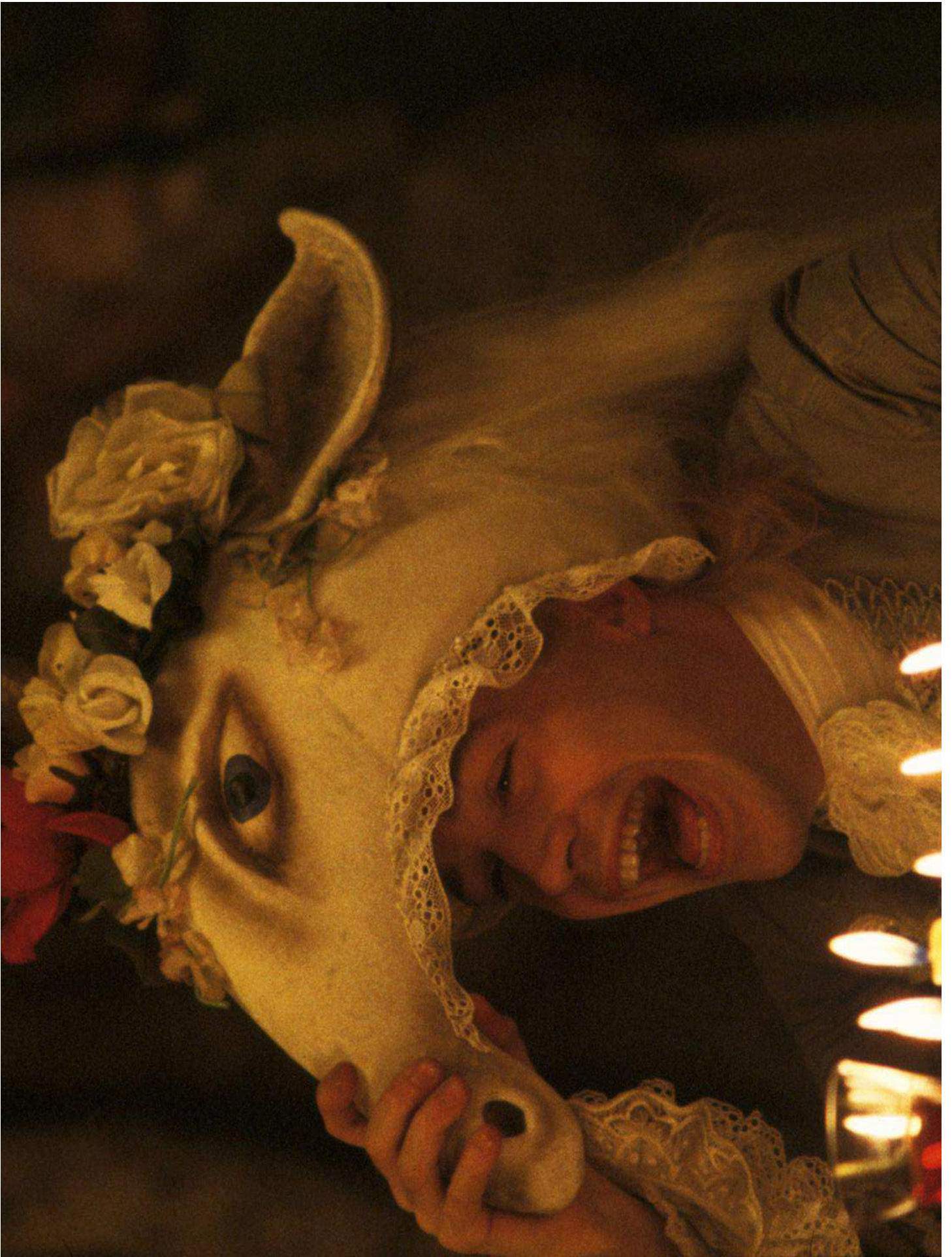
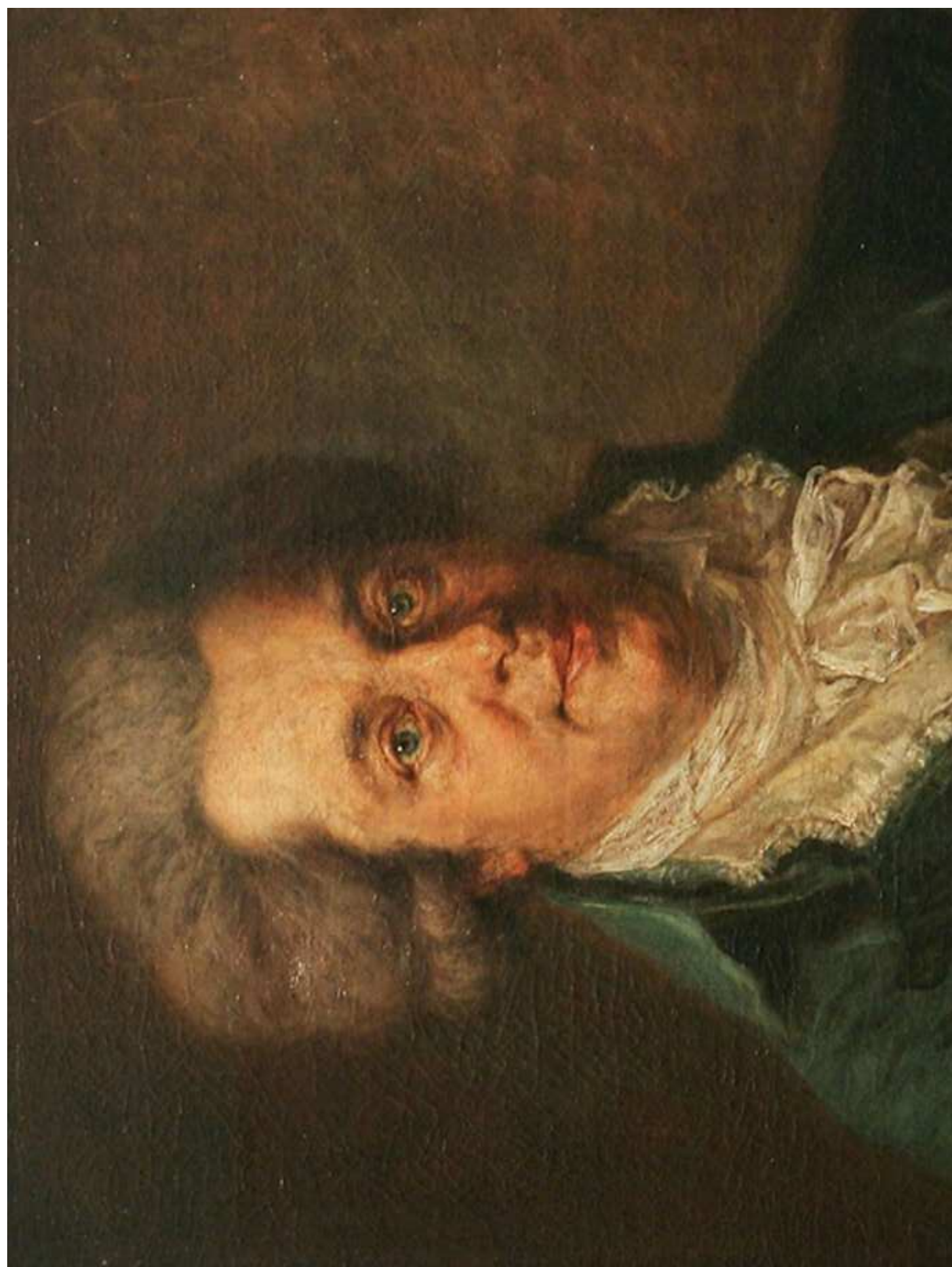










Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died on 5 December 1791 at the age of 35 years.

An analysis of the Vienna register of deaths confirms that Mozart's death was premature; the average age of death for civilian men in this era was 49.8 years.



A wide range of possible final illnesses (118!) has been postulated over the centuries, among which:

- syphilis**
- tuberculosis**
- the effects of treatment with salts of mercury**
- rheumatic fever**
- renal failure due to chronic glomerulonephritis**
- Henoch-Schönlein purpura**
- trichinosis by insufficiently heated pork chops**

According to contemporaries, Mozart may have been ill during the visit he made to Prague in September 1791.





**Emperor Leopold II was to be crowned
King of Bohemia there...**



... and Mozart had composed the opera *La Clemenza di Tito* for the occasion, in only three weeks.

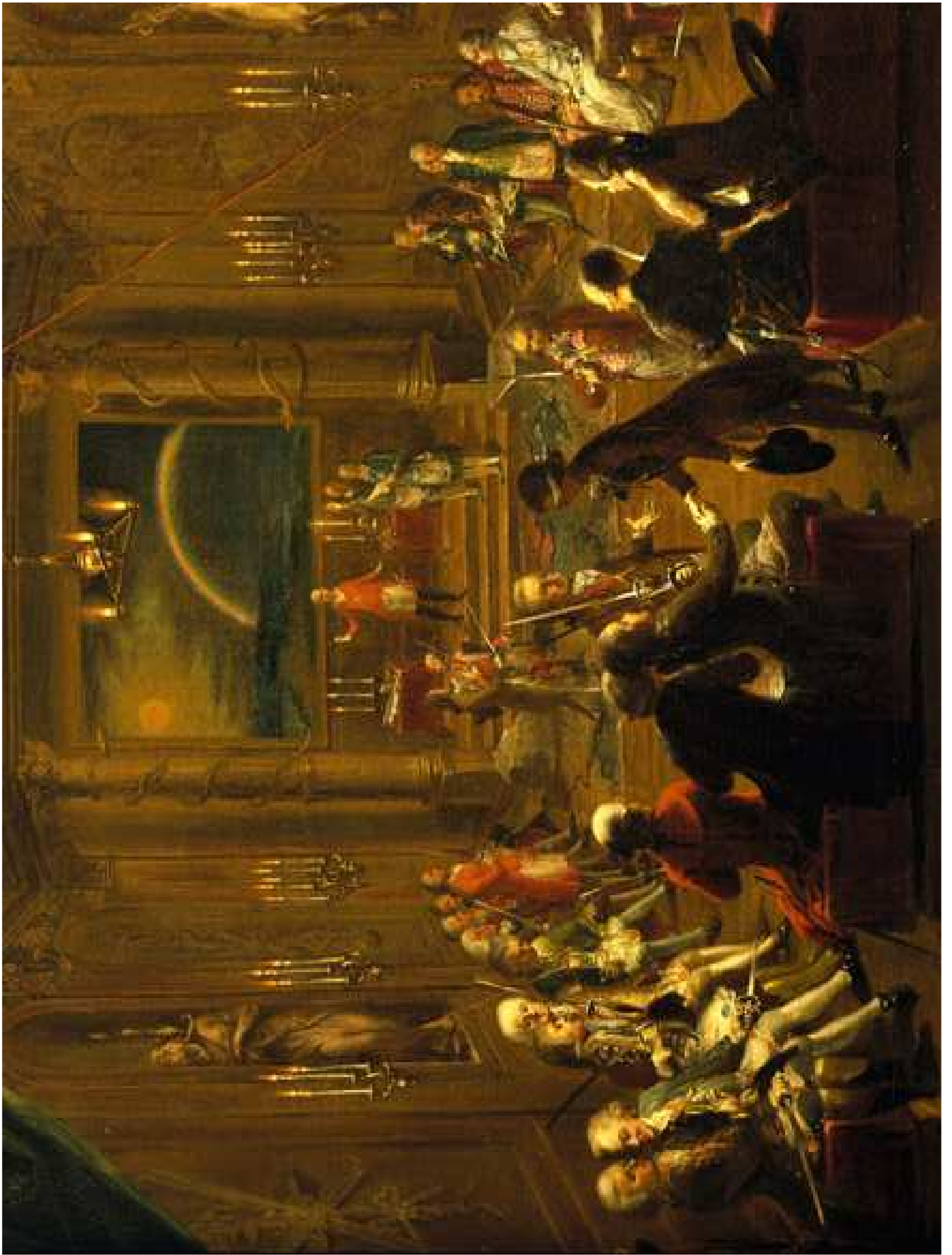
Mozart had apparently picked up during the trip to Prague a '*catarrhal sickness*'.

