

0871. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen*

Salzb., 9<sup>th</sup> Junii  
1785.

Just now, at quarter to 5 in the evening, Frau von Gerlichs<sup>2</sup> passed into eternity. [5]

At six o'clock yesterday evening they gave her Holy Unction, and at 8 o'clock Herr von Kleinmayr<sup>3</sup> left her. I have not yet heard any suggestion she had made a testament, and I very much doubt whether she has, because she had already been very weak for a long time, and she never wanted to hear anything about it, [10] since, like old Deibl,<sup>4</sup> she still hoped for the return of lost strength and fine weather. Perhaps Herr von Kleinmayr has managed to draw it up. Yet hardly, – it would have to have happened only yesterday or this morning. Two days ago, there was fine warm weather in the afternoon and I watched the *military training* in the Riedenburg<sup>5</sup> with Herr von *D'Ippold*<sup>6</sup> and the *court gentlemen*. [15] The real *manoeuvre* is meant to be tomorrow, the 10<sup>th</sup>, but if it rains and pours astonishingly as it is today, nothing will come of it, whatever they plan. Yesterday was the finest of days, – at 10 o'clock in the evening a thunderstorm came but it was all over by quarter to 11, after producing 4 or 5 good and proper crashes, – it immediately rained quite appallingly. [20] Quite generally, everyone remarked that all the thunderstorms, of which we have already had a good number, passed over quickly, because the storm is no longer hindered and delayed in its natural course by the shaking of the air caused by the ringing of so many bells in the town,<sup>7</sup> but even less do they return, because in other places there is neither ringing nor shooting, [25] where otherwise storms often did not move on for a long time, or came back again 2 or 3 times in a circle.

The Testamentary *Commission*<sup>8</sup> is approaching at this very moment, the old Herr von Zillenbergs<sup>9</sup> Herr von *Granjean*,<sup>10</sup> and Schirkhofer,<sup>11</sup> – who went ahead as they came near the house to announce their coming, [30] for I do not think that they have got the dead woman on the bier properly yet. It has just struck 6 o'clock.

In Munich there was a row on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Shortly before the play started, Franz Lang<sup>12</sup> got involved in an exchange of words with the *castrato dal Prato*<sup>13</sup> regarding some of

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<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: Anna Maria Gertrud von Gerlichs, née von Köpf, widow of Privy Counsellor [Gehiemrat] von Gerlichs († 1763), died 9<sup>th</sup> June 1785 aged over 80.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Franz Thaddäus von Kleinmayr(n) (1733-1805), from an old Salzburg family. Studied law, Director of the Court Councillor [Hofrats-Direktor]. Obviously knew the Mozarts from at least 1764 onwards (No. 0092/214-215). Published books on legal matters.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Franz de Paula Deibl (? 1698-1783), oboist, also violinist.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Suburb of Salzburg, home to a large barracks.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold: Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the “de” (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. No. 0869/61. BD: Ringing of bells during thunderstorms was forbidden in Salzburg from 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1783. There had been debate about possible harm due to the practice, cf. J.N.Fisher's *Beweis, das das Glockenläuten bei Gewittern mehr schädlich als nützlich sey* [Proof that bell-ringing during thunderstorms is more damaging than useful], Munich, 1784.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The “Sperr-Kommission” [“Suspension Commission”] barred access to all testamentary estates until all the relevant circumstances and conditions had been ascertained.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Either Friedrich Maria Zillner, Baron [Freiherr] von Zillerberg (1726-1798), who became a court counsellor in Salzburg in 1750, or his brother, Johann Nepomuk Maria Ziller, Freiherr von Zillerberg (1729-1814), lawyer, ultimately president of the supreme office of justice.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Wilhelm Joseph von Grand Jean, Court Counsellor [Hofrat].

<sup>11</sup> BD: Joseph Gottlieb Schörkhofer, disponent of the Court Council.

