

0576. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MUNICH

*A Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart maitre de musi=
que / à / Munic / Franco*

*Mon très cher Fils!*¹

Salzb., 8th January, 1781

Yesterday, instead of the *ball*, we went to Herr Hagenauer's.² They all commend themselves. [5] Your sister has now been at the painter's twice. It is a good likeness of her and, if no mistake occurs during filling it out, it will be a charming head – *Dr. Prex*³ commends himself to you and had the most unutterable pleasure in learning that you are bringing such great honour to the people of Salzburg. So Frau von *Robinig*⁴ is also in Munich with her family. [10] I did not catch her, since she had left on the morning of the 7th instead of not leaving until today as intended. She went a day earlier because she knew that her worthy son had already arrived, who had just been with you as old Herr Prokatska,⁵ or *Fiala's*⁶ father-in-law, as he is called, too was with you. Herr *Fiala* will perhaps come to Munich before I do, for he will, as he says, already take leave of absence now. [15] He is probably in such a hurry because the Prince von Wallerstein⁷ is now marrying for the second time,⁸ and he is invited to this festivity. *Io suppongo qualche cosa.*⁹ – perhaps <he is seeking to enter service there again>. But that is only an idea, for yesterday Herr Hagenauer said to me that Herr *Fiala* had sold his *violoncello* to a stranger in the Ship Inn¹⁰ for, I don't know, 3 *louis d'or*, or 3 *souvrains d'or*.¹¹ [20] *Questo uomo non fà confidenza ai suoi amici, come gia sapete, é Boemo; e io ne son contento.*¹² His wife has already had scabies for many weeks and has *erysipelas* in one place and then another and, since she is at the same time in advanced pregnancy, she looks wretched; he has once again taken other servant girls, takes no advice from anybody, – and therefore cannot be helped in any way. [25] – Now for a *burlesque*: On the evening of the 30th *December*, the waiter at the Royal Inn¹³ went into the Royal Marshal's¹⁴ cellar, which is at the landlord's disposal, in order to fetch two rundlets¹⁵ of outstanding *Edenburg*¹⁶ Hungarian wine. He laid the 2-rundlet barrel down outside the cellar

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Music Director in Munich /Postage paid / My very dear son!”

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

³ BD: Dr. med. Johann Nepomuk Prex (1733-1809), Landschaftsphysicus [= “physician to the parliament of the estates”]. The Mozarts encountered him in Paris in 1766. In 1778 he offered Wolfgang his “fine nag” if he should return to Salzburg.

⁴ BD: (Maria)Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts'. Cf. No. 0016/67.

⁵ BD: = the “Prohaska” in No. 0577/26. – Matthias Prohaska, hunting horn player at the Electoral court in Munich.

⁶ BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

⁷ “Fürst”. BD: Kraft Ernst, Count [Graf] Öttingen-Wallerstein (1748-1802), met Mozart in Rome in 1770 and sent numerous reports of Mozart's play in Rome to his widowed mother. In 1777, Mozart visited Kraft Ernst and his mother in Hohenaltheim, but he was still deep in mourning for his wife. Kraft Ernst developed a passion for the music of Joseph Haydn, with whom he exchanged correspondence.

⁸ BD VIII: The Prince von Wallerstein did not marry again until 1789. Leopold's information is wrong.

⁹ = “I surmise something”. BD: There was no change; Fiala was employed in Salzburg until 1785.

¹⁰ = “Zum Schiff”.

¹¹ BD: = 33 florins.

¹² = “This man does not take his friends into his confidence, as you already know, he is a Bohemian; and I am not happy with it.”

¹³ “Hofwirth”.

¹⁴ “Hoffmarschall”. BD: Cf. No. 0551/23 ff.: Nikolaus Sebastian, Count [Graf] Lodron (1719-1792).

¹⁵ BD: 2 Eimer/Ehmer = approx. 140 litres.

¹⁶ BD: Ödenburg = Sopron in Hungary.

on the stairs and, when he got home, told the house servant that he should fetch the little barrel. [30] The house servant forgot it, and the wine was left lying. During the night a *Heyduck*¹⁷ named Hansgeorg came home drunk; – the house door is always open because Count Wicka's¹⁸ sentry stands nearby, but he could not get into his room, everything was closed. He then took refuge in his usual place which he occupied on similar occasions and opened the trapdoor to the cellar [35] in order to lie down on the stairs. – There he found a barrel. He carried it to under the gate, opened the stopper, smelt the excellent wine; he spoke to the sentry, who provided a large vessel from the guardroom for him as soon as he went off duty, and then the joy started. Throughout the whole night the guards at Wicka's, the Colonel's,¹⁹ the *Mirabell*²⁰ and the *Mirabell Gate* had their work cut out [40] swilling down the wine, of which a good portion was also spilt, down to the last drop. Those doing the daylight round in the morning found everyone drunk; Count Wicka, who looked out of his window at the crack of dawn, had the honour of admiring his sentry lying on the ground in a deep sleep. They could not get a word out of some of them until the evening. Now they are all under arrest! *A bon conto*²¹ the wine was excellent! [45] And swilled down undiluted; the *Hayduck* is lying at the Town Hall with fresh water to cool off his heated liver and has the honour of paying for the wine.