He looked '*pale and woebegone*', and '*dosed himself constantly with medicines*'.

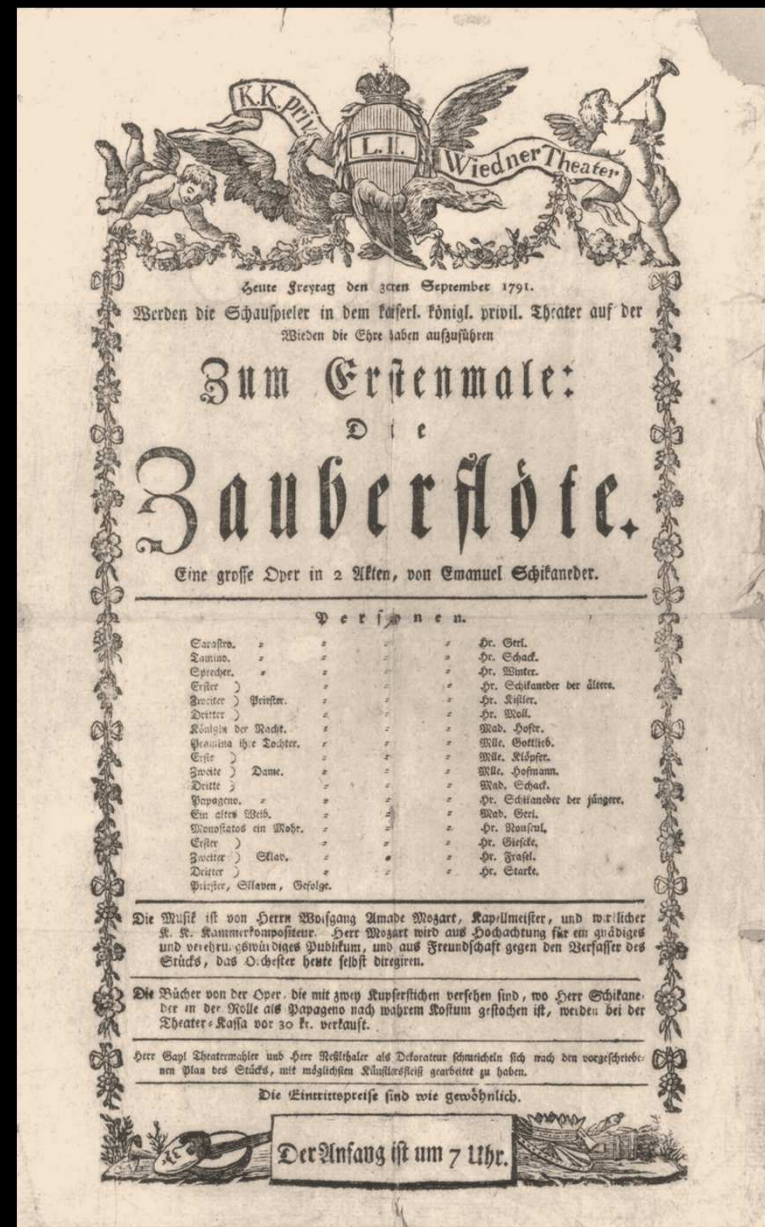
However, this illness could not have been very serious, given the full schedule of activities and diversions during his stay in Prague, and the incredible productivity of Mozart's last year.

Köchel Verzeichnis

K 618	<i>Ave verum Corpus</i>
K 619	<i>Die ihr des unermesslichen Weltalls</i> (Masonic cantata)
K 620	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>
K 621	<i>La clemenza di Tito</i>
K 622	Clarinet concerto
K 623	<i>Eine kleine Freimaurer Kantate</i>
K 624	36 Cadenzas to Piano Concertos
K 625	Duett – <i>Nun, liebes Weibchen</i>
K 626	Requiem



After Mozart returned to Vienna, he completed the musical score of *The Magic Flute* (K 620); conducted its premiere (September 30) and was involved in several more performances.



