

Salzb., [...] ² Novb.,
1784

I am telling you this first in case perhaps the glass-carrier woman³ might happen to come. On Sunday the *opera*⁴ was performed again to the greatest approbation, [5] and indeed this *opera* is so popular that the whole town praises it as the most splendid of works. Herr Haydn⁵ sat at the keyboard in the *orchestra*; of course, they were constantly asking him for his opinion, and he said that this *opera* lacks nothing except an *orchestra* of 60–70 persons, and the necessary instruments in between are missing, which are *clarinets* and *cor anglais*, [10] which from necessity had to be played on *violas* –, only then would they hear what an outstanding work this is. It really was the greatest of pleasures for him. – Now the *opera* will be taken off until Christmas, then performed twice again. Countess Guntacker⁶ said that every time she sees the *opera* she she likes it more. [15] *Blonde's duet* with Pedrillo, – then her *aria* were again *repeated* this time: the carousing song *Vivat Bachus* had to be repeated no less than 3 times. – All who had seen it in Vienna say unanimously that it is *acted* better, with more fire and more naturally, and performed with more ardour, than in Vienna. The same is heard from Count von Ehls⁷ and the 2 *Barons Fechenbach*,⁸ [20] who saw productions in Berlin,⁹ Mainz, and Mannheim. The two latter are the brothers of that *Baron Fechenbach*, now cathedral dean in Mainz, who was with us in *Lyon*¹⁰ with *Baron Wayer* and *Canon Schultheiss*.¹¹ – Now the intention is that Herr Haydn¹² should write an *opera* at once for these people too, on the Most Gracious, Highest whim:¹³ on Princely orders, Herr Schmit¹⁴ had to hand over everything he had in the way of German *opera* texts for examination, [25] but unfortunately nothing suitable has yet been found. And this is a cause of exceptional delight to Haydn and Schmit. Herr Schmit says: I cannot prepare a new work worthily in less than 4 weeks, since besides that we always have three plays to prepare every week. and Herr Haydn says [30] he could not write anything which would bring honour to his name in such haste; he would rather write an Italian *opera* for the Archbishop afterwards: – – Now, he knows that this is a good approach here, because there are no people there to sing it: – at least

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: Space left for the day. It was written after the 21st November.

³ BD: From letter No. 0808 onwards, the “glasträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

⁴ BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

⁵ BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. During his Vienna years, Mozart frequently asked for music by Michael Haydn to be sent from Salzburg so that he could perform it at van Swieten's.

⁶ “Gräfin Guntacker”. BD: Maria Anna Regina Ludmilla, née Imperial Countess [Reichsgräfin] Mansfeld, wife of Franz de Paula Gundacker I, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1731-1807), eldest brother of the Archbishop, Imperial Court Counsellor [Reichshofrat] and (from 1788) Prince [Fürst] Imperial Vice-Chancellor [Reichsvizekanzler].

⁷ “Graf”. BD: Count [Graf] von Eltz, a relative of the deceased Elector of Mainz, Philipp Karl.

⁸ BD: There are six brothers who could be meant here.

⁹ BD: There is no record of any performance of the *Abduction* in Berlin until 1788. Performances took place in Mainz in Mannheim in 1784.

¹⁰ BD: The Mozarts were there for four weeks at the end of July, 1766.

¹¹ “B: Wayer und Canonicus Schultheiss”. BD: These two persons are not identifiable.

¹² BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763.

¹³ BD: Referring to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: Karl Ludwig Schmidt (c. 1740-1814), the principal actor of the troupe visiting Salzburg in 1784. Freemason.

one female singer would have to be begged for from elsewhere for it. The projects are left in mid-air! and nothing has been decided yet.

[35] I sent for Frau Schirkhofer¹⁵ and spoke to her in detail, and examined the whole matter. I must honestly confess that I am sorry that I have old Tresel¹⁶ there like a weight around my neck; she¹⁷ would really have been an excellent servant for me, since according to my needs I should have one who can sew well and neatly, since my cuffs and other things are in a poor state, [40] and often I have no-one or have to pay handsomely. I have thought over the whole story of this woman, and believe that my esteemed son¹⁸ may perhaps know her foster-parents, yes, has perhaps eaten with them. It is the esteemed brewery manager in Schürfling by Kammer¹⁹ who, with his wife, because they have no children, took in this person for fostering, [45] since her father, who was a loose-living man, had run off and abandoned her and her brother, whom his godfather, a certain Hafner, took in. Now her foster-mother wishes that she might enter service elsewhere, which she believes will be of more benefit in advancing her than if she stays with her in Schörfling all the time. Since coming here, [50] Countess Engl²⁰ has been sending her bonnets up here to be trimmed because she has always done her bonnets; she has also had to trim bonnets for *Baron Rheling's* wife²¹ here. Frau Schirkhofer says that although she is not actually very fast in trimming bonnets, on the other hand everything is done extremely nicely and beautifully; [55] I have already observed in the church at Holy Trinity that she is an orderly, nice and pious person. The correction house director's wife would like to have her as cook, but she is not willing – she is right, too – for being cook in the correction house does not of course sound very appealing. Nor would she want to be cook to a clergyman, – because of the vile gossip –, and there she is quite right again. [60] She is not making any great issue about the pay, since, as far as I can see, her foster-parents support her with clothes: on one point only is there an objection, – namely regarding heavy work, for although she thinks |: as Schirkhofer's wife tells me |: she is willing to do everything, Frau Schirkhofer does in fact find, as I do, that this person cannot possibly carry wood and water, [65] all the more so because she limps slightly because she was disabled by a disastrous medical treatment, and one leg shrunk a little and was shortened. To tell the truth, I have only spoken to this person one single time, and pretty briefly, but she immediately seemed to me to be a quiet, somewhat shy but very neat and skilled person. –

