

Salzb., 19th January,
1785

I would like to start, since I have time, by saying that Herr *Amman*² passed into eternity in the night a few days ago, and yesterday I heard at Count Arco's³ [5] that an irregularity, which he had taken over from *Basili*,⁴ had emerged, and it is to be made up for from the estate he has left behind; if it is true that the Polis daughters were made heirs to half the estate, this means that their children, the poor children, will be even more unfortunate. The Abduction was once again so full that he took 132 florins. Young *Neudecker*,⁵ a quite exemplary person, [10] called on me on Monday morning along with his sister, the black-brown-eyed *Scolastica*; I said they should come at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when they would afterwards go to the *opera*, and in the meantime *Sepperl*⁶ had to play violin and *clavier*, I *accompanied* him. Now I must tell you in 2 words that these people quite surpassed themselves, and you can be assured [15] that both of them, and especially the black *Scolastica*, did not produce a single touching shade of *expression* which one did not immediately perceive as being like something coming out of their souls. They will both visit me before he or perhaps both of them leave, they are staying with the chief accountant.⁷ Yesterday was the garden inspector's⁸ wedding at the Hofwirth.⁹ [20] I accordingly saw them seated upon 4 coaches at Spangler's¹⁰ house at 10 o'clock as they drove to the *wedding* ceremony in St. Andre.¹¹ Last night they let off an explosive firework in the castle¹² because a large summerhouse in a garden in Mühlen¹³ down by the water had caught fire from lime that had ignited itself and was burnt down; I did not hear any shots, [25] but I woke up and heard the quarter-hour bell sound three times, and fell asleep again. Today I learnt that it was at quarter to 3, so it was the shot that roused me out of my sleep. There was no objection to my journey.¹⁴ The Archbishop sent a message that I should come to see him before my departure, he would perhaps give me something to take to Vienna. That this journey displeases you: – [30] I am very willing to believe that; I myself, as you know, had no great inclination to undertake it, but I believe it should be more beneficial than damaging to my health. When 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: Cf. No. 0835/33: Franz Anton von Amann (†1785), privy counsellor [Geheimer Rat], tax inspector.

³ "Gr. Arco". BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward (Obersthofmeister). Cf. Nos. 0004/86, 0157/24-25.

⁴ BD: Optatus Basil von Amann (1747-1785), Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] and favourite son of "old" Amann, had bought the estate Aigen near Salzburg with his wife and furnished it luxuriously. He had married Maria Franziska Polis von Moulin. He helped himself to takings in the Royal Brewery in Kaltenhausen; his father declared himself guilty and the missing amount was taken from his father's estate..

⁵ BD: Perhaps a member of the family Freysauf von Neudeck (Neudegg).

⁶ BD: Joseph Wölf(f)l (1773-1812), a pupil at the cathedral music school (Kapellhaus) 1783-1786, son of Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] in Mülln, a suburb of Salzburg.

⁷ "Rentmeister": supervises accounting for an administrative department. BD: can probably Thaddäus Estlinger, chief accountant for the cathedral chapter.

⁸ BD: Stephan Haaß, gardener at Mirabell, the Archbishop's town palace.

⁹ BD: Royal inn on the edge of the Lodrons' garden.

¹⁰ BD: The bride was Maria Josepha Spängler, daughter of the merchant Franz Anton Spängler. For Franz' third marriage, Leopold composed 12 minuets in 1754.

¹¹ BD: The old St. Andreas' Church in the Linzergasse.

¹² BD: The fortress overlooking Salzburg.

¹³ BD: Mülln, a suburb of Salzburg.

¹⁴ The journey to Munich and Vienna mentioned in recent letters.

actors have gone,¹⁵ I don't know what I should do in the evening, I might meet a miserable *end* through thinking and boredom. I was at Hagenauer's¹⁶ 3 times, and remained at the back with his daughters in the small room because there were already 2 professors in the front room, – [35] the head of the priests' house, the supervisor of buildings¹⁷ and the esteemed parish priest in the Gnigl¹⁸ were playing double Brandl,¹⁹ – since this is now the customary evening entertainment they provide for the old gentleman, – but I am no lover of Brandl, furthermore have absolutely no wish to gamble away 4 and 4 kitties, amounting to 45 kreuzers – 1 florin – 1 florin 15, which is often furthermore accompanied by coarse disputes [40] |: with the exception of the clergy :| – at the same time I also have little inclination to watch the game for a couple hours in a warm room with a heating oven, and to listen to old gamesters' maxims which I have already heard and which are supposedly witty. Now I have woven the all the threads together in such a way that Herr Haydn²⁰ has to conduct in the cathedral in my absence, which I managed to make very pleasant for him [45] because I told him that I hope that His High Princely Grace²¹ would release me completely and might put him in my place. In the meantime I am sending young Preyman²² to the Kapellhaus,²³ whom I have been teaching a couple of times every week for a long time now with this in mind, and who has *profited* greatly, developing a beautiful tone, and will become a solid violinist. [50] In this manner I am attempting, step by step, to gain greater liberty for myself, – and when you come into town you only have to let him know, – although he has *instructions* as to how he must live, he will nevertheless be able to come on some evenings from 5 to 8 o'clock, which is also the time when he used to come to me to learn: it will be very useful for him to learn how to *accompany* the *sonatas* well. [55] – Now for something else! In Lent the former city wait and *oboist* Andre²⁴ will again come back from Brno to the master of the waits in Salzburg:²⁵ his father has died. He wrote to me at New Year and commended himself etc. – – The *balls* are not really getting going, at the 2nd there were only 70 persons. None of the merchants came [60] |: there is no games room :| – this was particularly commented on. – – The Abduction must be given in Munich in Lent: Count *Seeau*²⁶ mounted resistance against it and took things so far that the Elector²⁷ had to have it staged by order. – The *Robinis' Louis[e]*²⁸ intends to marry: her beloved²⁹ asked the Archbishop to *assign* him to his father's office and give him the title of Counsellor³⁰ [65] so that he achieve happiness, because the