K.K. priv. Wiedner Theater

Heute Freitag den 30ten September 1791.

Werden die Schauspieler in dem kaiserl. königl. priv. Theater auf der Wieden die Ehre haben aufzuführen

Zum Erstenmale:
Die
Zauberflöte.

Eine große Oper in 2 Akten, von Emanuel Schikaneder.

P e r s o n e n.	
Osafra. „ „	Dr. Berl.
Samson. „ „	Dr. Schach.
Erstler. „ „	Dr. Winter.
Zweiter „ „	Dr. Schikaneder der Ältere.
Dritter „ „	Dr. Kistler.
Königin der Nacht. „ „	Dr. Wolf.
Prinzessin ihre Tochter. „ „	Mad. Hefer.
Erste „ „	Mrs. Gottsch.
Zweite „ „	Mrs. Kistler.
Dritte „ „	Mrs. Hofmann.
Papageno. „ „	Mad. Schach.
Ein altes Weib. „ „	Dr. Schikaneder der Jüngere.
Monstros ein Mohr. „ „	Mad. Berl.
Erste „ „	Dr. Rosenthal.
Zweite „ „	Dr. Girske.
Dritte „ „	Dr. Grafel.
Diener, Sklaven, Gefolge.	Dr. Starke.

Die Musik ist von Herrn Wolfgang Amade Mozart, Kapellmeister, und verehrter K. K. Kammerkompositen. Herr Mozart wird aus Hochachtung für ein gütiges und verehrtes Publikum, und aus Freundschaft gegen den Verfaßter des Stücks, das O. Hefer heute selbst dirigiren.

Die Bücher von der Oper, die mit zwey Kupferstücken versehen sind, wo Herr Schikaneder in der Rolle als Papageno nach wärem Kostum gekostüm ist, werden bei der Theater-Kassa vor 30 kr. verkauft.

Herr Kapellmeister und Herr Regisseur als Dekorator bemühen sich nach den vorgeschriebenen Plan des Stücks, mit möglichstem Kunstfleiß gearbeitet zu haben.

Die Eintrittspreise sind wie gewöhnlich.

Der Anfang ist um 7 Uhr.

His last surviving letter is from 14 October 1791, written to his wife Constanze, who was taking the waters in Baden.



**He made no mention
of any illness or
discomfort.**

**Lucrative financial
offers were arriving,
and Mozart depicts a
busy life, eating and
sleeping well, and
socializing with the
composer Antonio
Salieri.**









The actual building where Mozart lived, located in the Rauhensteingasse (Rough Stone Alley), Number 4, was torn down in 1849.





Am dieser Stelle
stand bis 1849
das Haus in welchem
Mozart
am 2. Dezember 1791
gestorben ist.

