

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de  
S:A:R: / l'Archeveque de et à / Salzburg<sup>2</sup> [Vienna, before 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1781]

*Copie du Billet autographe de sa Maj:te l'Empereur au Pr: de Kaunitz Ritt- [5] berg dans une bœtte de tous les portraits de la famille Imperiale du 14 mars 1781.*<sup>3</sup>

*Mon cher Prince, Je n'ai pas pû resister à l'envie de vous envoyer cette tabatiere, que je viens de recevoir de Bruxelles, et qui avait etè donnè par feu sa Majestè au Pr: Charle; quelque vilaine incommode qu'elle soit; il m'à paru [10] qu'elle etait faite uniquement pour sejourner sur votre table, et pour vous rapeller par fois les Phisionomies de Personnes, qui toutes ensemble et chacune en particulier vous doivent beaucoup de reconnaissance pour les services essentiels, que vous leurs avés rendu; Je n'en fais qu'une partie, mais je ne crains point d'etre leur interprete, assurè qu'ils pensent tous come moi à ce [15] sujet. à Dieu; pardonnés cette folie à l'amitiè raisonnè que vous me connaissés inviolablement pour vous.*<sup>4</sup>

Joseph.

*Reponse du Pr: Kaunitz Rittberg.*<sup>5</sup>

*Par les Expressions du Billet authographe dont V: M: Imperiale a eu la Bontè [20] d'accompagner la Bœtte, qu'elle à daigné m'envoier, et qui contient le precieux recueil des Portraits de toute la famille Imperiale: Elle vient de recompenser de la façon du monde qui pourrait être la plus agreable à mon coeur, les services que J'eu pû avoir le Bonheur de rendre à son Auguste Maison depuis quarante ans il ne me reste à desirer que de les voir honorer des sentimens que V: M: [25] veut bien leur accorder, et il ne manque plus rien moienant cela à mon entiere satisfaction, qui est d'autant plus vive que les traits de ce genre ne peuvent manquer de transmettre les Noms de votre Maj:te à la posterité, dans le sens de ceux de trajan, de Marc aurel, et de Henri quatre, dons Jusqu' à nos Jours ont beni la memoire et prononcè encore les Noms avec autant de Veneration, [30] que d'Attendrissement, Je ne puis en temoigner ma reconnaissance à V: M: Imperiale qu'en continuant et en redoublant même s'il est possible de zele pour son service, et d'attachement pour sa Personne, J'y prend bien plus d'interret, qu'à moi même, et comme Je crois, qu'il ne se trouvera peut être Jamais l'occasion plus propre à doner de V: M: Jm:le l'opinion, que Je desire que toute la terre [35] puisse prendre d'elle, que ne c'est le contenu de son gracieux Billet, que Je ne saurais lui cacher, que Je desirais fort, qu'elle trouva bon, qu'il ne reste pas ignorè: Je ne ferai cependant rien à cet égard, avant d'en avoir obtenù la permission, si ce n'est un fidecommis dans ma famille de la Boëtte ainsi que de ce respectable Billet. Je suplie V: M: Jm:le de vouloir bien accueillir en [40] attendant avec Bontè et l'assurance respectueuse*

<sup>1</sup> BD: Signature and date cut off. Schiedermais II.

<sup>2</sup> = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg."

<sup>3</sup> = "Copy of the autograph note from his Majesty the Emperor to the Prince of Kaunitz Rittberg in a [snuff]box with all the portraits of the Imperial family, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1781."

<sup>4</sup> = "My dear Prince, I was not able to resist the inclination to send you this snuff box, which I have just received from Brussels, and which had been given to Prince Charles by His Majesty before his death; although it may be somewhat unpleasantly unwieldy, it seemed to me that it was made for the sole purpose of resting on your table and reminding you of from time to time of the physiognomies of persons who, all together and each one in particular, owe you a great deal of gratitude for the essential services that you have rendered to them; I make up only one part of these, but I am not at all afraid to be their interpreter, being assured that they all think as I do on this subject. à Dieu; pardon this folly in the name of the discerning friendship which you know that I hold unshakeably for you."

<sup>5</sup> = "Reply from Prince Kaunitz Rittberg."

*de ma vive reconnaissance et de mon attachement sans Bornes pour sa Personnes, qui ne finera qu'avec moi*<sup>6</sup>

Kaunitz:

I thought, because I have just had the opportunity |: at *M.d<sup>me</sup> La Motte's*<sup>7</sup> :| [45] of copying these 2 beautiful notes, that I had to do this. – *Mad.<sup>elle</sup> La Motte* is no longer at Countess Schönborn's.<sup>8</sup> –

She wrote to us, and has indeed answered all points regarding Count Rosenberg<sup>9</sup> and Baron Küenmayr<sup>10</sup> – she swears she has; – asks to be commended, along with her mother, to both of you 1000 times, as does Herr von Vogter<sup>11</sup> |: who was in Milan :| [50] – but will soon travel to Klagenfurt with Archduchess *Marie Anne*.<sup>12</sup> *Adieu* – I kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace my sister from my heart and am, sir,<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> = “With the expressions in the autograph note with which Your Imperial Majesty was so good as to accompany the [snuff]box which you have deigned to send me and which contains the valuable collection of portraits of the whole Imperial family, your Majesty has just recompensed me, in the one manner which could be the most pleasant in the world to my heart, for the services which I have had the happiness of being able to render to your august Imperial House during the last 40 years. It only remains for me to desire to see them honoured with the sentiments with which Your Majesty deigns to grant to them, [25] and, thanks to that, nothing is missing from my complete satisfaction, which is all the more intense inasmuch as traits of this kind cannot fail to transmit the name of your Majesty to posterity in the sense of those of Trajan, of Marcus Aurelius, and of Henri Quatre, whose memories have been blessed down to the present day and whose names are pronounced even now with as much veneration as tenderness. [30] I cannot give testimony of my gratitude to Your Imperial Majesty except in continuing and even redoubling, if that were at all possible, my zeal for your service and my attachment to your person. I take a much greater interest in that than in myself and, as I believe that there will perhaps never be a more appropriate occasion to voice the opinion of Your Imperial Majesty which I desire that the whole world [35] might hold than is presented by the content of this gracious note, I do not know how to hide from your majesty the fact that I would strongly desire that you should find it good that it does not remain unknown: I would not, however, do anything in this regard without having obtained permission to do so, such is the degree to which both the box and this treasured note are seen as having been placed in trust with the family. I entreat Your Imperial Majesty to be inclined in the meantime to receive graciously [40] both the respectful assurance of my intense gratitude and my unbounded attachment to your person, which shall not end except with my death.”  
<sup>7</sup> BD: Mother of the violinist mentioned in No. 0194/20 and No. 0357/110: Franz Lamotte (1751?-1781), pupil of Giardini, played in the concert given by the Mozart children in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1764. From 1772 first violinist in Maria Theresia's court music.

<sup>8</sup> “Gräfin” BD: Maria Theresia, Countess [Gräfin] Schönborn, née Colloredo, sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>9</sup> “Graf”. BD: Franz Xaver Wolf, Count [Graf] Orsini-Rosenberg, diplomat, general director of spectacles.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Johann Michael, Baron [Freiherr] von Kienmayr, Rosenberg's deputy.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>12</sup> “Erzherzogin”. BD: Second daughter of Empress [Kaiserin] Maria Theresia.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Approximately 6 cm cut off at the lower edge.