

0861. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / de Sonnenbourg née de Mozart² /
à / Salzbourg To be delivered to the Tanzmeister= / =haus.³*

Vienna, 16th April,
1785

We have finally decided to leave here on Thursday⁴ the 21st 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,⁵ 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* Starmberg⁶ has arrived here, he says the roads are abominable. [10] That lout Wolfegg⁷ is an *officer* here; I spoke with him, he told me that the Senior Master of the Hunt, Count Herberstein,⁸ has *laid down* his position. *Baron* von Lehrbach⁹ is also here, cathedral canon Starmberg¹⁰ will come here in May. *Villersi*¹¹ kisses you a million times, today I went to take leave of her, and did the same yesterday at Herr von Lehman's,¹² where I ate at midday. On Tuesday *Baroness* von Waldstetten¹³ will send her horses [15] and we drive to her in Neuburg Nunnery¹⁴ : 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*¹⁵ 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 Ried¹⁶ or already even further. [20] By all appearances, I will not travel home until Ascension Day¹⁷

¹ 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].

² BD: The formula "née de Mozart" corresponds to an old Austrian custom.

³ 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.

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

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

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

⁷ 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".

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

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

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

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

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

¹³ "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.

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

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

¹⁶ BD: In the administrative area Innkreis.

¹⁷ BD: In 1785 on 5th 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*,¹⁸ [25] they all commend themselves. Now stay healthy, all of you, I heartily kiss my esteemed son¹⁹ and yourself along with the children, and am as always eternally your sincere father,

Mozart mp²⁰

The most peculiar *virtuosos*,²¹ who were mentioned in the newspaper,²² [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!

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

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

²⁰ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²¹ BD: On the 5th 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.

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