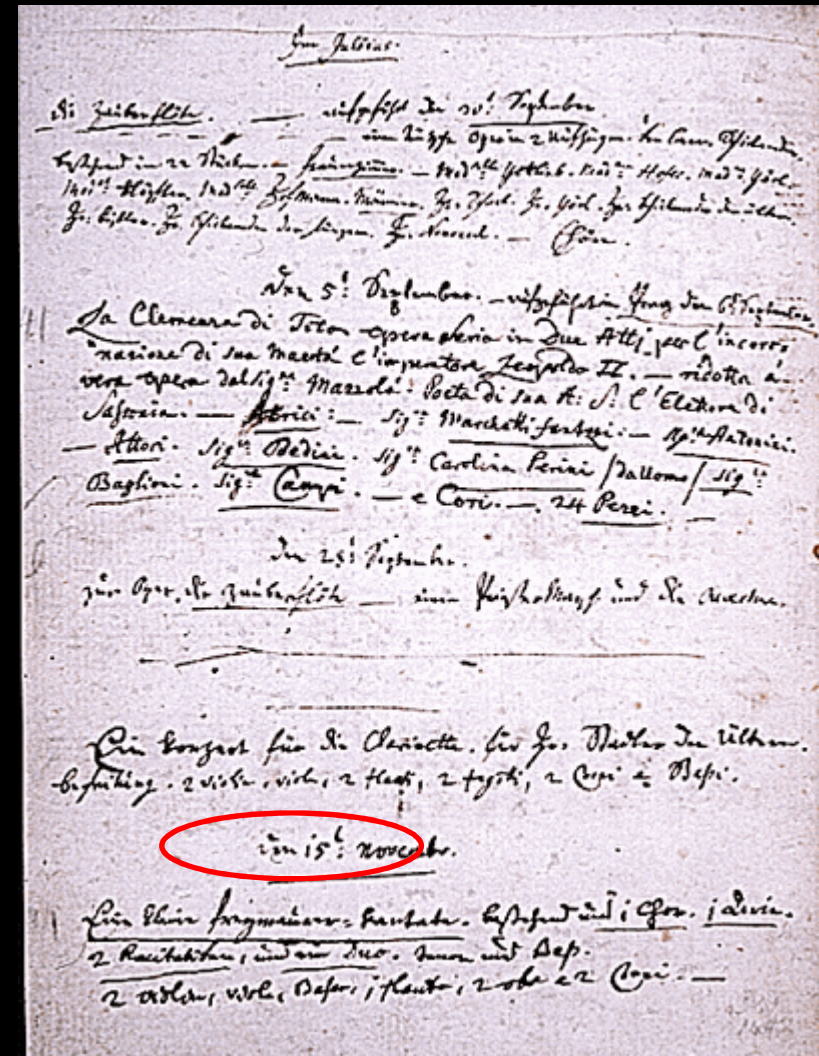
Verfasset von Friedrich Schlegel

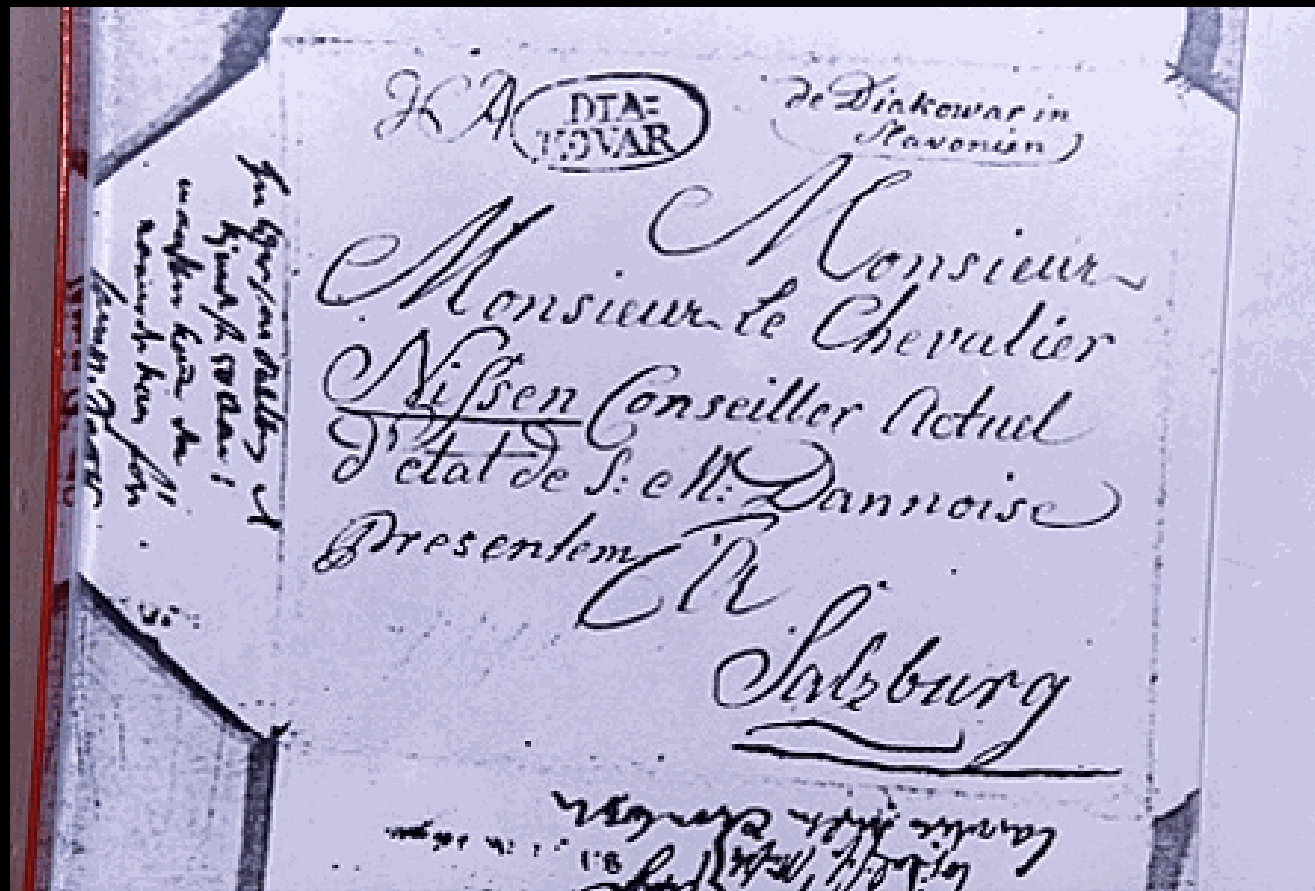
1841

All Mozart's vigor
and *joie de vivre*
can be sensed in
the jubilant
Masonic Cantata
(K 623), which he
wrote for the
dedication of his
lodge in its new
premises.



Three days after this last public performance, he became sick and took to his bed with the illness that would lead to his death.





Mozart's final illness lasted for 2 weeks.

The most detailed description of this illness was provided by his sister-in-law, Sophie Haibel.

We made night-gowns for him that he could put on from the front, since he couldn't turn over because of the profuse swelling.

His arms and legs were very swollen and inflamed.

Because of the painful inflammatory swelling of his arms, Mozart could not have written the notes of a score while on his sickbed.



It seems completely out of question that Mozart took part in a rehearsal of the *Requiem* on the last day of his life.





**After the brief,
passing improvement
in his condition,
almost certainly he
could only discuss
with Süssmayr
questions of
instrumentation**



Süssmayr

- He became (after 1787) a student of Salieri in [Vienna](#). In 1791 he assisted Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as a [copyist](#) with [La clemenza di Tito](#) and [Die Zauberflöte](#) and is presumed to have written the secco [recitatives](#) in the first. Their relationship was close and playful, to judge by surviving letters to Constanze, whom Süssmayr accompanied to [Baden](#).
- For many years he was also thought to have been a student of Mozart, but there is reason to think that the notion of such a relationship was concocted by Mozart's wife [Constanze](#) in order to legitimise his completion of Mozart's *Requiem* (SmWV 105).^{[\[citation needed\]](#)} During Mozart's last days, it is possible that they discussed his Requiem, and Süssmayr took on the task of completing the piece upon his death and did so, turning it over to Constanze within 100 days of Mozart's death. Süssmayr's version of the score is still the most often played, although several alternative versions have been written.



