

0861. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / de Sonnenbourg née de Mozart<sup>2</sup> /  
à / Salzburg* To be delivered to the Tanzmeister= / =haus.<sup>3</sup>

Vienna, 16<sup>th</sup> April,  
1785

We have finally decided to leave here on Thursday<sup>4</sup> the 21<sup>st</sup> in the company of *Boudé* and her husband; [5] your brother and sister-in-law were firmly resolved to join us on the journey, but now everything is working out awkwardly again,<sup>5</sup> and probably nothing will come of it, although everybody has had 6 pairs of shoes made for himself and they are already lying there. You should receive news of how everything is working out from Lintz or Munich, where I always have time to write. The *officer* Starmberg<sup>6</sup> has arrived here, he says the roads are abominable. [10] That lout Wolfegg<sup>7</sup> is an *officer* here; I spoke with him, he told me that the Senior Master of the Hunt, Count Herberstein,<sup>8</sup> has *laid down* his position. *Baron* von Lehrbach<sup>9</sup> is also here, cathedral canon Starmberg<sup>10</sup> will come here in May. *Villersi*<sup>11</sup> kisses you a million times, today I went to take leave of her, and did the same yesterday at Herr von Lehman's,<sup>12</sup> where I ate at midday. On Tuesday *Baroness* von Waldstetten<sup>13</sup> will send her horses [15] and we drive to her in *Neuburg Nunnery*<sup>14</sup> |: which is where she always stays now :|, eat there, and back in the evening. I am curious to get to know this lady of my heart, since I was already *invisis*<sup>15</sup> the man of her heart. In Munich I will no doubt rest for at least a week, and then sail back home. When you read this, I will probably be somewhere around Ried<sup>16</sup> or already even further. [20] By all appearances, I will not travel home until Ascension Day<sup>17</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BD: Nannerl = pet name of Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), (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: The formula "née de Mozart" corresponds to an old Austrian custom.

<sup>3</sup> Address in DME. "The dancing-master's house": BD: The name 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.

<sup>4</sup> BD: They finally left on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. See shifting dates of departure mooted in recent letters.

<sup>5</sup> BD VIII, p. 130: Leopold conceals the fact that he was promoted to the third degree of Freemasonry on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the day on which he wrote this letter.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Probably Franz Anton, Graf Starhemberg (1748-1787), Knight of the Maltese Order, Imperial and Royal Chamberlain and chief of the police.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Presumably a relative of Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] Wolfegg und Waldsee, Baron [Freiherr] auf Waldburg (1729-1820), one of the Salzburg Cathedral canons, who were favourably inclined towards the Mozarts. It is not known why Leopold calls him a "lout".

<sup>8</sup> "Oberstjägerm: gr: Herberstein". BD: Johann Gundacker, Count [Graf] Herberstein, did indeed resign his service as Senior Forester [Oberforstmeister] in Salzburg in 1785.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Franz Christoph, Baron [Freiherr] (later Count [Graf]) von Lehrbach, who gave Mozart a letter of recommendation to his uncle in Mannheim in 1777.

<sup>10</sup> "B. v Lehrbach". BD: Franz Joseph, Graf Starhemberg (1749-1819), twin brother of the Graf Starhemberg mentioned above.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Perhaps the daughter of Casimir Villersi († 1776), once tutor [Hofmeister] to Archbishop Hieronymus in Salzburg. She had lessons with Nannerl for a time.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Philipp Lehmann, probably known to the Mozarts since summer, 1773; they had just visited him again in April, 1785.

<sup>13</sup> "B: v Waldstetten". BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten (1744-1811), a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten. Cf. No. 0638/9-10.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Klosterneuberg an der Donau, west of Vienna. Baroness Waldstätten died there in poverty in 1811.

<sup>15</sup> "Unseen". BD: Apparently a quotation from one of her letters to Leopold.

<sup>16</sup> BD: In the administrative area Innkreis.

<sup>17</sup> BD: In 1785 on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

because on this day there is the Music Lovers' *Concert* in Munich. N.B. If we do stop off in Lintz, I will of course still be in Lintz when you receive this letter and furthermore not leave there for a number of days. I have also taken leave of music director *Bono*,<sup>18</sup> [25] they all commend themselves. Now stay healthy, all of you, I heartily kiss my esteemed son<sup>19</sup> and yourself along with the children, and am as always eternally your sincere father,

Mozart mp<sup>20</sup>

The most peculiar *virtuosos*,<sup>21</sup> who were mentioned in the newspaper,<sup>22</sup> [30] were absolutely the most abominable *concerts*, so that dogs would have wanted to run away, –

The audience laughed at them, and poured scorn on this childishness – abominable!  
– people were leaving!

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<sup>18</sup> BD: Guiseppe Bonno (1710-1788), from 1739 court composer in Vienna, later (1774) court music director.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

<sup>20</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>21</sup> BD: On the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1785, Basilius Bahdanowicz (c. 1740-1827), with his wife and eight children, gave his first concert, in which a symphony was performed using vocal imitations of instruments, a keyboard was played eight hands, and violins played with three bows.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Nannerl had probably read of it in the *Oberdeutsche Staatszeitung* of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1785.