<sup>12</sup> BD VIII: Franz Joseph Lang (1751-1816); BD VI: hunting horn player.

the castrato's gossiping: it came to a challenge, and they really did go to fetch their swords; someone sent for *Cannabich*,<sup>14</sup> [35] he wanted to separate them, but *dal Prato* apparently gave *Cannabich* such a dressing down that the latter, incensed, gave him a couple of blows with a stick. *Dal Prato* pulled a sword blade, which he had concealed in his stick, on *Cannabich*, but Lang grabbed the castrato, and the two of them then gave him such a thrashing that he is lying in bed in the most appalling shape. [40] *Cannabich* and Lang are under house *arrest*, the court case is pending. I received this report on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Now a letter of 5<sup>th</sup> *Junii* from Herr Marchand<sup>15</sup> tells me that the row in question has now taken a serious turn. The matter is being treated as *criminal* and is now in the hands of the Court Council.<sup>16</sup> *Cannabich* and Lang are still under house *arrest*: [45] there are in fact hopes that the matter will be closed in the coming week, since they are trying everything to bring about a reconciliation. – In both letters Herr Marchand commends himself most emphatically, along with everyone in his house, to my esteemed son<sup>17</sup> and yourself. He has in mind perhaps to visit us in *August* if he is given leave. Otherwise he writes: Are you also having such fine weather? [50] Murderous element! Our patience had almost failed us! Rain! Hailstones! and so cold that we thought that last winter |: with memories of snow aplenty :| was marching back towards us again! He furthermore wishes, and prays to God, for a happy outcome of your confinement. I have just this moment received news that during the thunderstorm last night 3 women successfully gave birth, [55] including the wife of Herr *Don Pippo di Gallo Gualbert von Dobrowa*,<sup>18</sup> who has now presented the Salzburg world with the young mistress after so many years. The 10<sup>th</sup> Junii. Last night it rained very heavily, today the water is standing at the *Fleischthörl*,<sup>19</sup> and it is still raining, but only sporadically and not constantly sustained. More than 20 strings have broken on my keyboard [60] because the damp weather has swollen the wood so much that it raised the tuning by a whole tone on its own, so the strings had to break. I had my hands full the whole afternoon yesterday tuning all the strings down quickly so that I did not have even more breaking. Now Herr Egedacher<sup>20</sup> will come and fit new ones. The organ builder Johannes Schmid<sup>21</sup> has written to me; [65] here are his words: M.<sup>lle</sup> Rader<sup>22</sup> has written to me saying that the *fortepiano* which was bought for the most gracious daughter is completely unusable etc. and this seems to me to be an impertinence, for you would no doubt be the first to let me know, – in this case I am always ready to say how the instrument is to be treated. Major faults cannot occur in it unless one neglects these directions etc. – [70] With the instrument which I sent to the Rader woman I am also suffering vexation, the assistant teacher |: who ordered it :| now does not want to pay for it, and she cannot: I will therefore arrange to have the instrument brought back. Perhaps

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<sup>13</sup> BD: Vincenzo dal Prato (1756-1828), castrato. An unsatisfactory singer, appeared as Idamante in the première of *Idomeneo*.

<sup>14</sup> BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter Rosa.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

<sup>16</sup> "Hofrat".

<sup>17</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Johann Gualbert Daubrawa von Daubrawaick (1715-1789), paymaster of the Court Chamber [Hofkammer]; his nickname appears to have been "Don Pippo di Gallo", reminiscent of the character "Don Pippo" in *L'oca del Cairo*. His second marriage was to Maria Josepha, née de Lucca (1742-1811) in 1765; the first child was born in 1785.

<sup>19</sup> "The little butchers' gate": BD: The "Fleischerthörl", no longer visible today, stood near the "Löchlturm".

<sup>20</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the "old man", as the court organ builder was often referred to.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to "old" Egedacher; he had learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Probably identical with the Nader Nannerl mentioned in No. 0264/40.

you might know of someone who would take the instrument, for the sake of closing the deal quickly, for 163 florins along with 17 florins transport costs, that is, for 180 florins, [75] then it is at your service, simply so that I get free of these people. *N.B.* I am still not quits with the esteemed Count Wolfegg<sup>23</sup> etc: etc: – – So now it will be good that I see what is wrong when I come out to you so that I can put it in a letter. Egedacher<sup>24</sup> is in such miserable shape that they are having to cut away the gangrenous flesh from his bedsores; [80] that the girl *Purcinello*,<sup>25</sup> the daughter, in the meantime had her love stories and wanted to run off with a journeyman cabinetmaker etc. etc.

