

0844. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / née Mozart / à / Salzburg /
To be delivered to the Tanzmeister= / =Haus²

Munich, 2nd February, 1785

It was at 7 o'clock on the 28th that I left, and I reached Wasserburg³ at half past 7, [5] – took my seat in the coach in Wasserburg at half past 5 on Saturday,⁴ and arrived to eat at midday at 1 o'clock in Munich.

I am fit and well, thanks be to God! The *opera*,⁵ considered as a whole, is beautiful. The music is nothing particularly exceptional – but the *scene* changes, frequent and quite extraordinary, are the most splendid that one can see. [10] *Bologna*,⁶ who commends himself quite specially to both of you, and *Md:^{me} LeBrun*⁷ |: who immediately enquired about your health :| are playing, and the latter in particular sings outstandingly. I will probably leave for Vienna with Heinrich⁸ as early as the last Sunday⁹ in Carnival, taking Herr *Marchand's*¹⁰ chaise, using the post horses, so as to be at your brother's *concert*¹¹ in Vienna on Friday the 11th *February*, [15] because I received a letter about it from him here. On the 5th, Herr *LeBrun* and his wife will follow us to Vienna. Since the Marchands were not expecting me until Saturday evening, but I then walked into the room unexpectedly after 1 o'clock and shouted: I would like something to eat too, you can easily imagine how everyone sat up with a jolt, – jumped up, and almost crushed me for joy and kissing. [20] They all kiss both of you 1 million times, as do the *Brochards*,¹² and especially Hanchen; and they thought both of you would also be coming here. – – –

The *opera* finishes with a *ballet* of the Furies, with the burning torches when *Armida* drives through the air in the magic chariot, then a rain of fire falls from heaven, [25] and the entire *scenery* collapses on both sides. One hour after the *opera* they saw fire in the theatre, and just in time, because more than 10 Furies' costumes were burning; luckily they were hanging on the stone walls in the *wardrobe*; consequently the lively, bright flames revealed the fire while it was still at an early stage and people were still around. [30] They suspect that some burning substance was left sticking on one of these costumes. – Today it is a new

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 “The dancing master’s house”: BD: The nickname of the house on the Hannibalplatz where the Mozart family had lived since 1773 and where Leopold now finds himself alone after Nannerl’s marriage.

³ BD: Halfway between Salzburg and Munich.

⁴ BD: 29th January, 1785.

⁵ BD: *Armida abbandonata* by Alessio Prati, cf. No. 0835/27.

⁶ BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84. Began a love affair with Regina (“Regerl”) Weyrother, left for Munich in September, 1784.

⁷ BD: The singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), employed in the court music, married to Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist at court first of all in Mannheim and then in Munich.

⁸ BD: 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. His sister Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”) joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784.

⁹ BD: 6th February, 1785.

¹⁰ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand (1746-1794), two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart’s home.

¹¹ BD: Cf. No. 0840/16. The concerts took place on 11th, 18th and 25th of February and 4th, 11th and 18th of March, 1785.

¹² BD: The family of Maria Johanna Brochard [“Hanchen”] (*1775), from 1783-1784 the third boarder learning in Leopold Mozarts’ home in Salzburg.

operetta, The Beggar Student;¹³ – and in Salzb., I believe, on Friday, when you are reading this, the Abduction will be performed, about which you will hopefully send me news in Vienna in due time. My address in Vienna: in the Schullerstrasse N:º 846, on the first floor.¹⁴ – [35] Tomorrow I and Herr *Marchand* are eating at Herr *Cannabich*'s.¹⁵ – and on Saturday I am eating at *M.^{dme} Antoine*'s.¹⁶ *Msr.* and *Md.^{me} Tavernier*¹⁷ commend themselves. – I will write to you with a story about [. . .],¹⁸ which in the end we could see coming, but must nevertheless cause us pain. That is why such deep silence prevailed. – Today I am going to the ball for a few hours *par compagnie*:¹⁹ that is why am writing today, because tomorrow I do not have time. [40] – If you find you have enough time to bring down 3 or 4 copies of the violin school²⁰ from the cupboard upstairs – the key is on the table at the back by the *microscopio* – that would be very advantageous. The engravings are in the big room, at the top of the music cupboard.²¹ There may be a further complete *copy* lying there, but the other is not complete. – so that now, when the booksellers at the market want to have a violin school, [45] Tresel²² could let them have it for 1 florin 45 kreuzers per copy.

Now I have come from the *operetta*, which was very good indeed, now I must eat, change my clothes, then go to the *ball*, so see that you live healthily, I kiss both of you a million times and am eternally your

sincere father,
Mozart mp²³

[50] If *Tavernier*'s wife should send the lace cuffs, I will write to tell you, otherwise they will remain there until I come back.

¹³ BD: *Der Bettelstudent oder das Donnerwetter*, comedy in two acts after Cervantes by Paul Weidmann (1746-1810) with music by Peter Winter (cf. note on No. 0651/3-4 etc.). First performance in Vienna in 1776.

¹⁴ BD: Mozart moved in here at Michaelmas (29th September, 1784). The apartment cost “480 florins” per annum.

¹⁵ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798), music director to the Elector in Mannheim and then Munich. The Cannabich family were particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim.

¹⁶ BD: Marion Franziska Antoine, née Amberger (*1749), court actress, from c. 1767 married to Anton Dionys Crux the Elder (c. 1743-1810), who called himself Antoine, second ballet master in Munich.

¹⁷ BD: Tavernier: probably the couple with whom the “Bäsle”, Mozart's cousin from Augsburg, stayed in Munich. It was they who informed Leopold during his stay in Munich in spring of 1785 of “the story [of the Bäsle]”, who had given birth to an illegitimate child fathered by an Augsburg cathedral canon. There can be little doubt that the words deleted by Nissen pointed to “the Bäsle”, Mozart's cousin (cf. No. 0848/83 ff.).

¹⁸ BD: Two to three words deleted.

¹⁹ = “In company.”

²⁰ BD: Leopold's *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* of 1756.

²¹ BD: The engravings were kept separately and handed over to the booksellers along with the raw sheets.

²² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²³ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.