

1005. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is well!

Salz., 24th Nov., 1768³

Did I not say that sensible people should not worry before anything has happened?⁴ – The esteemed Chief Administrator in Neumark[t]⁵ has *turned down* the administrative district Mittersill,⁶ [5] and the Archbishop⁷ found his reasons fair. Mittersill may be a very good district, but its main thing is its *large-scale economic activity*, and it requires a strong hand to take over; – and moving there from Neumark takes one across the whole territory of Salzburg; it consequently involves new, high costs.

The Chief Administrator of Mittersill is going to Radstatt.⁸ It is said that the municipal judge⁹ of Radstatt is to go to Goldegg. [10] A routine letter has therefore been sent to the official in Goldegg, since he has not expressed any wishes, asking whether he might perhaps be inclined to go to Mittersill or anywhere else.¹⁰ – The cause of your worry has thus been removed. The mountains were in labour and gave birth to a little mouse!

The story that the butchers here are buying sick cattle is a blatant lie. [15] All cattle that are slaughtered and offered for sale have to be examined and slaughtered in front of the appointed *commission*. Are they going to fail to take the necessary precautionary measures when there is danger of an *epidemic* breaking out among the people? – – –

When I called on the esteemed Magister¹¹ and enquired, I was told what I already knew, [20] namely that Wolfgang does indeed have very rustic manners, but he will certainly throw them off one by one when he is surrounded by examples of other young people. – He had no scruples about calling someone who is already a *Rhetor*¹² a donkey in front of everyone regarding a short reminder he had given him with all courtesy. He therefore had to kneel on the floor a while. [25] Quite generally, I see that the children are punished more with words and not with blows at all. Most of the punishments consist of having to do some work, if they have deserved it, instead of the *recreation* period. The Magister also said this to me: I certainly appreciate that one must have sympathy and patience with the boy's weak talents. [30] Yet it will certainly work out. He has simply come to it too late, for he finds it difficult and unaccustomed to marshal his memory and attention a little, since their heads were previously full of nothing except childishness.

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 Erroneously for 1786.

⁴ Cf. Berchtold's application for a new position as discussed in Nos. 0997 and 0999.

⁵ “Pfleger”. BD: Johann Nepomuk Maria Ziller, Baron [Freiherr] von Zillerberg (1729-1814), lawyer, ultimately president of the supreme office of justice [Oberste Justizstelle].

⁶ “Pfleg Mittersill”. Mittersill: a town about 80 km south-west of Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Collaredo (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.

⁸ BD: Radstatt, 57 km southwest of Salzburg, suffered a number of major fires reported in the letters.

⁹ “Stattrichter”.

¹⁰ BD: Ignaz Klinger remained in office in “Goldegg” in Pongau.

¹¹ Magister Abele, proprietor of the private boarding school attended by Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang.

¹² A typical sequence of classes at grammar school was one year each of Rudiments, Grammar, Syntax, Poetics, Rhetoric.

Quite generally, I have to admire the good and kind behaviour of this man and his sister.¹³ She combs Wolfgang every day, cleans him up, [35] and his hair is so very neatly dressed and smart that I hardly recognised him.

The messenger¹⁴ brought the money correctly. My thanks for the wild game. I sent the fish to *Barisani*¹⁵ in your name, he asked me to express his warmest thanks, and I believe it came at just the right time for him, for this morning I saw his brother-in-law [40] from Neumark[t] alighting at his house at 10 o'clock.

The tailor has brought the nightgown. I am also sending the socks, I hope they will not be too small, otherwise you must exchange them, which is a little inconvenient. Let Nannerl do a thoroughly fine job of pissing on them, that shows up the blemishes¹⁶ so nicely.

[45] The Archbishop will leave Vienna on the 30th inst. and arrive here on the 2nd *December*.

Herr *Bullinger*¹⁷ commends himself, he is taking the post-coach to Munich the day after tomorrow. He regrets that he could not see you both.

There is *theatre* only 3 times a week, – because few people come on Monday. [50] Otherwise the takings are still good enough.

Herr von *D'Yppold*¹⁸ entrusted me with passing on his compliments to you.

Heinrich¹⁹ commends himself and sends thanks for *Ariadne on Naxos*.²⁰

The Electress is well again and he is back in Munich.²¹

The socks are in the nightgown, and the tailor's *account* is with socks, – [55] as is the volume of *Grandison*,²² for which Heinrich sends thanks.

Now good night, I wrote this at 11 o'clock after preparing the packet. I kiss both of you from the heart, – send greetings to the children, and am your sincere father

Mozart mp²³

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 1004/55.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

¹⁶ BD: Blemishes? Meaning unclear.

¹⁷ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

¹⁸ BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the "de" (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.

¹⁹ Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774.

²⁰ BD: Cf. Nos. 1002/28-29; 1004/16. *Ariadne auf Naxos*, melodrama in one act by Georg Benda (1722-1795), from 1750-1778 court music director in Gotha, composer. Cf. No. 0907/51.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 1002/60. The Elector had travelled from his new residence, Munich, to visit his sick wife in Mannheim.

²² BD: Translation of Richardson's *Sir Charles Grandison*, cf. Nos. 0813/14; 0969/46 etc.

[60] I cannot describe Leopoldl's joyfulness to you; God be praised, he is very well indeed, and he makes it known when he has to do something. – You can easily imagine that I did not write telling your brother how the child is staying with me. But it would be too involved to say what and how I wrote, and I must tell you this in person sometime. *addio!*

²³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.