

0900. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 16th Nov.,
1785.

Little Leopoldl² is well!

After going for a walk for a couple of hours on Saturday the 12th [5] and going home to see how the child was at 4 o'clock, I went to Hagenauer's³ to accompany the 2 daughters to the father confessor at the Nonnberg,⁴ otherwise they would not have been allowed to go up there, for they had to have a custodian of honour for their way home by night. Fireworks and an air balloon had been announced at the gravel bar at St. Joseph's. [10] We saw the air balloon and the preparations from the father confessor's apartment at 5 o'clock, with our own eyes and through a telescope. I said nothing will come of the air balloon, since it was 6 feet high, and could not be filled without great expense. And that is how it turned out: about 15 to 20 *rockets* went up, then some fireballs, – then it was all over; the balloon stayed on the ground; [15] it was probably only standing there blown up with air to attract the people; and now the people who had to pay to get out at the gate were – duped. – The Mosers⁵ etc. had already left at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for Senior Administrator Kofler's⁶ little house in Hellbrunn, which was jammed full. At 7 o'clock I brought the Hagenauer girls home again. – [20] The Archbishop⁷ has come back from Lauffen,⁸ – suffered vomiting the next day; vomited 6 times before and after *chocolate* because he had perhaps eaten too many different kinds of fruit together in Lauffen. There was therefore no bustle or noise, no company or sitting at table, one had to get out of the coach outside the Residenz palace etc. etc., bound like a woman in confinement etc. [25] But yesterday there was the first music and company. The vomiting happened on the morning of Saturday the 12th.

On Monday, on my glorious, noble birthday,⁹ the Hubers' Nannerl,¹⁰ Nandl¹¹ and Tresel¹² had a great deal of work to do dressing Leopoldl smartly to *congratulate* me for the first time; [30] and after I had gone through to present myself to him and furthermore had to give him the little coat, bonnet, shoes etc. ponso¹³ colour gros de naple ribbon,¹⁴ along with

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: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather's death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

³ BD: Ursula and Franziska (?), cf. No. 0838/34), aged 32 and 29, daughters of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant, friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032. His apoplexy has been mentioned in recent letters.

⁴ BD: A Benedictine nunnery founded in the south-east of Salzburg at the end of the seventh century.

⁵ BD: The family of Tobias Rudolph Maria Moser, judge in the service of the Prince-Bishop [Fürstbischof] of Chiemsee, related by his wife to the Franz Joseph Kofler mentioned in line 18.

⁶ "Pfleger". BD: Franz Joseph Kofler, Court Councillor [Hofrat] in Salzburg, Senior Administrator [Pfleger] of Glanegg, related to the Moser mentioned in line 17.

⁷ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0892/68. Lauffen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop's autumn residence. ⁹ BD: 14th November.

¹⁰ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

¹¹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

¹² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹³ BD: *ponceau*, deep red.

¹⁴ BD: *gros de Naples* is a kind of silk.

the *amulet* and silver *St. George's medal*¹⁵ which Mitzerl¹⁶ had already given him previously, and, on top of that, had given Nandl a *batzen*¹⁷ as a present, the council of servants then resolved *stante pede*¹⁸ that Tresel should fetch Mitzerl to see Leopoldl in his splendour, [35] but Heaven help us!: Tresel came back here panting and quite terrified and told us that, although it was already 9 o'clock, she had found the door locked and all the curtains in the windows still closed. – Then there was much knocking and noise, the chambermaid and others joined in. Finally, Mitzerl crawled miserably out of her bed, [40] unlocked the door, crawled back into bed, and now it was possible to go to her aid, give her soups, *anti-spasmodic* medicine and Margrave powder¹⁹ etc, for she had a tongue like wood and shooting pains and pressure etc. I called on her again at 5 o'clock in the evening, she was better, they gave her medicine again. – And on the morning of the 15th, when Leopoldl appeared in his *finery* again, [45] Mitzerl crept up the stairs to *congratulate* us and again presented Leopoldl with an old silver coin. Herr von *D'Ippold*²⁰ came in person to see Leopoldl and to congratulate him, commended him enthusiastically to Nandl and gave her a 24-kreuzer²¹ piece. But the child was in exceptionally high spirits and friendly, so much so that he was working away with his arms and legs, making all kinds of friendly faces [50] and occasionally made himself heard from time to time with a spirited cry or shout amidst the chattering of Herr von *D'Ippold*, the chambermaid, Mitzerl,²² Nandl etc. I cannot count how often they wished the two of you had been here to see it; everyone who called on me thought they would find you both here. – In the afternoon I took a walk to Maria Plain, then visited *Father Vital*, [55] left at half past 4, and was already home at quarter past 5.

