

1055. MOZART TO HIS SISTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Dearest sister!

[Vienna, 2nd June, 1787]

You can easily imagine how painful the sad news² of the sudden demise of our dearest father was to me, as the loss is the same both of us. – – Since I cannot possibly leave Vienna at the moment³ [5] |: which I would do more for the sake of having the pleasure of *embracing* you :| and as far as what our blessed father has left behind is concerned, it will hardly be worth the trouble, I have to confess to you that I am also entirely of your opinion regarding a public auction; only I expect the corresponding *inventarium*⁴ beforehand so as to be able to exercise some choice;⁵ – but if, as Herr *d'Yppold*⁶ writes, [10] there is a *dispositio paterna inter liberos*,⁷ so it is absolutely necessary for me to know this *dispositio* in order to be able to take further steps; – – so I am only waiting for an exact copy of it and then, after a brief perusal, I will give you my opinion on the spot. – – I would ask you to have the enclosed letter⁸ delivered to our true, good friend Herr von *d'Yppold*; [15] – – As he has demonstrated his friendship towards our family in so many cases in the past, I hope he will carry out this further act of friendship for me and represent my person wherever necessary. – – Farewell, dearest sister! I am eternally your

[20] Vienna, 2nd June, 1787

Faithful brother
W. A. Mozart mp⁹

P.S. My wife commends herself to you and your husband, as do I. – –

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: No. 1050 (lost).

³ BD: Mozart probably needed to work on *Don Giovanni*, which he had started in March, 1787.

⁴ = Inventory.

⁵ BD: Differences of opinion between Mozart and his sister suggested by such phrases as his "obligation to consider my wife and child" (cf. No. 1058/11) continued into August. The auction was announced in the *Salzburger Intelligenzblatt* on 15th and 22nd August, 1787. The 579 items in the inventory were valued at 999 florins 42 kreuzers. The announcement in the *Intelligenzblatt* mentioned not only “precious stones, trinkets and silver work, men’s underwear and linen... and household items,” but also a microscope and a keyboard instrument. Only 314 items were sold, the remainder went to Nannerl. These included portraits of the family and Wolfgang, a clavichord and other instruments, such as a children’s violin and the so-called “concert violin” belonging to Wolfgang.

⁶ BD: Franz Armand d’Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain [k.k. Hauptmann], supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the “de” (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.

⁷ BD: A last will determining the shares of the heirs in the estate. No legal documents concerning the settlement of the will have been found.

⁸ BD: No. 1054 (lost). D’Ippold may well have refused to represent Wolfgang’s interests, which would automatically collide with those of Nannerl; an indication of this may be the absence of any mention of d’Ippold in the future correspondence between Wolfgang and Nannerl.

⁹ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.