

0929. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopoldl² is well!

Salzb., 1st February,
1786

News has probably already reached St. Gilgen by word of mouth that the mine³ I had laid exploded successfully and Father Dominicus⁴ was already prelate after the first scrutinio⁵. [5] The mine I had prepared – this is no empty phrase, but it would be too involved to explain until I can tell you of the roguery or maliciousness in person or in writing. His parents and a portion of the town knew the outcome of the election even sooner than the voters and the winner. [10] As soon as the *commissioners* find out that someone has been elected, they go to the Archbishop⁶ to inform him of it and to hear his *placet*.⁷ So they had hardly left the Prince's⁸ room when he rang and called for a footman to run to his parents at once and tell them that he sends his compliments and congratulates them on their son's election. [15] Now, since the footman became as light as a feather due to the present that he could confidently hope for and also received, he flew across the marketplace as if he had murdered the Prince, shouted and pushed everyone aside and came into Hagenauer's⁹ room so out of breath that he could hardly speak. People saw him running, – everyone leapt out of the arcades, [20] they gazed after him, ran after him – and on his way back they heard that what they had suspected from his running was true. In the meantime, almost half an hour went past until the crowd that gathered in St. Peter's heard *Father Canon Klaynmayr*¹⁰ proclaim the winner of the election from the pulpit. [25] When I came to Hagenauer's room afterwards, all the rooms were so full of those *congratulating*, from wall to wall, that no-one could move. Then *billets*¹¹ came from all the ladies and gentlemen etc., all the ecclesiastical and secular councillors came partly in person or sent *billets* etc. In the afternoon came the *Superiores* of all the monasteries and those nuns granted egress from enclosure. – A *delegate* from the *university* etc. In short! [30] Until 10 o'clock at night the door handle was passed from one hand to the next. – The *Te deum Laudamus* was at 11 o'clock, and so it was while I was among the whirr of people at Hagenauer's that an invitation came for his esteemed father and his brother Johannes to dine at St. Peter's. In the meantime the room had emptied a little, the old man had to dress, [35] 2 *reverend Fathers* came from St. Peter's to escort him. I took my evening meal with Frau Hagenauer, but came to the table later because the *director* of the

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: Cf. No. 0923/ 85 ff., Leopold's countermeasures in the election campaign for the prelateship.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0093/185, 196. Kajetan Rupert (1746-1811), fourth son of the merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. Entered the Benedictine monastery of St. Peter's in Salzburg in 1764. Was given the name Dominicus in the monastery. Leopold's preferred candidate for the prelateship. Mozart wrote the *Dominicus Mass* KV 66 for his first Mass celebration in 1796.

⁵ = round of voting.

⁶ BD: (Prince-)Archbishop: 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.

⁷ “It is pleasing” – it is approved.

⁸ “Fürst”. BD: Again Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812) as above.

⁹ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Father of Father Dominicus. Sometime landlord and friend to the Mozart family.

¹⁰ BD: Father Johannes Damascenus von Kleinmayrn, Benedictine in Wesenbrunn.

¹¹ = written notes.

priests' residence and the parish priest from the Gnigl,¹² and afterwards also 2 *professores* from the *collegio*, were there. During the evening meal, Bauernfeind¹³ of the pawnshop with wife and daughter, the director of buildings¹⁴ and spouse were there too. [40] After 9 o'clock, the coach came from St. Peter's and brought old Hagenauer home, and with him was the esteemed *Father Rector*, the *Father Vice-Rector* and the *reverend Canon*. In the meantime the new worthy prelate had driven home to sleep in Nonnberg,¹⁵ and his brother Johannes had to accompany him. The abbess and some of the more earnest convent ladies were still waiting for him and had a time of heartfelt weeping. [45] Johannes drove home and told us all this.

the 3rd of February.

Yesterday, 10 o'clock, I first of all went to the worthy new prelate, who received me with the greatest joy, as was always our custom, and persuaded me to come to eat at 12 o'clock, and told me about all his guests, namely his [50] father, brother, Weiser,¹⁶ Hefter,¹⁷ the old and the young Ranftl,¹⁸ the *quartermaster*, the *city mayor*, and two *Theatines*: Provost¹⁹ Neymiller and Grimming. We were in good spirits in a quite natural way, there were neither airs nor pedantry, and after the meal the former *Collegi* preacher, Stechen, Sechen,²⁰ spoke with me at length about your brother, because he and your sister-in-law²¹ are out in Dornbach²² at the moment, [55] where this *Father Edmund* currently has the cure of souls. Since parties are always coming out to Dornbach, he told me that all Vienna considers Wolfgang the greatest musical artist in Vienna. – at 4 o'clock the prelate drove to the Archbishop. That, then, was the first important piece of news! – –

The second matter is that I had to write to Munich on the 30th because *Brunetti*²³ [60] came running up to me and told me the Archbishop had ordered me to kindly write that he would take Heinrich²⁴ into service, if he is inclined, for 300 florins and travelling money for 1 or 2 years, as he wishes. Accordingly, I received a reply,²⁵ and that was this afternoon. I immediately wrote to your brother about this on Tuesday so that he can either chat with *Baron van Swieten*²⁶ or keep quiet about the other business²⁷ with Heinrich. [65] So Heinrich will

¹² Now part of Salzburg.