Ignaz von Seyfried, a former student of Mozart's suggests that Mozart probably suffered feverish delirium the night he died.

This acute worsening would explain why members of the family sent for his doctor late in the evening, as Sophie reported.

Instead of trying to drive out the skin eruptions, Dr. Closset bled him and put cold compresses on his head, whereupon his strength declined rapidly and he fell unconscious and died two hours later.

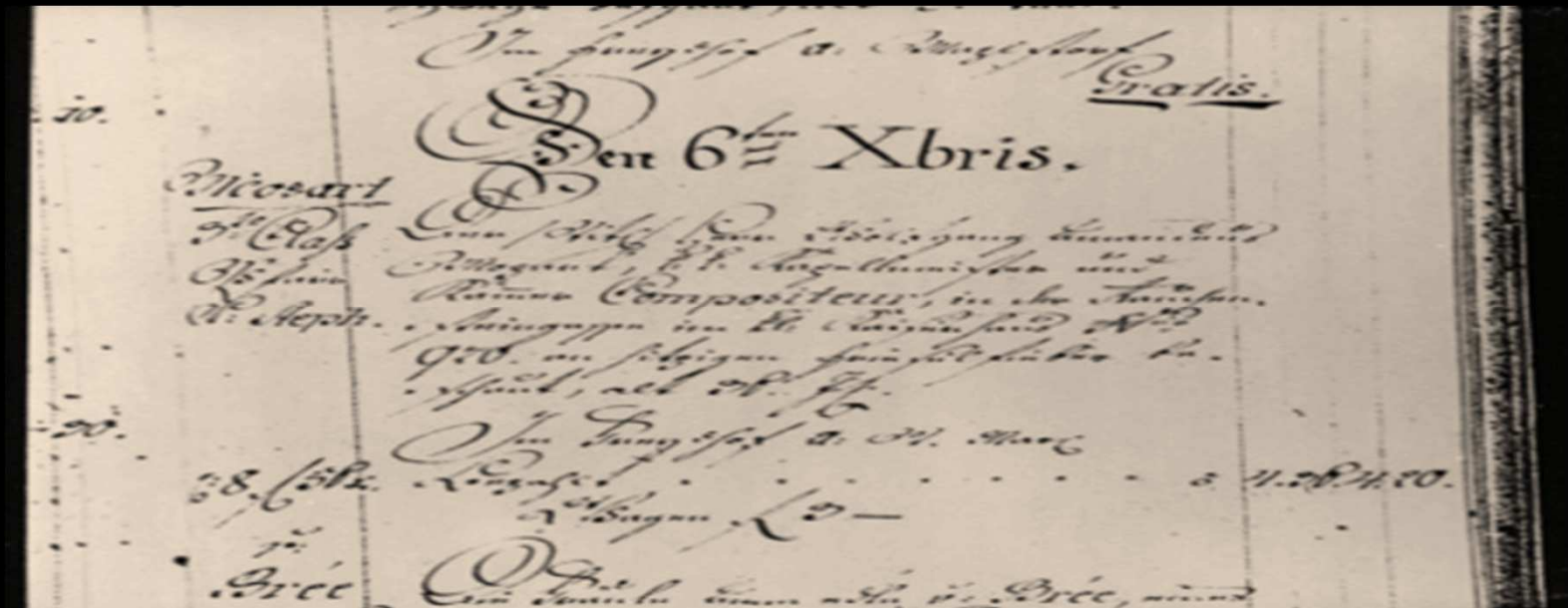


Mozart died at five minutes before one o'clock in the morning of 5 December 1791.

Constanze was apparently beside herself and she is said to have lain in Mozart's bed, to die from the same infection.

Dr. Closset gave her a sedative and she was taken away with her two young sons.





The cause of death in the official register was *hitziges Frieselfieber*, fever and rash. This represented symptoms rather than a disease entity.

In the 18th century, *hitziges Frieselfieber* was defined as ‘miliary fever’, a syndrome of morbilliform exanthema and fever, together with coughing, cramps, and occasional “white eruption”.

The condition was known to be frequently fatal.

In summary, Mozart's final illness seems to have been characterized by a relatively rapid onset, two weeks' duration, severe edema, pain of uncertain localization, fever and rash, no dyspnea, and consciousness until 2 hours before death.

It seems to have been of an epidemic nature.

New information has recently been produced about the causes of death in Vienna during the weeks surrounding Mozart's death.

Deaths in Vienna were recorded in handwritten registers starting in 1607, and these registers have survived from 1648 to 1920.

Ann Intern Med. 2009;151:274-278.

In the months surrounding Mozart's death, 'edema' and related disease was the only diagnostic group that showed an increased incidence among younger men.

Because contemporary information suggests that Mozart's death was due to an epidemic condition over these months, the cause of his death might be in this category.

“In the autumn of 1791 he [Mozart] fell ill of an inflammatory fever, which at that season was so prevalent that few persons entirely escaped its influence.”

This would match a diagnosis of streptococcal pharyngitis, which could have afflicted many people - a small proportion of whom could have developed such sequelae as rheumatic fever or poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis.

The known facts of Mozart's fatal illness, including the features of edema, malaise, and back pain (?), seem compatible with the latter diagnosis.

Mozart's musical output and his schedule of public performances in his final year make a chronic (cardiac?) disease unlikely.