I once mentioned to you in a letter that *Ceccarelli's*²² father had written. I have now just received another Lamentable Letter in which he thanks me for answering him [50] and giving him news of his son's presence and well-being here, then he says: *ma sarei oltre a ricercarvi di usare con vostra bella maniera di volere ammonire mio figlio, che veramente si è scordato affatto della sua Casa, che da 14 mesi in quà non si è ricordato della sua Casa senza avergli mandato più un quadrino, che la sua Casa non a fatto così per lui* [55] *quandò era fanciulletto, onde sarebbe dovere che lui amasse il suo proprio Padre, ma per quanto vedo mi pare che si sia scordato affatto: ma Iddio sta di Sopra!*²³ &c. It seems to me that it will not even be over 14 months ago he begged to get money together for his father and probably, as I clearly perceive from the letter, sent it as if it were out of his own pocket. [60] Abominable! He fritters away so much money uselessly. – – Herr Steiger²⁴ is dead, – and buried. – the service was in St. Peter's, *Requiem* by Haydn;²⁵ *Brunetti*,²⁶ Frau Haydn, *Ceccarelli* etc. were there, *Haydn* played the organ and *N.B. Meissner*²⁷ sang a German song by Peransky.²⁸ – Your sister was at the service. – [65] Can you remember a certain Herr von Zimmermans? He

¹⁷ BD: Servant wearing the uniform of the Hungarian *Hajduk*, who were originally mercenaries.

¹⁸ “Graf”. BD: Johann Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Wicka, Lieutenant Colonel [Oberstleutnant].

¹⁹ “Oberst”. BD: Commander of the guard: Andrä Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Prank, lived opposite the hereditary palace of the Lodrons' in Salzburg.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0450/29. The “Mirabell” was the Archbishop's summer residence with gardens in Salzburg.

²¹ = “At any rate”.

²² “Graf”. BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

²³ = “But I would furthermore beseech you to employ your fine manner to deign to admonish my son, who has truly forgotten his family entirely, since in 14 months up to now he has not remembered his family, without even sending them a little picture, since his family did not deal with him thus when he was a child, whereas it would be his duty to love his own father, but as far as I can see it appears that he has indeed forgotten: but God stands over this!”

²⁴ BD: Salzburg coffee house proprietor Anton Staiger.

²⁵ BD: (Johann) Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. Haydn married the singer Maria Magdalena Lipp (1745-1828), daughter of the court organist Franz Ignaz Lipp.

²⁶ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

²⁷ BD: BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Niklas Meissner (c. 1691-1760). Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

²⁸ BD: Probably Placidus Berhandsky.

was also there in Munich with Frau Steiger at Albert's.²⁹ A *bon comagnion*³⁰ of the Steiger household.

He turned up like a rascal here on just the day on which they carried Steiger to his grave, having come to Salzburg precisely to seek help from him. In a letter to Steiger of blessed memory he wrote that he had been a legation secretary [70] and came into misfortune and God knows what kind of tales. In short! He has turned out to be an *avanturier*.³¹ I always avoided his acquaintance; may God preserve my Prophetic Spirit! – –

Concerning the black clothing, your sister was very much at a loss. The old one is so worn that it can no longer be used. [75] She has therefore decided today to have a completely new one made for herself, and the *grosditour*³² is already at the tailors, she will be left with a bill for 70-something florins. She is hoping <the Elector will have to pay for it>. We kiss you a million times and I am as always your faithful, sincere father
Mozart

P.S. With the Royal Marshall's wedding,³³ everything will go crabwise, [80] the General³⁴ is so clever and is not giving anything³⁵ away, although old *Arco*³⁶ wants to have it and had written his son³⁷ a hefty letter, and Count Daun³⁸ is now telling the Royal Marshall that he would make a laughable match with such a young person.

Yesterday there were 127 Persons at the *ball*, they consisted of the nobility [85] and the wild nobility³⁹ who had got free tickets – how else could it be, you know all this. Of the merchants, not a soul was there except Herr Weiser⁴⁰ with Bauernfeind's⁴¹ foreign girl.

²⁹ BD: Landlord of the *Schwarzer Adler* [Black Eagle] in Munich.

³⁰ = "Good companion".

³¹ = "Adventurer".

³² BD: Correct to "gros de Tours", a particular kind of silk cloth.

³³ "Hoffmarschall". BD: Cf. No. 0551/23 ff.: Nikolaus Sebastian, Count [Graf] Lodron (1719-1792) was to marry the young Louise (Aloysia) Lodron (* 1769).

³⁴ BD: Franz, Count [Graf] Arco (1735-1795), son of the Salzburg Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Georg Anton Felix, Graf Arco (1705-1792), Imperial and Royal Major General [k. k. Generalmajor]. Around 1780 he owned a palace near Salzburg on the road to Bavaria.

³⁵ BD: Namely his daughter Aloisia.

³⁶ BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward (Obersthofmeister). Cf. No. 0004/86.

³⁷ BD: Arco's son = Franz, Count [Graf] Arco, the "General" of line 80.

³⁸ "Graf". BD: Karl Joseph (* 1728), Count [Graf] Daun, cathedral canon in Salzburg.

³⁹ BD: A term used for those who achieved a title through government administrative work.

⁴⁰ BD: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanius Weiser (1739-1817), member of the town council and merchant, son of Ignaz Anton ("von" from 1747) Weiser (1701-1785), Salzburg merchant, later mayor of the town. Related to the families Hagenauer and Duschek, frequently mentioned in the correspondence. Married Theresia Haffner (1740-1798), the daughter of Sigmund Haffner the Elder, cf. No. 0068/28.

⁴¹ BD: Salzburg merchant Johann Anton Pauernfeind (1723-1787).