[70] For the moment I protest in *optima forma*²² that I do not want to meddle at all: – otherwise I wish to, and must, express my opinion generally as I see it, as an honest man according to the necessities of the present world, and as one must see it: that domestic staff are one of the greatest burdens in married life; – and it is incontrovertibly true from daily experience that one now has greater difficulty in finding good servants; [75] – also that they often understand less, defraud their masters more than previously for pure *luxury*, and on top of that demand better payment. I can therefore no longer say: it was always like this; my parents did it the same way. times have changed. – [80] Then my esteemed son must also consider and think: I have young children. If Nannerl²³ learns something about sewing,

¹⁵ BD: Wife of Joseph Gottlieb Schörkhofer, disponent of the Court Council. She had recommended someone as cook for Nannerl; cf. No. 0825/86.

¹⁶ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹⁷ BD: The cook recommended by Frau Schirkhofer.

¹⁸ Leopold's customary way of addressing his son-in-law.

¹⁹ BD: Correctly “Schörfling”; the place is Kammer am Attersee.

²⁰ “gräfin Engl”. BD: A member of the family of Count [Graf] Engl von und zu Wagrein; the family castle was by Vöcklabruck.

²¹ BD: Johanna, Freiin von Rehlingen-Dietenheim (†1827).

²² = “the best manner”.

²³ BD: Leopold's daughter's (also “Nannerl”) 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. Leopold now addresses his daughter as “Frau Tochter” [“Madame Daughter”] in correspondence.

trimming bonnets and linen work of this kind²⁴ and sees clean, good cooking, is around servants who do in fact have a somewhat better manner and where she does not see any bad examples, and does not always hear stupid and amorous nonsense, [85] it will be of more benefit to her than if she has some coarse farmyard dunces or enamoured, crazy mares around, where she then makes a good job of adopting farming language and customs, which will always leave their mark on her, if not completely, yet always very noticeably. Well! It will all turn out well: I have heard that saying before. No! My dearest, esteemed son. It does not all turn out well with every child. Not every child has the same power of understanding. My esteemed son, they had another mother!²⁵ [90] – the mother of your children was a *Polis, e questo basta!*²⁶ One cannot take enough precautions in the upbringing of children. These days you will no longer get a skilful, good cook who can do fine handwork besides, if she is also expected to do all the heavy work as well: – and for the sake of that, of course, the fine work would be left lying, when in fact any farm servant, [95] of which you have a whole village full, can help to carry wood. The petty sum you pay for that you save in return because your daughter becomes more skilful: as a principle, I always had my eye entirely on the upbringing and training of my children; good morals and knowledge, enlightened, sound common sense and ability is No. 1. [100] Money and wealth are in the eyes of every reasonable person only No. 2. – the first is permanent and no-one can take it away from another. the second can be wasted, lost, taken by fraud etc.

Frau Schirkhofer has now said to me that she was mistaken, that my esteemed son had not eaten with the woman's foster-parents in Schörfling, [105] but that the esteemed brewery manager, his wife and this foster-daughter of theirs had eaten in Mon[d]see on the occasion of the celebration of a priest's *Missa Primicia* or *Secundacia*²⁷ or |: Heaven knows what |: – and eaten with my esteemed son at the esteemed Prelate's, and that they therefore had the honour of knowing my esteemed son as such a fine gentleman. Schirkhofer's wife |: who had misunderstood |: had to come to me personally and tell me [110] that the girl does not want the tiniest untruths to appear in the letter. – My esteemed son may perhaps be amazed that I am so circumstantial in all these matters and put so much in writing. But |: my daughter knows me |: this is simply my habit; with me everything has to be clear. – – Everything that I have written above is written not with any intentions regarding this woman, [115] rather, they are my honest thoughts, and taken from experience: and with that – *Amen!*

The esteemed Postmaster Bauernfeind in Stein²⁸ has fallen ill; *Joseph Barisani*²⁹ has been out there since Friday the 19th and not yet returned. – There is apparently little hope. – [120] I have already written that *Baron Rechberg*³⁰ is going to Strasbourg? but that Countess Wallis³¹ wishes to send her little son to me as a keyboard scholar – that is something new: but about my wishing I could be in *St. Gilgen* now to shoot wild ducks: – that is of course nothing new. – the *cantor* will no doubt have expressed his pleasure that in one stage performance he saw the theatre, [125] some fine *symphonies*, and 2 plays – a tragedy and a comedy. the new Chamber Counsellor Herr Hartmann,³² who at one time had to face the prospect of becoming

²⁴ BD: Leopold writes “lernen” (infinitive) instead of “lernt”.

