

0625. MOZART TO HIS SISTER,¹ SALZBURG

À / Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marie Anne / Mozart / à / Salzbourg

*vienne ce 19 de 7:bre
1781.*

*Ma très chere sœur!*²

From the last letter³ from our dear father I gather that you are ill, [5] which causes me no little care and worry – and indeed you have been taking the water cure for a fortnight; so you have already been ill for a long time – and I did not hear a word about it; – Now I will write to you honestly, and precisely because of your constantly recurring indispositions – believe me, dear sister, in all seriousness, that the best cure for you would be a husband [10] – and, precisely because it has so much influence on your health, I would wish you from my heart that you could marry soon; – in your last letter⁴ your sound scolding⁵ of me was still too mild. – I am ashamed myself when I think of it; – and I cannot produce a single excuse except – that as soon as I had received your last letter but one, [15] I started to write to you – and – that it was left lying so long – that I finally tore it up – because the time has not yet come when I could comfort you with greater assurance – yet – I hope it will certainly come – now listen to my thoughts.

You know that I am now writing an *opera*⁶ – the part of it that has been written has received exceptional applause everywhere [20] – for I know this *nation* – and I hope it will turn out well – if I succeed in this, I will be popular in composition as well as on the *clavier*. – Now, once I have got through this winter, I will know my circumstances better, – and I do not doubt that they will be good. – for you and *d'Yppold*⁷ there will hardly – yes, I believe certainly [25] – be nothing to expect in Salzburg. – Why, could *d'Yppold* not set something in motion for himself here? – as far as he is concerned, his pockets will at least not be entirely empty. – Ask him about it – and if he believes the matter could work out, he should do nothing except show me the way – I will certainly do the impossible – because I take the greatest personal interest in the matter. – [30] if this were settled – you could marry securely⁸ – for, believe me, – you will earn enough money for yourself here – for example – playing in *private concerts* – and then with *teaching* – they would be queuing to ask you – and pay well. – But then my father would have to *quit* his service and come too – then we could once again live together in the greatest contentment. – – [35] I see no other way – and before I knew that you were taking it very seriously with *d'Yppold* – I certainly had something of the kind in mind with you – only our dear father was the reason I thought of it – for I wanted the man to be able to come here calmly, and should not plague and burden himself – but this way it could work – for with your husband's income, with your own, [40] and with mine we can certainly make ends meet, and arrange peace and a contented life for him. – Only speak to *d'Yppold* soon, and give me guidance at once, for the sooner the matter is set in motion the better. – I

¹ BD: Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), (1751-1829).

² = "To Mademoiselle Marie Anne Mozart in Salzburg / Vienna, this 19th day of September, 1781. / My very dear sister!"

³ BD: Probably No. 0623, lost.

⁴ BD: Probably No. 0624a, lost.

⁵ BD: Obviously for his failure to write.

⁶ BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

⁷ BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold: Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the "de" himself.

⁸ BD: The marriage plans finally failed, probably due to Leopold's resistance.

can achieve most via the Kobenzl⁹ household. – but he must also write to me about how and what? –

[45] *M.^{sr} Marchall*¹⁰ commends himself to you – and especially to *M.^{sr} d'Yppold* and he furthermore sends him the most friendly thanks for the great act of friendship shown to him on his departure; –

Now I must close, for I still have to write to Papa; –

Take care of yourself, dearest sister! – I hope to hear better news about your health in the next letter from Papa [50] – and to be completely convinced of it in your own handwriting. –

Adieu – I kiss you 1000 times and am eternally and unchangeably the brother who loves you from the bottom of his heart, W: A: Mozart

P.S. You will have been almost unable to read this letter – for this pen is miserable. [55] – I beg you to pass on my most friendly compliments to *M.^{sr} d'Yppold*, and I assure him of my true friendship – My *compliments* to Katherl,¹¹ and to all good friends – *Adieu*. I asked you to *address* letters to Pfeisser¹² – only one must then specially put an *separate envelope* over it, and then the letter immediately costs 16 kreuzers, [60] so instead write on it as otherwise: On Petersplatz,¹³ at The Eye of God, on the 2nd floor. – The address is already so well known to the post that where a letter came with nothing more than my name on it, they delivered it – this way I am sure to get it. – *Adieu*.

¹⁴*P.S.* I commend myself to all Salzburg.

⁹ BD: Johann Philipp, Count [Graf] Cobenzl (1741-1810), nephew of the minister mentioned in No. 0069/3; from 1779 Vice-Court Chancellor and Vice-State Chancellor. Mozart frequented his house in Vienna and obviously believes he could find a position for d'Yppold.

¹⁰ BD: Mentioned in No. 062/4, but not identified.

¹¹ BD: Maria Anna Katharina Gilowsky, member of the marksmen's club, friend of the family, especially of Nannerl.

¹² BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondence of the firm Hagenauer in Salzburg. Is Mozart deliberately playing with the dialectal pronunciation of the name?

¹³ BD: Wolfgang was in daily contact with the Weber family and gives their address for his post.

¹⁴ BD: This P.S. properly belongs here, was originally printed as part of No. 0620.