

Linz,² 30th April,
1785

I am writing hoping for the best as to when you might receive this letter.³ We finally left Vienna on the 25th inst.⁴ at half past 10 in the company of your brother and his wife, ate at midday in Burkerstorf,⁵ they returned to Vienna,⁶ and we slept in St. Pölten, and were in Linz at 7 o'clock on the evening of the 26th. As a temporary measure, we slept that night in the Schwarzer Bock⁷ opposite the residence of esteemed Count Thun⁸ because all the Count's sons happen to be there and all the rooms are therefore occupied. [10] We spend the whole day at table and in company at the Count's –, even the breakfast is brought across daily. We wanted to leave this afternoon, – but they are not letting us go, we will hardly get away before the 2nd May. Tomorrow the new bishop, the bowed, lame Count Herberstein,⁹ is holding his entrance procession; [15] in accordance with the Emperor's¹⁰ instructions, it is to be done on foot like the Apostles. The bishop called on the Count, we spoke a great deal about our old acquaintanceship, of how we travelled with him on the Danube from Passau to Linz and how your brother saw the old beggar falling into the water. The Viennese Theatiner Father Froschauer was initially unrecognisable to me in a wig as a secular priest, [20] he is an adviser to the *consistory* and the bishop's master of *ceremonies*.¹¹ Baron Lehrbach¹² was in Vienna, – but we never ran into each other: – two days ago he arrived in Linz, and yesterday there was a large company at the Count's, – Baron Lehrbach came too: He, General Saleburg's wife,¹³ the young Comtesse Thun,¹⁴ and myself played our little *Tresette*.¹⁵ [25] Baron Lehrbach must live in Linz now, he has now been given a further duty and has received a large increase in salary. There is peace with Holland.¹⁶ The Emperor showed such *finesse* in this matter that he could move his troops to the Netherland's *free of charge* without

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: Linz on the Danube.

³ BD: Nannerl and her husband were obviously driving back to St. Gilgen about this time.

⁴ BD: Leopold did not wish to give Nannerl the full reason for the late departure, which was that he participated in four Masonic events in April. He joined the lodge “Zur Wohltätigkeit” on the 6th, became a Journeyman on the 16th, and was named Master on the 22nd. He also took part in a formal honouring of Ignaz von Born on the 24th.

⁵ BD: Purkersdorf, 12 km west of Vienna, where the post route to Linz separated off.

⁶ BD: This was the last time that Leopold saw his son.

⁷ = “The Black Goat”.

⁸ “H: Gr: Thun”. BD: Johann Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Thun (1711-1788), Freemason, husband of Mozart's patroness, Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800). It was there that Mozart lodged with his wife returning from Salzburg in 1783 and Mozart wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425.

⁹ “Graf Herberstein”. BD: Ernst Johann, Count [Graf] Herberstein (1731-1788), known to the Mozarts since they met him in Passau on their first journey to Vienna as musicians. In Passau Wolfgang played before Bishop Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Thun-Hohenstein and received the princely reward of one ducat [= 4.5 florins]. They then travelled with Herberstein by ship to Linz.

¹⁰ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

¹¹ “ConsistorialRath und Ceremoniarus des Bischoffs”.

¹² BD: Franz Christoph, Baron [Freiherr] (later Count/Graf) von Lehrbach, who gave Mozart a letter of recommendation to his uncle in Munich in 1777.

¹³ BD: Maria Anna, Countess [Gräfin] Thun, née Komtesse Kinsky (1732-1806), wife of the General Salburg who appeared on list of subscribers in 1784.

¹⁴ BD: Maria Karoline (1769-1800), the youngest of the three daughters of Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Thun. Married Richard Clan-William, later Lord Guilford of Gillhall, in 1793.

¹⁵ BD: Card game.

¹⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0824/2 ff.

creating a stir, for the Dutch will have to pay the expenses, – and now they will come under the banner of the election as King of the Roman Empire: [30] if Prussia opposes, the Imperial troops are already positioned in the Netherlands and can cause a *diversion* for the King in Prussia in *Cleves* territory: and on the other side the Elector of Cologne¹⁷ can *support* his brother. I can hardly write, it is so cold, – two days ago it snowed again. I cannot get rid of my cough in this weather; [35] I have taken elderflower tea in bed in the morning for 3 days. I will reach Salzburg one or 2 days before Pentecost, – I hope you will all come too. You must send the messenger to Treisel¹⁸ to tell her to prepare the beds. Although the roads are now good, the air is cold, raw and windy, all the mountains and higher slopes are lying there covered with snow: [40] in many places the farmers are having to replant, – in many places the winter cereals have perished – I see it with my own eyes. – Now keep well, all of you, – looking forward to seeing you soon. I heartily kiss my esteemed son¹⁹ and yourself and the children and am eternally your sincere father,

Mozart mp²⁰

[45] The esteemed Count Thun gave Heinrich a present of 15 ducats.²¹

¹⁷ “Churfürst v Cöln”. BD: Maximilian Franz (1756-1801), brother of Emperor Leopold II. In 1762 they were the “2 Archdukes” mentioned in No. 0034/88. Succeeded his brother in 1790.

¹⁸ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹⁹ BD: Leopold’s customary form of address to his son.

²⁰ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand. He had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts’ home for three years.

²¹ BD: = 67.5 florins.