Scarlet fever is another possibility. It was associated with deadly epidemics in the 18th century, and the incidence of subsequent glomerulonephritis was apparently high.

However, all the accounts of relatives who looked after Mozart would suggest that the rash was a late rather than an early symptom.

This makes a diagnosis of postscarlatinal nephritis less likely.

According to Anton Neumayr, acute rheumatic fever is the most likely diagnosis.

Acute rheumatic fever happens relatively seldom in adults but, if left untreated, can lead to death in only a few weeks even today.

We do not know the actual course of the disease in Mozart's time, but the frequency of recurrence must have been considerably higher in previous centuries than it is today.

DEI

SEPOLCRI

CARME

DI

UGO FOSCOLO

Mozart's funeral and burial took place in accordance with the strict sanitary regulations that had been promulgated by the 'enlightened' emperor Joseph II.



All deceased persons, after being consecrated with the singing of the customary church prayers and laid to rest, will thereafter be conveyed to the established cemeteries outside the city limits for burial without pomp or ceremony.

The wagons conveying bodies shall never be driven to the graveyards before 6 o'clock in the evening during the winter period.



No surprise that, for Mozart's relatives and friends, the actual funeral ceremonies were over once the consacration in St. Stephen Cathedral was finished.

A waiting period of 48 hours after death was observed without exceptions.

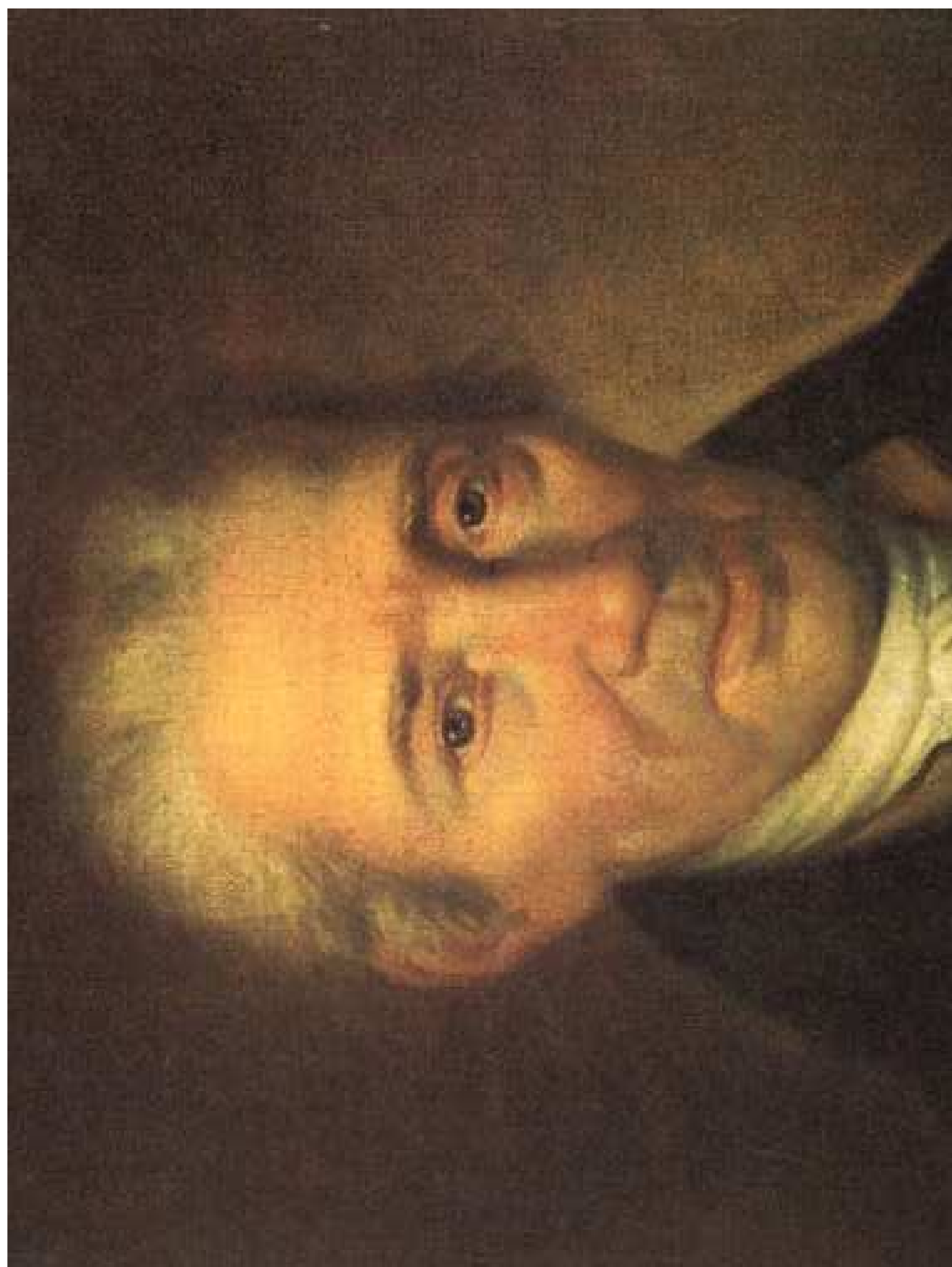
The date of December 7th is in agreement with the dark, miserable and stormy weather reported on the day of the funeral.