*Ceccarelli*²³ has come back from Passau,²⁴ having accompanied his songstress on the journey there; the Prince²⁵ presented him with a beautiful golden watch with a heavy golden chain and 24 ducats.²⁶ He *passed on compliments* to me from *Fiala*,²⁷ who spoke to him in Passau while travelling through to Lintz; [60] Count Taufkürchen²⁸ had given the latter a ring worth 40 ducats,²⁹ – a beautiful sword, – and 24 ducats on his departure, – but gave Andre³⁰ 12 ducats. A couple of days ago I received a letter, and on seeing it I called out: What is this! A letter from someone who has already been dead for a number of years! Then I recognised

¹⁵ BD: A St. George Taler, from Mansfeld or Hungary in the 16th – 17th centuries and bearing a clear depiction of St. George.

¹⁶ “Jungfer Mitzerl”. BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

¹⁷ BD: Coin worth four kreuzers.

¹⁸ “*Where they stood*”, “*on the spot*”.

¹⁹ BD: *Margrafenpulver* was intended to combat cramps.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

²² BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

²³ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; frequent guest in the Mozarts’ house.

²⁴ BD: Leopold should have gone: cf. No. 0876/9-10.

²⁵ “Fürst”. BD: Joseph Franz Anton, Count [Graf] Auersperg (* 1734), Prince-Bishop of Passau, member of Salzburg cathedral chapter.

²⁶ BD: = 108 florins.

²⁷ BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed.

²⁸ “Graf”. BD: Probably Hans Wolf, Baron [Freiherr] von Tauffkirchen, Electoral Bavarian Chamberlain [kurbayrischer Kämmerer], Court Counsellor [Hofrat] and Senior Administrator [Pfleger] in Schärding.

²⁹ BD: 180 florins.

³⁰ BD: The young oboist André, presumably from the well-known family of musicians and publishers in Offenbach, travelling to Vienna with his teacher Fiala.

the handwriting of Herr *Friderici*³¹ in Gera, – and his seal too; I opened the letter, [65] and the signature was *Friderici*. The 2 *Friderici* brothers are dead, that is certain: but now I must first look carefully into whether this *Friderici* |: probably the son³² :| wrote all the previous letters, or whether they have such perfectly similar handwriting. He is surprised that I have completely forgotten the name *Friderici* and their work, [70] and is offering me 2 instruments to try out, which he wants to send me to sell on *commission*. – The Archbishop has already received the letter from Schmid³³ in Lauffen and there is still no *decision*, although Schmid asked for an answer soon. – Your brother has finally written, dated 2nd Nov. – Yes, I have already written telling you that he is composing *Le Nozze di Figaro*. – [75] Tomorrow I hope to receive something from him by post-coach, all the more so because I have written to him about the 2 new *clavier concertos*, and you have written something as well.

