

0880. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen

Salzb., 16th Sept.,
1785

I see that you clearly do not know what aphthous ulceration is, since you think that it is already over. For 9 days it intensifies; and for 9 days it abates. [5] Just as we thought that the child's² mouth and tongue were almost free of it, it came back once again in force; his excrement and urine are so biting when the dirty mess comes out that it attacks his skin, and the child must therefore be cleansed, creamed and powdered 5 or 6 times per day. It is therefore quite natural for this to be painful for the child, [10] and that all of us therefore have our hands full feeding him, and that Nannndl³ is at the moment making efforts to clean him as fast as possible, for he is once again as peaceful as if there were nothing wrong with him. Now, of course, the ulcers are abating; everything must therefore be purged by way of stool and urine. So let us be patient! –

Did I not say that the *fortepiano* would perhaps set itself right, at least to an extent? [15] – – it will hardly become as sick as it was if the room is kept at an even temperature; but since last winter was exceptional, – and since there was little – or very little – heating while you were in Salzburg, – or on some days perhaps no heating at all, the cold and damp got into the *pores* in the wood and make it swell, [20] so everything was bound to stick.

I thank you for what you sent, I had it washed out immediately with water from the fountain and then laid it in vinegar; – the day after tomorrow I will have it prepared straight away. I also received the enclosed money. I hereby send you what you requested, I have only sent those *concertos* where the *oboes* etc. are not so essential. [25] I cannot get little brushes for shaving lather except at the Dult.⁴ I only got mine after ordering it from the brush binder, nor is it anything very splendid. The market will already start in a week. – in the meantime he should simply apply the lather with the hand, as I have done a hundred times. Those scoundrels, the Italians, have made up false letters concerning *Bologna*,⁵ [30] simply to make *Ceccarelli*⁶ anxious about his coach, and thus make a fool of him in front of the whole town. Tomorrow it will be 4 weeks since I had a letter from your brother, – he will be out in the country. – surely tomorrow one will hopefully come, since I have written twice. – or is he perhaps coming himself? – We do not need the feeding bottle with nipple. [35] The serving girl has gossiped here as well, and invented enough lies so that everything is now coming out into the light of day. I have not yet heard the new singer, she only plays the simple roles of course, and you know the tenor with the red stick anyway,⁷ he screams like a tooth-puller in the high register, and his voice is as dry as a wooden shutter. – It will continue to be difficult regarding travelling out to see you. [40] I will not go until the child is completely well. – and

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as “Frau Tochter” [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as “Herr Sohn” [esteemed son].

² BD: girl (“child nurse”).

³ BD: Nannerl’s son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) had remained with Leopold since the birth; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September.

⁴ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

⁵ BD: A market in Salzburg on the 24th September, St. Rupert’s Day.

⁶ BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84. Began a love affair with Regina (“Regerl”) Weyrother, left for Munich in September, 1784.

⁷ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; frequent guest in the Mozarts’ house.

⁸ BD: The Tellers, who came from Lasser’s ensemble in Linz.

then I am tied down here because I cannot know when Nandl has to go to her sister. Basta!⁸ It will surely work out. This morning, the 17th. I have just received a letter from your brother. He tells me that he had written one letter to me during this time, and in it there was the *anecdote* about Lang⁹ [45] which came out so publicly in print in the *Wiener Currant*:¹⁰ then that the Emperor¹¹ said to your brother's wife, How different it is to have an orderly husband! – your brother has *dedicated his quartets*,¹² with a text in Italian, to Herr Joseph Haydn. I will receive it with the next *dilligence*.¹³ Your brother kisses you and the head of your household from the heart. [50] He writes that I should send *Fiala*¹⁴ to Vienna, in the meantime he wants to lead him straight to Count von Kuffstein¹⁵ so that he gets a position right away. Nothing has been heard about either an organ builder or a violinist.¹⁶ – According to what *Brunetti*¹⁷ told me, the Archbishop¹⁸ has not received a reply from any of the places in Italy regarding the violinist, – it seems to me that no reply is also a reply. [55] N.B. you wrote on the 14th, I have discovered that a woman is coming into town tomorrow. – But it was not until yesterday, on Friday afternoon, that she came with the little box: if she cannot easily carry the parts for the *concerto* when she comes now, I will send these on another occasion.

I will certainly speak to the Hagenaur's Teresel.¹⁹ [60] Here they are saying publicly that *Laudon* the Portuguese,²⁰ who stayed at the Hofwirth,²¹ has slipped away and had left his personal *effects* under seal at the Hofwirth.²² He had travelled to Gastein²³ to see the mountains, visited Prince *Salm*,²⁴ Prince Schratzenbach²⁵ in Styria and Carinthia, came, tore

⁸ = "Enough!"