¹³ BD: Johann Joseph Kaspar Bauernfeind [Pauernfeind], manager of the pawnbroker's shop.

¹⁴ BD: Wolfgang Hagenauer, a relation.

¹⁵ The nunnery on a hill above Salzburg where Dominicus was the Father Confessor.

¹⁶ BD: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and business magnate, son of Ignaz Anton Weiser (cf. No. 0053/8). Married to Theresia Haffner (1740-1798), daughter of Siegmund Haffner the Elder (cf. No. 0068/28).

¹⁷ BD: Johann Ignaz Valentin Heffter (1739-1818), Salzburg merchant and later mayor of the town.

¹⁸ BD: Matthias Ranftl, established merchant in Salzburg. His sons were Franz Ranftl, merchant, and Rupert Ranftl, Benedictine priest.

¹⁹ "Probst".

²⁰ BD: This is the Father Edmund of line 55. His name, however, is Radler, not Stechen or Sechen.

²¹ BD: Constanze, Wolfgang's wife, Nannerl's sister-in-law.

²² BD: At this point still a suburb of Vienna. The Salzburg Benedictine foundation of St. Peter's had a country estate there.

²³ 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.

²⁴ BD: Son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand. He had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe ("Gretl") joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784.

²⁵ BD: No. 0927, lost.

²⁶ "Baron van Swieten" BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had been involved in developing education policy. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn's "Seven Last Words" and "The Seasons". Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed music himself.

surely come. – or I will probably have to fetch him, for I have already made every provision for looking after Leopoldl in such a case, if it should come to that.

3rd piece of news. The sister of the blessedly deceased wife²⁸ of the administrator of St. Johannes-Spittal, [70] the wife of the apothecary in Munich, has died, and her son, the apothecary, likewise two weeks later. Now, with the widower Sepperl²⁹ representing his mother – all died *ab intestato*³⁰ – letters came saying that his father should quickly travel up there with him: – so he came into a tidy inheritance. –

4th. On Monday is the *Barisani* wedding in Seekürchen,³¹ [75] with very few friends, only the closest, and on Tuesday they are going to the *ball*. At the last *ball* there were 176 persons, the Archbishop, along with the city commissioners, was in the best of moods because of the election. At each *ball* there are 2 different council members there as *commissioners*.

5th. The barber Braun died at the market.

[80] The Robinis' Louise³² is in a wretched state, yet may keep going for some time; but could also depart anytime in a bout of weakness.

*Father Ildephonsus Lidl*³³ has cut a poor figure once again. After the evening meal on the day of the election, he went to the prelate and took leave of him, since he wanted to leave the next morning, [85] for he is professor to the *fratribus*³⁴ of St. Veit's monastery by Ötting. The prelate asked him to stay with them for 3 more days, and said the following words, which were heard by all standing around them: I beg you to do me the honour of staying on here; you will surely not subject me to this consternation, since all the other gentlemen are staying here. But he left!

Now I have eaten!

[90] Thank you for what you sent with the messenger.³⁵ The paper or envelope for the letter was not a draft, you know that I would never in my life waste time on a draft and ruin my eyes, especially over such a trifle. I immediately saw that I had left a few words in my pen because I proceeded so fast with my writing. [95] I cursed because it could no longer be changed and stopped, took another piece of paper and started writing again.

I will certainly take something with me if I should go to Munich. –

²⁷ Cf. No. 0924/13 ff.

²⁸ BD: Theresia, wife of Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] close to Salzburg.

²⁹ BD: Joseph Wölf(f)l (1773-1812), son of the deceased Theresia Wölf(f)l and one of Leopold's pupils.

³⁰ Without a valid testament.

³¹ BD: Monday, 6th February. The somewhat secretive wedding in Seekirchen (north-west of Salzburg)

mentioned in No. 0809/14. The bride was the daughter of the Archbishop's personal physician, Joseph Barisani.

³² BD: In recent letters there were various references to the illness of Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

³³ BD: Cf. No. 0918/33. Father Ildefonsus Lidl (* 1738), Benedictine in Saint Peter's in Salzburg, previously a professor of theology, later parish priest in Dornbach by Vienna. During a literary dispute with Lorenz Hübner in 1790, the latter described him as "despised even by his own people".

