I was in the concert at court in order to get an <answer>. [5] <Count Savioli⁴> kept painstakingly out of my way, but I went up to him. When he saw me, he shrugged his shoulders.⁵ What, said I, still no answer? – – I am most sorry, said he, but unfortunately nothing. – – *Eh bien*,⁶ said I, the Elector could have told me that sooner. Yes, sadly, he still would not have decided if I had not forced him to it and made representations to him that you have already been sitting around here so long [10] and using up your money at the inn. And that is also what most vexes me, I rejoined. That is not at all fine. By the way, I am very obliged to you, Herr Count |: for he is not called Excellency :|, that you took up my case so energetically and would ask you to convey thanks in my name to the <Elector> for the gracious, although late, message, [15] and I would assure him that he would certainly never have regretted taking me on. Oh, said he, I am more convinced of that than you think. Afterwards, I told Herr Wendling⁷ of the decision. He became completely red and said, most heatedly: Here we must find means; you must stay here, at the very least for the 2 months until we go to Paris⁸ together. [20] Tomorrow Cannabich⁹ comes back from the hunt, we will talk about it further. Then I left the concert straight away and went straight to Mad:^{me} Cannabich.¹⁰ On the way, I related this to the esteemed treasurer,¹¹ who left with me and is a veritably solid fellow and my good friend. You cannot imagine how enraged the man was about it. [25]

As we entered the room, he immediately took the matter up and said: Now, here we have someone who has suffered the usual fine fortune at <court>. What, said Madame, is there to be nothing then? – – I then told them everything. They then went on to tell me of all sorts of antics of the same kind which have happened by-the-by here. [30] When Mad:^{selle} Rose¹² |: who was 3 rooms away and was just busy with the laundry :| was finished, she came in and said to me: Would it be pleasing to you now, sir? – For it was

¹ This letter contains numerous phrases in the family code, enclosed in angle brackets < >.

² = “My very dear father”.

³ “Churfürsten”. BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.

⁴ BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court in Mannheim. Mozart was presented to him by music director Holzbauer on 4th November, 1777. Cf. No. 0363/55.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0386/5-6.

⁶ = “Well now”.

⁷ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786), both of whom met the Mozarts in 1763, cf. No. 0057/2-6. For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368. He also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0383/58 ff.

⁹ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart’s in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. also No. 0057/13.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0057/13. Maria Elisabeth, née la Motte, married Cannabich in 1759.

¹¹ BD: Gres. Cf. No. 0373/17. Mozart met him again in Frankfurt, cf. No. 1138/21.

¹² BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her. Cf. No. 0363/13. Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her. Cf. No. 0363/13.

time for the lesson. I am at your command, said I. But, said she, we want to do a really thorough bit of learning. I can believe you, I rejoined, for it will not go on very much longer. How come? – How come? – Why? – [35] She went to her Mama and told her this. What? – She said, It is certain – I don't believe it. Yes, yes, certain. After that, she was very serious as she played my sonata.¹³ Listen, sir, I could not prevent myself weeping. Finally, the tears came to the eyes of mother, daughter and the esteemed treasurer, for she was playing just that sonata, and it is the favourite of the whole house. [40] Listen, the treasurer said, If the esteemed music director |: they never call me anything else here :| goes away, he will make us all weep. I must say that I have very good friends here, for in such circumstances one gets to know them, for they are friends not only in words, but also in deeds. Now just listen to the following.

[45] The next day I came as usual to dine at Wendling's. There he said to me: Our Indian |: this is a Dutchman¹⁴ who lives from his private means, a lover of all branches of knowledge, and a great friend and <admirer> of mine :| is quite certainly a rare man. He will give you 200 florins if you compose 3 little, easy and short concertinos and a couple of *quattro*¹⁵ for the flute for him. [50] Through Cannabich you will get at least 2 pupils who pay well; compose *duetti* for clavier and one violin per subscription here and have them engraved. Take your meals with us both mid-day and evening. They have quarters for you in the house of the esteemed Royal Chamber Adviser:¹⁶ none of that costs you anything. For your worthy mother we intend to find an inexpensive little place to stay for two months [55] until you have written back home about all of this and we go to Paris. Mama is happy with this, now it depends only on your consent, sir, of which I am already so sure that, if it were already time for the journey, I would go to Paris without waiting for an answer, for one can expect nothing else from a father who is so reasonable¹⁷ [60] and has until now always been so concerned for the welfare of his children. Herr Wendling, who commends himself to you, is a bosom-friend of our bosom-friend Grimm.¹⁸ When he was here, he spoke much to him about me. That was when he came here after seeing us in Salzburg.¹⁹ I will write to him as soon as I have your answer to this letter, [65] for he is now in Paris, as a stranger told me at the dining table here. I would also ask you, if it is possible, since we will not be going before 6th March, to arrange for me to get a letter for the Queen of France from Herr Messmer²⁰ in Vienna, or from someone else – if that is easy to do! [70] – – for otherwise it doesn't really matter that much; it is better, that is true. This is also the advice that Herr Wendling gave me. I imagine that the things that I am describing to you appear quite peculiar because you are currently in a town where one is accustomed to having

¹³ BD: Sonata in C KV 309 (284b) as mentioned above.