Friday, 18th Nov.: Nothing has arrived from your brother! Yesterday I could not write a single word because I had to write to Marchand.³⁴ Despite the very intense cold, I had to go out walking on these exceptionally beautiful days that we are having. [80] – Marchand, Gretl, Heinrich have written to me for my name-day.³⁵ – – Marchand writes as follows: The exchange project³⁶ is causing an appalling stir here! Opinion is divided; one side supports it as heatedly as the other opposes it. That is how things are going at court, among the nobility, among the citizenry etc. etc. [85] In addition to this, we are in a critical situation with an appalling neglect of public order. Higher prices for bread, shortage of meat and wood have already caused various gatherings of the citizenry and deputations to the Elector, but these have been fruitless. Since Bavarians have a natural aversion to Austrians, it was the speech of one citizen that finally caused a general sensation. [90] After one gathering ended fruitlessly, various citizens were in a beer house, they all swore they would rather leave the country than carry the name Imperial etc. etc. After various affirmations of the same kind, a master blacksmith said: You fools, what do you want, then? I would be quite happy if we were called Imperial! Think for a moment! [95] The Emperor is clearly taking no end of trouble to get us: so he must be very fond of us. Our sovereign Lord has us, and obviously does not like us, since he is letting us all go to ruin.

Truly an *argumentum ad hominem*.³⁷ Herr Marchand and everyone commend themselves to both of you, Gretl has received your letter. And now the fine text referring to the exchange process by my especially good friend, the esteemed *Baron von Gemmingen*³⁸ in Vienna, [100] must be about to be published in Salzburg. At this very moment there is a story spreading that after the autumn holiday for the Imperial Diet, an application will be made to introduce the 20 florin standard of coinage in Bavaria,³⁹ – and then probably in the entire Holy Roman Empire. – that would be yet another step towards putting the money on the Imperial standard in advance; [105] necessary – because of the salt export.⁴⁰ – – It is noon,

³¹ BD: There were two Friderici brothers, Christian Ernst (1709-1780) and Christian Gottfried (1714-1777).

³² BD: Christian Gottlob Friederici (1750-1805).

³³ BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), organ builder, worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to “old” Egedacher; he had previously learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg. Cf. No. 0871/64, where there are questions of valuing a fortepiano.

³⁴ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children (Heinrich, Margarethe or “Gretl”) had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart’s home.

³⁵ BD: 15th November.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0885/64 ff. It had been suggested that the Emperor and the Elector of Bavaria could exchange territories in Bavaria and the Netherlands.

³⁷ An argument concentrating on the person concerned and not the issues themselves.

³⁸ BD: Otto, Freiherr von Gemmingen-Hornberg (1755-1836), diplomat and man of letters in Mannheim. Freemason. In 1785 published *Ueber die königl. Preußische Assoziation zur Erhaltung des Reichssystems* [*On the Royal Prussian Association for the Preservation of the Imperial System*].

³⁹ BD: Bavaria adopted the Austrian standard of 20 guldens per ½ pound or silver in 1753, but then changed to the 24 gulden Rhine standard in 1755.

⁴⁰ BD: Besides its own salt, Bavaria also exported Salzburg salt from Hallein.

and the glass-carrier woman⁴¹ has just brought the little box and the books, and says there is already a note inside it. But I cannot find any sign of it. I must suppose that the messenger is bringing a letter, otherwise it would certainly be laughable to forget something like that. The child is asleep now, so I cannot try the little bonnet. – [110] The big one is still too big anyway, but with God’s help he will surely grow into it. Since the glass-carrier woman is coming again after 12 o’clock, I will give it to her to take; and then see if the messenger does perhaps have a letter. They were looking for an oboist at court in Trier:⁴² *Md:me Antoine*⁴³ had the good fortune to get a position for her young son as an oboist⁴⁴ and, with the help of representations by the widowed Electress,⁴⁵ sister of the Elector of Trier, [115] even for the big lout as well, and between both of them they have no less than 900 florins. Now I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children, and am as always your father

Mozart mp⁴⁶

⁴¹ BD: From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the “glasträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

⁴² BD: The residence of Clemens Wenceslaus of Saxony.

⁴³ 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.

⁴⁴ BD: The younger son, Ernest (* 1770); the elder son was Heinrich (1768-1809), a violinist, named “Limmel” [lout] in line 115.

⁴⁵ “Churfürstin des Khurf: v Trier”. BD: Maria Anna Sophie von Bayern. She and Clemens Wenceslaus of Saxony were children of Elector [Kurfürst] August III of Saxony (1750-1827).

⁴⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.