¹⁵ BD: Schmidt's theatre ensemble would leave at the end of Carnival (cf. No. 0808/25).

¹⁶ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Sometime landlord to the Mozart family. The daughters: Maria Theresia (aged 44), Maria Ursula (32), Maria Franziska (29).

¹⁷ BD: Wolfgang (IV) Hagenauer (1726-1801).

¹⁸ BD: Village north-east of Salzburg.

¹⁹ BD: A card game.

²⁰ BD: Michael Haydn, court organist in Salzburg.

²¹ "S:^c Hochf: Gden:". BD: The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold's employer.

²² BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not employed in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Prince [Fürst] Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

²³ Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

²⁴ DME; BD has "Binder".

²⁵ BD: Johann Sebastian Vogt. Cf. No. 0836/21-22.

²⁶ "Gr: Seeau". BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau (†1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, (†1768) was Master-in-Chief of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

²⁷ "Churfürst". BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.

²⁸ BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria Robinig (1757-1786), known as L[o]uise, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

²⁹ BD: The son of von Edling, local administrator [Vizedomamtsverwalter] in Friesach.

³⁰ "Rat".

Robinig's Fräulein would not marry him without the title of Counsellor. The Archbishop refused to make the assignation, but on the other hand promised him the title of Counsellor if he gained her hand in marriage. Now they want to live from her means. He therefore travelled to see his father and, as I hear, has just come back now. *Louis[e]*³¹ has *ignis febris* in her body, [70] she is coughing and tries to suppress it. I was there when her brother brought me a letter from Marchand³² in which Herr Marchand asks me to pass on 1000 compliments to everyone in St. Gilgen. The *Brochard's Franzerl*,³³ the younger boy, has died. – Now, if the wedding should take place: – she will die, and in the ardour of love leave everything to her husband. – [75] and how will the formal sponsalia³⁴ look, taken very strictly, if Herr *Cetti*³⁵ is willing to come forward with his letters? – then the *Anisers*³⁶ fortune on this side of the family will also have to go up in smoke; and should Herr von *Gilowsky*³⁷ marry *Lisel*,³⁸ her brother Siegmund's trading cash reserves will be weakened greatly. *Sic transit gloria mundi*:³⁹ a person with nothing in his head is a poor devil, even if his money chest is full. [80]

Now a horrifying story! – – A certain Fräulein in Munich, aged 19, and furthermore rich as well, went and spoke to her maid one afternoon when her mother was going out with the parlour-maid on a sleigh-ride, saying she was greatly inclined to go up Our Lady's Tower,⁴⁰ [85] from where one had such a beautiful view; the maid allowed herself to be persuaded, and they climbed up: when they were right at the top, the Fräulein shouted to her maid: – God protect you,⁴¹ *Lisel*, – leapt out of the tower, collided with the first ledge, and the force threw her onto the house of one of the *canons*, where she smashed through the tiled roof and fell on the attic stairs. [90] How do you like this end to a love story?, – I do not yet know the name of the Fräulein, I must first of all learn more of the details, it happened when *Robini*⁴² was leaving Munich, and these people do not have the head either to find out more details about anything or else to remember them. She will no doubt believe that she has gained a place in the Paradise of the Romantic Heroines by this leap through the air. [95] Her name is apparently Fräulein von Igstatt, she had a stepmother who wanted her in a nunnery, but she loved an *officer*.

So far I have been waiting in vain for the glass-carrier woman,⁴³ – and now the messenger has come:⁴⁴ that is, on the evening of the 21st! – I am thinking of setting off next week on Wednesday the 26th or Thursday the 28th.⁴⁵ The messenger should enquire

³¹ BD: L[o]uise died on 24th March, 1786.

³² BD: Theobald Marchand, theatre director in Munich, two of his children were boarding pupils with Leopold.