Now I have received your letter. I will be with you both on Monday or at midday on Tuesday if I am hindered or instead, if the weather should be absolutely too miserable. I will drive as far as Hof,<sup>26</sup> – [85] there I will take the landlord's wagon and I have already told the messenger that he should announce my provisional arrival to the landlord. If the weather is good, I am more certain to come on Monday. – Just this moment I hear that *Lisel* |: Kayser :|<sup>27</sup> has told Tresel<sup>28</sup> that Frau von Gerlichs had already made her testament 8 years ago, but this has only now come to light, since she never told anyone anything about it. [90] Herr von Kleinmayr will surely have known about it and will surely have been the one who drew it up, which is why the visits were so frequent. She will be buried tomorrow evening, the church services are on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. – I heard the soldiers going out to positions at 4 o'clock; the sun showed through, and I went out too. As they were about to start towards half past 4, it started to rain [95] – a wind sprang up, – in a moment a thunderstorm, and such terrible rain, the like of which I have never stood up to in an open field in my life. Now just picture to yourselves many hundreds of men, most of whom were at least already equipped with umbrellas. The whole Ofenlochberg<sup>29</sup> was so full when I got out there that it was no longer possible to climb it. [100] And a hundred more people were marching to get out there alongside me. So I positioned myself between the mountain pasture and the Ofenlochberg at the same height as the meadows, and saw 2 spectacles. In front of me the soldiers, – and behind me the crowd of people on the mountain. Hardly had the soldiers taken up position and presented themselves – but they had to *retreat* to the barracks, [105] and all who were present had to withstand at that moment storm, lightning, thunder, wind and the most indescribable cloudburst, which raged for at least a full half-hour. All the families of the *Hermes, Edlbachs, Pichls*<sup>30</sup> etc., *professors, college students*, chapel boys<sup>31</sup> etc., – were above me. I cannot describe it, – I must tell you about it. Enough, the *manoeuvre* then lasted until after 8 o'clock, [110] and meanwhile it will be sufficient if I tell you both that Frau von *Hermes* and her little mistresses, when they came back, had skirts and aprons which were as if

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<sup>23</sup> “Graf”. BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Waldsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg in 1762, Knight of the Order of St George, allegedly provincial director of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge “Apollo” under the name Prunelius.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher († 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1785), the Royal Organ Builder and therefore also responsible for tuning and maintenance of the keyboard instruments; usually referred to in the letters as “old Egedacher”.

<sup>25</sup> BD: No reason has been found why Egedacher's daughter was known by this name.

<sup>26</sup> BD: North-east of Salzburg before the Fuschlsee, and with the inn “Zur Post”.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Possibly a relative of Matthias Joseph Kaiser, chief administrator [Pfleger] in Lofer.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>29</sup> “Oven-hole mountain”: BD: Now called Rainberg, outside the Neutor.

<sup>30</sup> BD: Either Court Counsellor [Hofrat] Joachim Vital Virgil Hermes von Fürstenhof (1737-1793), or Johann Joseph Hermann Hermes von Fürstenhof (1723-1809), captain in the grenadiers; his wife = Anna Helena (+1795). / Probably Benedikt Schlossgängl von Edlenbach (\*1748), son of the teacher of law in Salzburg. / Probably the family of Christoph Sigmund von Pichl, who occupied a number of official positions, including in the ministration of Teisendorf and Mattsee.

<sup>31</sup> Pupils from the “Kapellhaus”: Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

dipped in mud almost to the knee, Count Überacker's<sup>32</sup> *Mademoiselle* had even lost her shoes, which stuck in the mud. Now lead healthy lives, I heartily kiss my esteemed son and yourself along with the children [115] and am your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> BD VI, p. 709: Unlikely to have been Wolf Joseph, Count [Graf] Uiberacker, Court Counsellor [Hofrat], unless he travelled up from Tittmoning, 36 km north-east of Salzburg, with his daughter specially for the manoeuvre.

<sup>33</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.