

1027. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 2nd February
1787

Little Leopold² is well!

I did of course have a lot to do recently, since I was in any case getting myself ready for a sudden departure, [5] but the air-*balloon*³ is not taking off and is staying on the ground. Nor was I relying on it at all, since I know how necessary Heinrich⁴ is for the music now. But the Archbishop⁵ did not refuse the permission vehemently or crossly, but expressed the thought that since the music is now his only entertainment and pleasure, [10] he would be very happy to see us refraining from such a request because he would not be able to have any worthwhile music during this whole time. Such a show of courtesy in refusing something is one of the 7 Wonders of the World. – I wrote to Munich yesterday with this sad news. Heinrich comforted himself that if the *opera* is good, it will be put on all the more in the coming year, when *M.^{dme} Le Brun*⁶ will be there, [15] whereas Gretl⁷ is currently playing her role.

This time we must certainly exercise patience and bear the loss of the *opera* trip along with all the associated pleasures etc.

Although, by chance, there might be a shimmer of hope, like a fading will-o'-the-wisp, of being allowed to travel up perhaps on the 10th for the last 8 days, [20] since there will not be any music at court on the last 3 days of Carnival anyway. Yet, as I say, only by chance, not due to ourselves, but to the esteemed Count *Arco*,⁸ who is very well-inclined towards us. But with difficulty! – The misfortune is that *Strinasachi*⁹ is not at all a person on whom one could rely.

The old, honest stonemason next door has died. [25] He had already been bed-ridden for some days, weak with age, he received the sacraments twice during this time. His sanctimonious, praying nun of a wife and his children, who showed very little concern for their father, found him, quite stiff, dead in bed in the morning; God knows when he died during the night. Now everyone will see what the creditors will have to lose. And where are the dwarfs to go?¹⁰ –

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: Nannerl’s son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather’s death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

³ BD: A symbol for the faltering plans to see opera in Munich with Heinrich. Cf. Leopold’s interest in the latest ballooning experiments as expressed in Nos. 0900/9 ff. and 0980/13.

⁴ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts’ home for three years until 1774.

⁵ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] 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.

⁶ BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), employed in the Munich court music, as was her husband, Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790).

⁷ BD: Heinrich’s sister, Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”), who had also been a boarding pupil with Leopold.

⁸ “Graf”. BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), from 1786 Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

⁹ BD: Brother of the violinist Regina Strinasacchi, but Leopold obviously did not trust him to replace Heinrich.

¹⁰ BD: Jakob Mössl, Leopold’s neighbour on the Hannibalplatz, had three daughters and two sons. Two of the daughters had stunted growth, hence the use of “dwarf”.

[30] Along with this I am sending you both something¹¹ which I bought myself for 24 kr, it is expensive for 4 sheets, – but remarkable! – and was sold out in a moment. – Now you see why the Archbishop went on his journey to Spaa. But I would request you to be sure to send it back to me again with the next messenger.¹²

It is no wonder that Herr Strobl¹³ has forgotten where he put the *sonatas*,¹⁴ [35] for he certainly did not go to bed sober.

When the glass-carrier woman¹⁵ comes, I will give her books and the umbrella and whatever else she asks for. She has not called yet.

Wolfg.¹⁶ is not allowed to go out anywhere and walk. The Magister¹⁷ only allowed him out with the esteemed brother from Strobl.

[40] Herr Günther the barber¹⁸ is dead and buried, as is the *Father Prior* of St. Peter's. *Father Sub-Prior Kaserer* is *Prior*, and the son of a local coppersmith, I believe he is called *Maximilian*, has become *Sub-Prior*.

At the last *ball* there were over 200 persons. And the *banco* won back 200 florins again.¹⁹

[45] *Brunetti's* wife still has not received a Favour,²⁰ – but, quite naturally, everything has been *inventoried*. She *claims* to have a dowry worth 300 florins which her father paid to them at 80 florins 20 kr²¹ per month. From the *accounts* it is quite evident that *Brunetti* had debts of 1300 fl when he married, which his wife has paid off, except for 400 fl, since entering matrimony, – for which the relevant proofs are available. Now it all depends on who pays the 400 fl.

Now keep well! I kiss you both from the heart and am, as always, your sincere father

Mozart mp²²

Leopoldl sends 1000000 smacking kisses to you both and to his siblings.²³ [55] I greet the children. Nandl²⁴ and Tresel²⁵ kiss your hands, I greet Lennerl.²⁶

¹¹ BD: Cf. No. 1032/41. Leopold sent Nannerl the brochure *Das Resultat des Emserbades* on the political significance of the Archbishop's journey to "Spaa" (in fact Bad Ems) and the congress. (Three German Electors sought to form a national church and restrict the Pope's jurisdiction there)

¹² BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a carter who came to Salzburg once a week. The "glass-carrier woman" also provided a service on this route.

¹³ BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1739-1794), older brother of Leopold's son-in-law, administered an iron warehouse in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1026/45.

¹⁵ BD: From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the "glasträgerin" ["glass-carrier woman"] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

¹⁶ BD: Nannerl's stepson, a pupil in a school in Salzburg.

¹⁷ BD: Magister Abele, proprietor of the school.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 1011/73. A German "Bader" also carried out certain surgical interventions.

¹⁹ BD: Cf. No. 1026/35.

²⁰ BD: A gratuity generally offered to the widows of court employees.

²¹ BD: Presumably 8 florins 20 kreuzers.

²² mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²³ BD: Step-brothers and sisters.

²⁴ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

²⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²⁶ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

Heinrich commends himself.

I must hurry and get to the *theatre!* *Camma*,²⁷ which is very good.

²⁷ BD: *Camma, die Heldin Bojoariens* [“Camma, the Heroine of Boyoaria”] by Professor Lorenz Hübner (cf. No. 0534/9), choruses by Peter Winter (cf. No. 0051/3-4 etc.). Première in Munich, 1784, printed Prague, 1785, first performance in Salzburg, 1787.