

[Salzburg, 3rd December, 1784]

The latest is that on the evening of the 29th *Josepha Barisani*² arrived very quietly either here or in Seekirchen,³ I don't know which. Suffice to say that on the following 30th the whole *Barisani family* etc. |: with the exception of the old gentleman⁴ |: drove to Seekirchen very early in the morning, [5] where the consecration by the priest took place.

It was not without an exchange of words beforehand that the 2 old fathers⁵ had the honour of coming to understand each other regarding what each had to contribute to the maintenance of the newly married couple every month, all the more so since the esteemed groom apparently has considerable debts. Yesterday Love among the Artisans⁶ was performed, the theatre was full [10] –, of the *Barisanis*, no-one was there except Teresel and Luisel,⁷ and then, to everyone's amazement, old *Barisani* came too, who had never been in the theatre this season except at The Abduction etc.: perhaps this was done to demonstrate publicly that he is good shape and to divert himself a little. Old *Aman*'s health is very poor. – [15] They wanted to drop the Abduction from the Seraglio entirely until Christmas, but due to much pressure it will begin before this, on the 9th, because there is no *theatre* on the day of the Conception of Mary:⁸ Herr Schmid⁹ furthermore now needs good takings before Christmas because there are some days before Christmas when he is not allowed to play. It will therefore be given a couple of times again towards New Year and Epiphany, [20] which I will certainly inform you of in advance. There are various people who want to know it in advance because they are expected to report it to Hallein, Reichenhall etc. and other places in the surrounding area. In a word! I will certainly put it in a letter. The little theatre war was instigated by that Reinecke¹⁰ fellow, who is a big-mouth and flatterer and too insistent, [25] who cannot stand the *operettas*, and stirred Mattausch up so much that he became ill. He had already created similar disturbances in Nuremberg and Erlangen etc., and when Herr Schmid wanted to dismiss him, again begged so ardently that he kept him again. Now that he is dismissing him again on Ash Wednesday because of his incitement and letting him go, [30] he once again wants to stay, is running to all the prominent people, to the Senior Equerry,¹¹ the *Barisanis* and wherever he knows that Herr Schmid is a guest. Herr Schmid had to eat with Count Starnberg,¹² had to eat with *Lizow*,¹³ – he is often a guest at the Senior Equerry's etc. and

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: Maria Josepha Barisani (1752 - after 1823), daughter of the Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. On 30th Nov., 1784, Josepha married Captain-Lieutenant Johann Vital von Amann (1741-1795), son of Franz Anton von Amann (†1785).

³ BD: Seekirchen on the Wallersee, about 11 km north-east of Salzburg.

⁴ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

⁵ BD: The second father was Franz Anton von Amann (†1785), privy counsellor [Geheimer Rat], tax inspector.

⁶ “die Liebe unter den Handwerksleuten”. BD: *L'Amore artigiano* [“Love among the Artisans”], an opera buffa in three acts by Florian Leopold Gassmann, text by Goldoni. German translation by J. A. van Gehlen.

⁷ BD: Maria Theresia Barisani (1761-1854), Maria Aloisia Barisani (1764-1812).

⁸ BD: 8th December.

⁹ BD: Karl Ludwig Schmidt (c. 1740-1814), the principal actor of the troupe visiting Salzburg in 1784. Freemason.

¹⁰ BD: Reinike, the theatre poet of Schmidt's ensemble.

¹¹ “Oberbereuter”. BD: Gottlieb von Weyrother Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and court stables.

¹² BD: Cathedral canon Joseph, Count [Graf] Staremborg (*1748).

¹³ BD: Count and Countess [Graf and Gräfin] Lützow, commandant of the fortress in Salzburg, his wife a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus.

