

Frankfurt am Main, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1790.  
Sunday.

Dearest, most treasured little wife of my heart! –

Now I am comforted and happy. First of all, because I have received news from you, my love, [5] for which I had been longing so much; secondly, because of the reassuring account given regarding my affairs – I consequently firmly resolved to write the *Adagio* for the clockmaker<sup>2</sup> immediately, and then to play a number of ducats<sup>3</sup> into the hands of my dear little wife, and did so too – but, because this is work that I truly hate, I was so unhappy that I could not bring it to completion [10] – I sit working on it every day – but have to pause continually because it *bores* me – and if it were not being done for such an important reason, I would certainly abandon it completely – but this way I hope to force it step-by-step; – yes, if it were a large clock and the thing sounded like an organ, I would have joy in it; [15] but in fact the works consist of nothing but little pipes which to me sound high and too childish. –

So far I have been living entirely *retiré*<sup>4</sup> here – do not go out in the morning at all, but stay in my little hole of a room and compose; – my entire entertainment is the theatre, where I then meet acquaintances enough, [20] from Vienna, Munich, Mannheim and even Salzburg – Franz Lange<sup>5</sup> the hunting horn player and Gres<sup>6</sup> the treasurer are here – old Wendling with his *Dorothe*<sup>7</sup> – push your arse up in the air – this is the way I would most like to go on living – but – I fear it will soon have an end, an agitated life is beginning – they already want me to be everywhere – and, inconvenient though it be for me, [25] to let people peer at me everywhere, I appreciate the necessity of it – and, in God’s name, must simply let it to happen; – it is now to be expected that my concert may not turn out badly – I wish it were already over only so as to be nearer to the time when I embrace you again, my love! – – On Tuesday the Electoral Actors Company of Mainz<sup>8</sup> is giving my *Don Juan*<sup>9</sup> in my honour [30] – I wish you well, my love – greet for me the few friends who mean well with me – take care of your health, which is so very important to me, and always be my Constanze, just as I will eternally be

Your

Mozart

[35] N.B. Write to me regularly, even if it is only a few lines.

*P.S.* yesterday I dined with the richest merchant in the whole of Frankfurt, with Herr Schweitzer.<sup>10</sup> – The *Crux*<sup>11</sup> girl is also here. – I have not seen her yet – but Frau Quellenberg<sup>12</sup> told me she has become so big and fat that I would no longer recognise her. – *adieu*.

<sup>1</sup> BD: Original unknown. Copy Bspk. Edition Nottebohm.

<sup>2</sup> BD: There is debate as to whether the reference here is to the *Adagio* and *Allegro* “for a mechanical organ in a clock” KV 594. F. K. Prieberg (NZfM 119. 1958, pp. 709 ff.) maintains that Mozart wrote this work (finished in December, 1790, cf. No. 1145/4) for Count [Graf] Joseph (Nepomuk Franz de Paula) Deym von Stržitéž, who had taken the name Müller following a duelling incident. Müller opened a gallery in Vienna in 1790 in which various mechanical toys were also on show. In 1791 he opened a mausoleum dedicated to Field Marshal [Feldmarschall] Gideon, Baron [Freiherr] von Laudon († 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1790) in which a new piece of funeral music was played every week. The piece played in the first week is said to have been KV 594.

<sup>3</sup> 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

<sup>4</sup> = “withdrawn”.

<sup>5</sup> BD VIII: Franz Joseph Lang (1751-1816); BD VI: hunting horn player.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Gres, mentioned in No. 0373/17.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Wendling, flautist to the Elector in Munich. Dorothea, née Spurni, singer, was his wife.

<sup>8</sup> “chur-mainzische Schauspielergesellschaft”.

<sup>9</sup> = *Don Giovanni*.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Franz Maria Schwei(t)zer, originally from Verona, married Paula Maria, née Allesina, member of a family dealing in silk and fashion wares. He built up a magnificent palace during the years 1787-1792.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Maria Anna Antonia (Marianne) Crux, daughter of a dancer in Mannheim; singer, violinist and pianist.

[40] Tomorrow, Monday, is the processional entry and a whole week of coronation<sup>13</sup> –

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<sup>12</sup> BD: Elisabeth Barbara Qualenberg (cf. note on No. 1022/63).

<sup>13</sup> BD: Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. (Deutsch Bild No. 502). Music: *Missa Solemnis* by Righini (1756-1812).