¹⁴ BD: "Indian" = "West Indian": "M. de Jean" [Dechamps?], cf. No. 0398/11. Dittersdorf dedicated a work to a "Willem van Britten Dejong, amateur de musique".

¹⁵ "quattro" = "quartets". BD: Mozart did in fact write two concertos and three quartets for him, cf. No. 0423/47; No. 0494/60-61 mentions only three quartets and a flute concerto. Possibilities are the quartets KV 285 (cf. No. 0393/88-90); KV 285a; Anh. 171 (285b); the concertos KV 313 (285c) and KV 314 (285d).

¹⁶ "H: hofkammer-rath". BD: Serrarius. Wolfgang and his mother moved into his house at the end of 1777. Cf. No. 0390/4 ff. His step-daughter, Therese Pierron, became Mozart's pupil (cf. No. 0390/7-8). He wrote for her the sonata for clavier and violin KV 296 (dated 11th March, 1778). This was in turn published, along with the sonatas KV 376 (374d), 377 (374e), 378 (317d), 379 (373c) and 380 (374f), as Op. II by Artaria & Co., Vienna, in 1781. This edition was dedicated to Josepha Auernhammer.

¹⁷ BD: See No. 0416/46 ff. for Wolfgang's changed view of the journey.

¹⁸ BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

¹⁹ BD: Nothing is known of his stays in Salzburg (cf. No. 0401/136-137) and Mannheim.

²⁰ BD: Joseph Mesmer was previously chief secretary to Archduchess Maria Antonia, now Queen Marie Antoinette. Cf. No. 0288/25.

stupid enemies, simple-minded and weak friends who, because they cannot do without the sad <Salzburg> bread, [75] are always toadying favour and therefore change from one day to the next. You see, this is precisely the reason why I always sent you childish and flippant letters and little of substance, because I wanted to wait for the business here in order to save you the vexation and to protect my good friends, [80] whom you would now perhaps undeservedly blame, as if they had done something underhand, but that is certainly not the case. But I do know who is behind it!²¹ By your letters, however, I have been forced to tell you the whole story. But I beg you, for heaven's sake, do not take affront at this person, God willed it thus. Simply reflect on the much too certain truth [85] that one cannot do everything that one has in mind. One often thinks that one thing would be very good and another very harmful and bad, but if it happened, one would often experience the opposite. Now I must go and sleep. I will have enough to write during the 2 months. 3 concertos, 2 quartets,²² 4 or 6 *duetti* for the clavier,²³ and then I also have in mind [90] to write a new large-scale Mass²⁴ and present it to <the Elector>. *Addieu*. I beg you to give me an answer to everything right away. I kiss your hands 100 000 times and I embrace my sister with my whole heart and am, sir, your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Amade Mozart

[95] Baron Dürnitz²⁵ was of course not in Munich when I was there. Next post-day I will write to Prince <Zeil²⁶> to <move things forward>. If you would write to him as well I would be very glad. [100] Short but good. Only do not <grovel>, for I cannot stand that. So much is sure: if he wishes to, he can <make sure> of the matter, for all <Munich> told me that.

MARIA ANNA MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

My dear husband,

[105] You desire to know everything²⁷ that we have done during the journey. We wrote to you about the account from Albert's,²⁸ and for Augspurg²⁹ it was 38 florins. Wolfgang wrote to you that we had made a loss of 24 florins,³⁰ but he had counted neither the expenses for the concert, which amounted to 16 florins,³¹ nor the landlord's bill. So when we came to Manheim [110] we had not more than 60 f gulden.³² So in a fortnight, if we had travelled on, there would not have been much left, for travelling costs more since it became so expensive, it is not as it used to be, you would be amazed. Regarding Wolfgang

²¹ BD: Wolfgang probably suspects Vogler. Cf. No. 0392/141.

²² BD: Cf. lines 49-50, 51.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0345/64.

²⁴ BD: Of the "Mass" mentioned here, probably only the Kyrie (KV 322/296a) was written; cf. Nos. 0423/56; 1446.

²⁵ BD VIII: Thaddäus Wolfgang Baron [Freiherr] von Dürnitz (1756-1807). Major à la suite (entitled to wear military uniform but without duties) in Munich, amateur musician. Mozart wrote the clavier sonata KV 284 (205a) for him, as well as possibly three bassoon concertos and a sonata for bassoon. At his death, he had 74 Mozart works in his possession. Cf. Nos. 0340/25; 0350/180-119; 0382/126-128.

²⁶ BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee, a life-long supporter of Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0261/6; 0370/112-130; 0375/137 ff. Mozart obviously still has hope in him, although Zeil's first intervention was unsuccessful (cf. No. 0339/12 ff.).

²⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0385/120 ff.