- Come ha dimostrato il [musicologo Christoph Wolff](#) nel suo importante testo sul *Requiem*^[1], è certo che qualche giorno dopo la morte di Mozart (il 10 dicembre), venne organizzata una funzione commemorativa durante la quale vennero eseguiti almeno l'*Introitus* ed il *Kyrie*, con coro organo e i soli archi. Questo ufficio funebre fu organizzato, a proprie spese, da [Emanuel Schikaneder](#) ed ebbe luogo nella [chiesa di san Michele](#) a [Vienna](#).

Leider ! müssen wir noch am Schlusse dieses Jahres unsern Lesern eine für die Tonkunst sehr traurige Nachricht geben, nemlich die : Daß am 5ten dieses der allgemein gekannte, gesuchte und geliebte k. k. Hofkammerkompositeur Hr. Mozart an einer Herzwassersucht im 34ten Jahre seines Lebens gestorben ist. Ganz Wien, und mit die-
 ser Kaiserstadt die ganze musikalische Welt — betrauert den frühen Verlust dieses unsterblichen Mannes. Sein Körper ist dahin, seine Seele schwingt sich zu höhern Harmonien, und uns hin-
 terläßt er zum Troste die schönen Produkte seines Geistes. Noch wenige Wochen vor seinem Tode setzte er 4 Quadros, die bei Hrn. Artaria Kom-
 paz in Wien gestochen sind, und in dem Boffler-
 schen Musikverlage zu Speier wird nach dem neuen Jahre von ihm die Presse verlassen : Con-
 cert in D# pour le Clavecin avec l'accompagn.
 de 2 Violons, 1 Flute, 2 Oboe, 2 Cors, 2 Fag.,
 Viole, 2 Clarin., Timp. & Basse. Op. 18. Wir
 wissen zum voraus, daß alle vergl. Werke aus
 der geschickten Feder des Herrn Mozart seinen
 Freunden eine angenehme Erscheinung sind, und
 haben daher nicht nöthig, dieses neue Werk be-
 sonders zu empfehlen.

Wiener Zeitung, December 1791

Todesfall.

Leider ! müssen wir noch am Schlusse dieses Jahres unsern Lesern eine für die Tonkunst sehr traurige Nachricht geben, nemlich die : Daß am 5ten dieses der allgemein gekannte, gesuchte und geliebte k. k. Hofkammerkompositeur Hr. Mozart an einer Herzwassersucht im 34ten Jahre seines Lebens gestorben ist. Ganz Wien, und mit die-
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 haben daher nicht nöthig, dieses neue Werk be-
 sonders zu empfehlen.

terton. to Horatio, and re-
leaves 10,000l. to Valpole, without
the present Lord Walpole, and re-
and recognizes the will of 1752, without
and recognizing the will of 1756. On this cir-
mentioning the will of 1756, which of the
circumstance arises a question, which of the
two wills is to be considered as his Lordship's
last will, of no importance during the life of
Horatio, the present Earl of Orford; but if
he should die without issue, involving or the
he should die without issue, involving or the
than whether the Cholmondeleys or the
Walpoles of Woolterton shall succeed.

At Vienna, Wolfgang Mozart, the cele-
brated German composer. By his death the
musical world will sustain an irreparable loss.

At Eton, Rev. Dr. Wm. Hayward Roberts,
provost of Eton, where he was educated,
and elected to King's College, M.A. 1760,
where he proceeded B.A. 1757, Dr. Barnard
S.T.P. 1773. On the death of Eton, in Decem-
ber, 1781. He published "A poetical Es-
say on the Existence of God, 1771," in two
parts, many parts of which were animated
by true poetic fire (see our vol. XLL. pp. 86,
228, 325); "Poems, (XLV. 181); " 2 vols.

At his house in St.
At his house in St.
84th year, Mr. Grof
At his seat at Wilt
Sir Edw. Winningto
in title and estate
esq. of Stanford-co
M.P. for the boro
At his house in
Cannon-street, af
Cotton, sen. esq.
In the King's
Allen, esq. late
Aged 74, Mr
of Ormsby, No
11. Aged 6
of Basinghall
Sir George
street, Westm
Mrs. Jenn
stationer in
At Dept
of St. Nich
At Oib
James San

At Vienna, Wolfgang Mozart, the celebrated German composer. By his death the musical world will sustain an irreparable loss.

"Gentleman's Magazine" Recording Mozart's Death

London: Printed for D. Henry by John Nichols. December, 1791. First edition. The Gentleman's Magazine, and Historical Chronicle. For December, 1791. Being the Sixth Number of Vol. LXI. Part II. 194 [1073 - 1168] pp. Disbound, from a larger volume with traces of leather and string along spine, in very fine condition.

Founded by Edward Cave (1691 - 1754) under the pen name of Sylvanus Urban, the British monthly was one of the earliest magazines published, and one of the most successful, remaining in print for over 175 years. It was the first publication in history to utilize the title "Magazine," and it features articles on a variety of subjects, including pages summarizing the most notable news of the month at home and abroad, "obituaries, with anecdotes, of remarkable persons", the month's activities in Parliament etc. The highlight of the present issue is the obituary of the composer who died on Dec. 5th of that year. On page 1165 in the obituary section, it states simply: "At Vienna, Wolfgang Mozart, the celebrated composer. By his death the musical world will sustain an irreparable loss."

Mozart had died on December 5th and the present publication, issued in the last week of the month, constitutes one of the earliest printed notices of his passing, most probably the first notice printed in English. Rare

The Gentleman's Magazine - London, 1791



December 10th



