

0832. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

Salzburg, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1784.

When I came from the theatre<sup>2</sup> I found your letter, which had been brought by the glass-carrier woman,<sup>3</sup> who leaves again tomorrow morning. Today was the very last *play*, and at the end they announced a close-down until St. Stephen's Day<sup>4</sup> [5] and, at the same time, that the first entertainment on the 26<sup>th</sup> would be The Abduction from the Seraglio. – so you must certainly come into town on Christmas Eve, – or drive in on Christmas Day immediately after church, – or on St. Stephen's Day after an early mass, for it is Sunday, therefore the play already starts at 4 o'clock, and it is certain to be fairly full as early as 3 o'clock, [10] so you definitely must arrange to be here at half past 12; we will presumably not have shooting,<sup>5</sup> but probably have it on Christmas Day. Enough! Now you know that the opera it is on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 o'clock. You will certainly get something to eat. – The enclosed concert programme for the *virtuoso* Herr Mayer, who was passing through, was something new for me as well, – this is the worthy *bassoonist* Patzl. But now he plays really beautifully indeed. [15] Everything else, complete with other news, in person – for example, that the *Wallis' Madem*.<sup>6</sup> will marry Khünburg's<sup>7</sup> senior steward *La Roche* etc. I kiss you all – good night! I am as always your sincere father,

Mozart mp<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: As speculated in No. 0831/14, the opera was performed again.

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

<sup>4</sup> BD: No performances between 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

<sup>5</sup> BD: The shooting of airguns at humorously decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen's company” or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for all food and drinks consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The chambermaid to Maria Franziska, Countess von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg. Cf. Nos. 0457/67; 0581/38-39.

<sup>7</sup> “Hofmeister”. BD: 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.

<sup>8</sup> mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.