²⁵ BD: The reference is to Berchtold's first wife, Maria Margarethe, née Polis von Moulin.

²⁶ = “and that suffices”, “that's all one has to say”.

²⁷ Primicia = first Mass as a priest; in German “Sekundiz” = 50th anniversary of becoming a priest.

²⁸ BD: South of Trostberg on the river Traun.

²⁹ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

³⁰ BD: Aloys, Baron [Freiherr] (later Count [Graf]) von Rechberg (1766-1849), currently in the Virgilianum, an academy of chivalry.

³¹ “Gräfin”. BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

³² “Kammerrath”. BD: Dr. Siegmund (von) Hartmann, appointed Hofkammerrat 30th October, 1784.

Chamber Administrator,³³ left for Ulm, probably to fetch his wife and children. Frau von Gerlichs³⁴ is still lying sunken in her bed; [130] one has to speak to her very loudly, since she no longer hears well: little sleep; – little appetite; – carrying the weight of many years; – constant catarrh; – – it will be a great event if she recovers; today she sent me a message that she is somewhat better. *N.B.* Herr von Kleinmayr³⁵ visits her assiduously. – I am very willing to believe that it looks like *Siberia* where you are; [135] yet that would not prevent me clambering around in boots wherever possible, and at least watching for wild ducks at the lake. Not a word has been spoken here about any change at Straswalchen.³⁶ – I enclose the state promotions,³⁷ astonishingly purged all at once *del petto nel culo, e del culo*.³⁸ – The talk at the moment is that the journey to Munich will be during Carnival, [140] and then immediately to Vienna in the first week of Lent or even earlier, but there are still obstacles to the latter: the first of these, without a particular counterblow of fate, is certain. – The administrator of St. John’s Spital³⁹ will not be thinking of marrying now: he is constantly ailing; who knows how long he will live. – the Kletzl⁴⁰ will hardly begin before New Year or Christmas, they are in Sighardstein.⁴¹ [145] The parlour maid Nannerl⁴² has entered service with the administrator’s wife at Long Court.⁴³ Mitzerl⁴⁴ is well. A whole *litany* of people at the *opera* asked me to pass on compliments to St. Gilgen, since the Schiedenhofens,⁴⁵ both Hermes⁴⁶ etc. and chapter *legal adviser*’s⁴⁷ family, the Mölks,⁴⁸ – Racher⁴⁹ etc., were always sitting around near me. [150] Now I kiss my dear, esteemed son and my dear Madame daughter from the heart and am half blind from writing, as always your father
Mozart mp⁵⁰

³³ “Kammerprocuratur”.

³⁴ BD: Anna Maria Gertrud von Gerlichs, née von Köpf, widow of Privy Counsellor [Gehiemrat] von Gerlichs (†1763), died 9th June 1785 aged over 80.

³⁵ BD: Franz Thaddäus von Kleinmayr(n) (1733-1805), from an old Salzburg family. Studied law and wrote several publications. An important administrative official. Shared a room with Mozart in Vienna in 1781 (cf. No. 0583/28-29).

³⁶ BD: Regarding replacing the administrator in Strasswalchen, 25 km north-east of Salzburg.

³⁷ BD: Traditionally coming into force in the New Year.

³⁸ “From the breast to the arse, and then out of the arse.”

³⁹ BD: Johann Paul Wöl(f)f, administrator of the St.-Johannis-Spital in Salzburg.

⁴⁰ BD: Christoph Joseph, Count [Graf] Kletzl von Altenach und Donaudorf.

⁴¹ BD: Sieghartstein, north of Salzburg on the Wallersee.

⁴² BD: Previously Leopold's parlour maid, cf. No. 0805/87.

⁴³ BD: The family home of Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], Privy Councillor [Geheimer Rat], from 1764 Chief Stablemaster [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg, was known as the “der lange Hof” [“the long court”].

⁴⁴ BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

⁴⁵ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

⁴⁶ BD: Court Councillor [Hofrat] Joachim Vital Virgil Hermes von Fürstenhof (1737-1793) and Johann Joseph Hermann Hermes von Fürstenhof (1723-1809), captain in the grenadiers; his wife = Anna Helena (+1795). Johann lived on the Capuzinerberg [“Capuchins’ Mountain”] on the edge of Salzburg.

⁴⁷ BD: Johann Baptist Anton Daubrawa von Daubrawiack, Court Councillor, chapter legal adviser [Hofrat, Kapitelsyndikus], seems to have been in Vienna frequently and acted as “messenger” for the Mozart on various occasions.

⁴⁸ BD: Probably Franz, son of Privy Councillor and Court Chancellor [Geheimrat, Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Molk (1714-1776).

⁴⁹ BD: Consistory Adviser [Konsistorialrat] Ernst Sigmund Racher, Visitor Generalis (general church inspector)

⁵⁰ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.