³³ BD: Franz Brochard, the younger brother of “Hanchen” Brochard, likewise a boarding pupil with Leopold.

³⁴ BD: = “marriage promises”.

³⁵ BD: Franz Burkard Cetti of Vienna, Louise's previous fiancé.

³⁶ BD: The mother of the Robinig siblings, Maria Viktoria Robinig von Rottenfeld (†1783), was a daughter of the Salzburg merchant Franz Aniser and had died in April, 1784.

³⁷ BD: Joseph Anton Ernst von Gilowsky (1739-1789), court councillor [Hofrat], engineer, founder member of the Masonic lodge “Zur Fürsicht”, a frequent traveller to Munich for matters relating to salt. Cousin of “Katherl”, a frequent visitor at the Mozarts and friend of Nannerl.

³⁸ BD: Elisabeth, the sister of L[o]uise and Siegmund Robinig. Both she and Gilowsky died unmarried.

³⁹ = “Thus passes the glory of the world”.

⁴⁰ BD: The 17-year-old Franziska von Ickstatt through herself off one of the towers of the Church of our Lady, the cathedral, in Munich on the 11th January, 1785, because her mother had refused to let her marry Lieutenant von Vincenti.

⁴¹ “behüte dich Gott”: a traditional valediction in this region.

⁴² BD: Sigismund/Siegmund Robinig von Rottenfeld (1760-1823), son of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760); cf. lines 70, 78.

⁴³ BD: From letter No. 0808 onwards, the “gläserägerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

⁴⁴ BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a wagon driver who came to Salzburg once a week. The “glass-carrier woman” also provided a service on this route.

⁴⁵ BD: Leopold left on Friday the 28th: a slip of the pen.

insistently, for I will leave letters for you here. [100] As far as possible, I will take care of everything else. I have not yet written in all the figures for the *concertos*.⁴⁶ I will send one with this, the other will be brought in a week by the messenger or the glass-carrier woman, whoever comes first. You will find the parts for all the *concertos*⁴⁷ on the *clavier*.⁴⁸ Oh, how much hosiery I still have to wash!

[105] The airgun club⁴⁹ dinner will probably be held on the last Sunday of Carnival, but all the organisation must be done as soon as you arrive. As far as wine is concerned, I hope to receive a fresh half-ehmer⁵⁰ any day now. – and since someone else will probably tap the cask when I am away, I prefer it if it is all drunk rather than allowed to go off; you and my esteemed son⁵¹ will certainly take care of it. [110] I have already been thinking I might perhaps come to St. Gilgen on the journey up.⁵² But everything depends on the way we travel, and on the time and circumstances, of which I will inform you from Vienna. I furthermore think that you need not remind me very forcibly about writing, for I have never left my people without news from me. [115] Today I cannot write anything specially for my esteemed son, he will surely forgive my eyes and the awkward situation in which I now find myself, since I have a great deal to do and think about.

After the evening meal: for the second time few people in the *theatre*, – the *plays* are no longer enjoying a happy run; nor is it much better for the *operas after the Abduction*. [120] N.B. It is possible that Herr Egedacher⁵³ will come with the Graz messenger⁵⁴ tomorrow; but there are 3 whether's – whether the messenger can take him? – whether he finds someone tomorrow morning to read his Masses? – and whether I can find funds at court for the tuning? The last problem is the smallest one. I sent someone to look for him this evening; and it was not until after 5 o'clock that we first discussed the matter. [125] I said to him that my esteemed son will certainly pay the Graz messenger: and then one can have him driven into town on Tuesday morning. Now I have to put everything together and go to bed, tomorrow I have a sung Mass at 8 o'clock, *Gatti*⁵⁵ is lying in bed with a sore throat. I kiss all of you wholeheartedly, and am your sincere father

[130]

Mozart mp⁵⁶

Countess *Wallis*⁵⁷ journey will not take place. – Count *Öhls*⁵⁸ must travel alone, for God's sake.

⁴⁶ BD: For the figured-bass, written below the solo keyboard part in the *tutti* passages.

⁴⁷ BD: KV 449, 450, 451, 453; cf. No. 0790/2-3.

⁴⁸ “flügl”. At this time, the term applied to any keyboard instrument in the shape of a “wing”.

⁴⁹ BD: The private airgun club, now dwindling in size, in which all the Mozart family had participated.

⁵⁰ BD: About 35 litres. One “Ehmer” = 70 litres.

⁵¹ Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

⁵² BD: On the return journey from Vienna.

⁵³ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, the court organ builder previously responsible for tuning the keyboard instruments.

⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁵ BD: Luigi Gatti (1740-1817), originally deputy director of music at the Reale Accademia in Mantua, later employed as second music director in Salzburg.

⁵⁶ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.

⁵⁷ “Gräfin”. BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁵⁸ “Graf”. BD: Count [Graf] von Eltz, a relative of the deceased Elector of Mainz, Philipp Karl.