²⁸ BD: Not true. Leopold had twice asked for the account (cf. No. 0385/122-123), but so far had received no information (cf. No. 0392/130-131). [Franz Joseph Albert (1728-1789) was the landlord of the inn "Zum Schwarzen Adler" ("The Black Eagle")].

²⁹ BD: They stayed at the "Lamm" ["Lamb"] in Augsburg, cf. No. 0331/37-38.

³⁰ BD: Wolfgang had spoken of "26 or 27 florins". Cf. No. 0355/117.

³¹ BD: In No. 0355/115 they are given as "16 florins 30 kreuzers".

³² BD: Florins (f) and gulden are broadly equivalent.

and his journey to Paris, you must soon make up your mind if you are happy about it. [115] At this time there is nowhere where anything can be done except Paris. *Musieur* Wendlich³³ is an honest man whom everyone knows. He has travelled much, and has already been in Paris more than 15 times. He knows it inside out,³⁴ and our friend, Herr von Grim[m], who has done much for him, is also his best friend. So you can make up your mind; I will be happy with whatever you wish. [120] Herr Wendlig has assured me that he will certainly be a father to him, he loves him like his own son and he is to be in as good hands with him as with me. I myself am reluctant to let him leave me, as you can imagine, and I would have to travel home alone, such a long way. But what should I do: making such a long journey as to Paris [125] is arduous at my age, and is too expensive. For it is easier to pay a quarter share than to pay everything alone.³⁵

³⁶Next post-day I will write more. Today I have a headache. I believe I am getting a catarrh. It is severely cold here, and I am so frozen that I can hardly hold the quill. [130] Wolfgang has gone out to look at quarters. Cheap ones are rare here, expensive ones are to be had in plenty.

Say to Nannerl from me that one cannot wear a jacket at all here, except in the house. For going out, usually schlenders and polonaises,³⁷ the bonnet is much more beautiful than in Salzburg and quite different, the hairstyling incomparable: [135] no hair raised up above the forehead, the women dressed in the best of taste. If it was not so far away, I would already have sent her a bonnet and a palatine.³⁸ *Adio*. Keep well, the two of you. I kiss you both many 1 000 000 times and remain your

faithful wife,
Maria Anna Mozart

11th December
[140] 1777

To all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, especially to *Monsieur* Bullinger,³⁹ Miss Sallerl,⁴⁰ Gilowzki Catherl,⁴¹ the Antretters,⁴² Hagenauers,⁴³ Rubinigs,⁴⁴ Frau von

³³ BD: Cf. No. 0383/71-72.

³⁴ = "Monsieur Wendling".

³⁵ BD: Without his mother, Wolfgang would share a coach with three other musicians.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0386/45 ff.

³⁷ BD: Schlender: a broad cape. Polonaise: an outer dress, usually in Indian taffeta.

³⁸ BD: Palatine: Cf. No. 0063/106. Fur trimmings introduced by the Countess Palatinate Elisabeth Charlotte (1652-1722), known as "Princesse Palatine".

³⁹ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

⁴⁰ "Jungfer Sallerl": BD: Maria Anna Rosalia Walburga Joly [Joli] (1723-1788), usually referred to in the correspondence as "Sallerl", was for many years a friend of the Mozart family, especially Nannerl and Wolfgang, with whom she exchanged humorous poems (cf. Nos. 0391/75 ff.; 0394/64 ff.). She was the daughter of the Salzburg Royal Confectioner [konfektmeister] Mathias Joly.

⁴¹ BD: Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon. She was a member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

⁴² BD: Family of Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house. Cf. No. 0533/15.

⁴³ BD: Family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁴⁴ BD: Family of Factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). The family was in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0016/67.

Gerlitsch⁴⁵, Schüttenhofens,⁴⁶ the Melcks,⁴⁷ Miss Mizerl,⁴⁸ the worthy godfather,⁴⁹ Miss Sandl;⁵⁰ Thresel⁵¹ all imaginable good wishes. [145]
A little kiss for our Pimpes⁵².

⁴⁵ BD VII: Anna Maria Gertrud von Gerlichs († 1785), daughter of cloth factory inspector Franz Christoph von Edlingen, married Royal Chamber Director [Hofkammerdirektor] Gerhart von Gerlichs († 1763) in 1747. Cf. Nos. 0339/63; 0826/129.

⁴⁶ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) and his sister Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen (1760-1831). He made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0143/29.

⁴⁷ BD: Franz Felix Anton von Molk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

⁴⁸ “Jungfrau Mizerl” BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

⁴⁹ BD: Joannes Theophilus Pergmayr (1709-1787), merchant and city councillor. Godfather to Wolfgang and to two of his brothers, Johann Leopold Joachim (1748) and Johann Karl Amadeus (1782), who died as infants. Cf. No. 0218/124.

⁵⁰ “Jungfrau Sandl” BD: Maria Clara Susanna Auer (* 1742), daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, Franz Christoph Auer. Taken into the Mozart home in December, 1777. Cf. No. 0379/60; No. 0382/60.

⁵¹ BD: Thresel: Therese Pänckl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

⁵² BD: The Mozart’s dog in Salzburg, cf. No. 0291/37.