³⁴ = religious brothers.

³⁵ 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.

It is true about the net loss of 130 florins on the capital of 13,000 florins, but due to the schedule of fees³⁶ the loss will not turn out as heavy as my esteemed son³⁷ indicates. [100] He will say that he must know better; and I reply that I will prove to him in person, at a suitable opportunity, that it is not only in music that I know how to count: loss is always loss, that is undeniably true, and it is always unpleasant; large or small, it is always very disadvantageous. Otherwise the same old God is still alive. – Everyone is fairly left in wonderment that you can hold out and do not have the curiosity to visit your child and see him, since you are after all only 6 hours away. I am asked about this a hundred times by them all until I am tired of it; for how should I answer them? – – Everyone believes you will come into town at Carnival, especially since it is such a long one. The journey is a trifle, – [110] and here you are not forced to incur great costs: you do of course have eat and drink at home anyway. – If I should go to Munich, it will be in the coming week, on the 11th, so that I can then see the *opera La Fiera*³⁸ on Monday the 13th and then the *opera Armida*³⁹ on the 20th. Could you not make the little leap into town during this time? – – Would I not be more at peace and in better cheer in Munich [115] if I knew that you were here with the child even for only a few days? – You do not know how unsettled I am because of my heartfelt love for the *charming* boy. Now I have played the violin for him as well.⁴⁰ He became entirely motionless, and was so attentive that he did not move a single limb of his whole body, when otherwise he is in incessant motion with his hands and feet: it was astonishing! [120] Nor would you need to carry things with you or stay until I came back, since I will be coming out to you with Herr Schmid⁴¹ anyway immediately after my return. Unless the Munich trip prevents me, I would come out to you before the end of Carnival. But today I received an answer from Marchand, saying that he is satisfied with the offer⁴² [125] and once again asking me to fetch Heinrich. Yesterday, Thursday, I received 2 letters⁴³ from him again, one *directly*, the other with the *packet* post, which he wrote before he had received my letter of Monday, so today the 3rd one came, namely the answer to the Archbishop's offer. So what you should do, if I write to you with the next messenger saying that I am setting off, is to come into town for a few days during this time, [130] so that I would be at peace and everything would be in order. This is really striking!

The cook will come out with the messenger. At this season going on foot is certainly no fun, – a pair of shoes, more or less! – – –

I have to make one further remark in advance: that if you come into town now, I will indeed bring Leopoldl out to you in summer, but am only intending to do this en visite,⁴⁴ and in no sense should he stay out there.

On the evening before the prelate's election day, a little sealed *Octave Calendar* arrived at the Hagenauers bearing this inscription:

[140] To the 3 Inquisitive Maidens.⁴⁵

The following was entered on the first note page of this beautiful little Note Calendar:

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0909/60.

³⁷ Leopold's standard form of address to his son-in-law.

³⁸ BD: *La Fiera di Venezia* by Salieri; cf. No. 0904/9.

³⁹ BD: *Armida abbandonata* by Alessio Prati; cf. No. 0904/4.

⁴⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0925/30 ff.

⁴¹ BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), organ builder, worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to "old" Egedacher; he had previously learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg. Leopold has asked him to do keyboard repairs for Nannerl.

⁴² BD: Cf. line 59 ff.

⁴³ BD: No. 0928, lost.

⁴⁴ = as a visit.

⁴⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0838/34.

Curiosity.

Who will become the First at St. Peter's on the last day of January?

[145]

Oracle

*DoMInICVs hagenAVer beIChtVater In VhraLten fraVenstIft In nVnberg.*⁴⁶

I. M. R.

Afterwards we learned what it means: *Jacobus Mayrler Regens*,⁴⁷ namely in the priests' seminary residence".

[150] The glass-carrier woman will bring 19 or 20 *plays* from the Eberlins' Waberl⁴⁸ – scribblings of every kind. These people have nothing new themselves. – I have not yet been able to dig up the *Abderiten*.⁴⁹ – The messenger is standing there I kiss all of you *addio*:

Today, in the morning.

Mozart mp⁵⁰

⁴⁶ BD: This chronogram indicates the year 1786. ["Dominicus Hagenauer Father Confessor in the Ancient Women's Foundation in Nonnberg."]

⁴⁷ BD: Jacobus Mayrler Regens: "When Mayrler was supervisor [of the priests' seminary residence]". Cf. No. 0838/35.

⁴⁸ BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762). The plays were presumably copied out purely for personal reading.

⁴⁹ BD: Novel (1774) by Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1813).

⁵⁰ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.