⁹ BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780 and was thus Mozart's brother-in-law; six children; they separated around 1795. The story has not been found in any Viennese newspapers. His stage portrayal of jealous young lovers was mentioned as being so convincing that one had to believe he would display the same character off stage.

¹⁰ BD: Wiener Courant(?). Presumably a newspaper is meant

¹¹ "Kayser". BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia.

¹² BD: The six string quartets dedicated to Joseph Haydn (KV 387, 421 (417b), 428 (421b), 458, 464 and 465) were published by Artaria in 1785 as op. X. the dedication was not printed in the second impression (1787?). Karl Friedrich Cramer's *Magazin der Musik* of 23rd April, 1787, and of July, 1789, shows the bewilderment with which contemporaries received them. Text: see No. 0874.

¹³ BD: Larger coach used for regular post services and with seats for passengers.

¹⁴ 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. His departure from Salzburg was described in No. 0876/11 ff.

¹⁵ "Gr: v Kuffstein". BD: Johann Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Kuefstein (1752-1818), in charge of the defences of Vienna [Stadthauptmann], court counsellor [Hofrat]. Subscribed to Mozart's concert in 1784. Violinist, amateur conductor, also a composer.

¹⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0871/64 "organ builder": a replacement for Egedacher. The violinist may be needed to substitute for the ailing Wenzel Sadlo.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

¹⁹ BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer (1740-1820), the eldest daughter of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. In No. 0884/23-24 it turns out that this concerns the jewellery the Berchtolds wanted to sell as mentioned in No. 0804/41.

²⁰ BD: A rich Portuguese Jew, cf. No. 1038/73 ff.

²¹ BD: "Royal inn" on the edge of the Lodrons' garden. The court musicians often met here in the evening.

²² BD: "Royal Inn". An inn in Salzburg.

²³ Bad Gastein, a spa 105 km south of Salzburg.

²⁴ "Fürst". BD: Franz Xaver, Altgraf [a title granted uniquely to this family] Salm-Reifferscheid (1749-1822), Cardinal, from 1783-1822 Prince-Bishop of Gurk, Imperial Prince [Reichsfürst].

²⁵ "Fürst". BD: Vinzenz Joseph Franz Salesius, Count [Graf] Schratzenbach (1744-1816), Imperial Prince [Reichsfürst], Bishop of Lavant, later Bishop of Brno, member of Salzburg cathedral chapter.

off the seal himself, went to the municipal *legal adviser*²⁶ with 1000 ducats,²⁷ and it turned out that all the fuss had arisen over a ring [65] which Seneschal Mayr²⁸ had given him to sell on *commission*, for 19 ducats²⁹ to be precise, when of course his effects at the inn furthermore amounted to over 2000. Nannl commends herself to the gracious favour of both of you, and also sends a special greeting to Fräulein Nannerl.³⁰ Tresl³¹ and *Monica*³² kiss your hands.

[70] The child slept well last night. The inflammation around the scrotum is now pretty much healed, now we are *treating* his arse – or little hole. I kiss you and the children from my heart and am eternally your sincere

father Mozart mp³³

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

the 17th Sept., 1785

[75]

The woman promised to come at 10 or 11 o'clock this morning. I had accordingly put everything together, was constantly waiting for the woman, did not go out of the house because I wanted to see and speak to her myself about whether she could take everything with her. There is still no woman to be seen! – [80] I am still hopeful she will come, because she gave a firm promise. Then Herr Haselberger sent someone here before 1 o'clock to ask me if perhaps my esteemed son³⁴ is coming into town, since he had sent a very urgent letter to him via the Graz messenger and has not yet received a reply. – I suspect the Graz messenger perhaps forgot to deliver the letter a week ago, [85] and let it go on a walk to Gratz with him; or was the letter left lying at Muntigler's?³⁵ – Enough! That is the reason why I am writing this, because it seems to me that Herr Haselberger is worried and anxious to have a prompt reply. – I have not seen the messenger at all. He had nothing to bring me. He therefore did not show his face here, – [90] and in the letter it says I should give the things to the woman –, the woman promised to come, and also said that she had been told she must bring something out to you: so I am waiting in expectancy, – in consternated expectancy, – your sincere father

Mzt mp³⁶

²⁶ “Stadt-Syndicus”.

²⁷ BD: = 4500 florins.

²⁸ “trouzes Mayr”. BD: Johann Kajetan Mayr von Mayregg (1721-1797), oldest seneschal [Truchsess] (since 1740), father of the “nannerl marrik” named in No. 0321/58.

²⁹ BD: = 85.5 florins.

³⁰ “Freyle Nanerl” = Fräulein Nannerl = Little Madame Nannerl. BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), at this time 13 years old. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young.

³¹ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

³² BD: Leopold's daily household help.

³³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³⁴ Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

³⁵ BD: The “upper tavern” in St. Gilgen, apparently used as a mail depot.

³⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.