everywhere people are speaking for Reinecke: Count *Lizow* even said that the Archbishop so very much likes to see Reinecke etc. [35] – this fellow is in every regard as basely ingratiating as Storchenfeld.¹⁴ – enough! *oportet esse haereses*.¹⁵ There must after all always be heresies and turmoil in the world. – the greatest and most terrifying are now in Transylvania, where the Wallachians, in rabbles of more than 10000 men, plunder everything, murder, and burn many villages to the ground, [40] – massacre all the good people, – just as you will read with a shudder in the newspapers:¹⁶ and this at a time when the troops are already on the march to the Netherlands¹⁷ and when it does in fact look very ambivalent for the Emperor,¹⁸ since by all appearances France, consequently Prussia as well, will protect the Dutch. [45] The Emperor really wants to achieve too much at once. My thought was that he should first put everything in order, thoroughly and systematically, in his hereditary territories and only then think about foreign enterprises, but that would of course be a protracted undertaking because we are always changing something and go to bed with plans and get up with plans. – [50] Now the messenger has come. I am asked to buy felt shoes like the specimens. But where then are the specimens? – Probably in St. Gilgen. Here comes the mustard for 9 kreuzers. the rest will be ready for the glass-carrier woman: – but she cannot carry it all at once. I will have Raysinger¹⁹ fetch it. – – concerning the cook,²⁰ I cannot say anything except that you have both already half given your word [55] when you said that you will come into town yourselves,²¹ for with the cook you have at the moment nothing can be done, and where does one²² get a good cook all at once, yet at the same time an upright person? – – I have not spoken to her at all myself in the meantime, – but I sent a message informing her, – since you stated in the first and 2nd letters that you must have a cook, [60] but I should not give her a starting earnest because you are coming in yourselves; in the meantime I was hoping to obtain more certainty with this letter, and said to Schirkofer's wife²³ that I have no doubts at all, in order to hinder her from entering other service, at least without my knowledge, if anything is to come of this. This letter is now once again filled with doubts, [65] when I of course thought I would be able to give her certainty, and promised it for this messenger-day. I am forced to be ashamed; – and yet I can do nothing else in your best interests than leave her with the assurance that it remains as it was: for otherwise she might look around for another place; and where then can one immediately get an orderly person in every respect? good, honest and virtuous servants are very rare! – For the coming period is precisely when a good servant is immediately snatched away: for good domestic staff do not leave their service lightly unless they already have something better.

I wrote as far as this before going to the theatre, and suffered a discharge in the right eye so that now I only see with the left eye, and am now writing in haste to say I had misunderstood: [75] that Nannerl's²⁴ service does not begin until Candlemas, consequently she is still available now. Regarding the jewellery²⁵ I was quite amazed at the valuation and so enraged

¹⁴ BD: A member of Böhm's theatre ensemble (solo comical dancer), which had played in Salzburg in 1779/80.

¹⁵ = "It is necessary that there be heresies". (1 Cor. 11:19).

¹⁶ BD: The Wallachians rebelled when conscription was introduced.

¹⁷ BD: Cf. beginning of No. 0824.

¹⁸ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

¹⁹ BD: Messenger/carrier travelling to Graz and passing through St. Gilgen. He arrived in Salzburg every Thursday, left on Saturday. Cf. No. 0803/16, 17. A simpler service was offered by the "glass-carrier woman":

²⁰ BD: The search for a suitable cook was a concern in many recent letters.

²¹ BD: Nannerl intended to come into town at Christmas with her husband.

²² DME: "one" [German: "man"] inserted afterwards between the lines.

²³ BD: Wife of Joseph Gottlieb Schörkhofer, disponent of the Court Council. She was recommending a cook. Cf. No. 0825/86, 91.

²⁴ BD: The prospective cook.

²⁵ BD: Leopold had been trying to sell jewellery for his daughter. Cf. No. 0804/41 ff., 0805/68 ff., 0806/90 ff.

that I did not know what I should do. Herr Mayr has valued it. E.g. the neckband²⁶ with 2 ear pendants and 2 rings of emerald etc., estimated by my esteemed son at [80] 105 florins. – valued – price 50 f.

Because the emeralds are bad, uneven, some slightly off-colour yellow etc. the neckband with rubies and facets etc. estimated:

50 florins – valued – pr. 15 f

the ring with 9 cut diamonds, estimated:

100 f – valued – pr: 36 f

[85] because the diamonds, not truly white and not at all thick but polished very thin and flat on the bottom, are of no value.

the 2 bracelets were estimated at

40 f – valued at only 20 f.

But I hope to sell the pearls well.

Now I cannot write any more good night I kiss you both from the heart, [90] and am, half blind, as always your

3rd December, 1784.

Mzt mp²⁷

²⁶ BD: Leopold's "Halsblack" should presumably be "Halsbrack".

²⁷ mp = "manu propria" = "in his own hand".