

0909. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

Little Leopoldl<sup>2</sup> looks  
like a drinking crony!

Salzb., 16<sup>th</sup> Decemb.,  
1785

I have an answer from the organ builder Schmid:<sup>3</sup> he will try to be here for the new year, [5] – will check the organs in the cathedral, – wood, – zinc, – work enough; anything that is usable there he will buy and take over from Egedacher,<sup>4</sup> – then leave a journeyman organ builder here to tune at court,<sup>5</sup> – in the meantime he will go back to Stühlingen<sup>6</sup> and there sell everything that he does not need to drag here at great expense, [10] put everything in order, and then return with his wife in spring. Now, since he will stay here for at least half of January, he will no doubt need to spend some 6 weeks in Stühlingen as well so as to find takers for everything, especially the many tools, and perhaps to make arrangements for what he still has in the way of work, – in addition, he seems to have indicated to me that his wife may enter confinement during this time. [15] I too found this arrangement very good and have already answered him.

Now what I forewarned my son about has happened. The Abduction is already available as a keyboard reduction in Augspurg<sup>7</sup> from the bookseller Stage<sup>8</sup> for 7 florins and I don't know how many kreuzers. It was reduced for *clavier* by the esteemed cathedral canon Stark,<sup>9</sup> [20] – and also engraved in Maynz, and has been announced in the Augsburg newspapers with a flourish of trumpets and many praises heaped on the famous Herr von Mozart. If *Torricella*<sup>10</sup> has already done a lot of engraving work on that, he will suffer a great loss; – and your brother has wasted his time writing 2 acts which were finished up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> one.

[25] The wife of Court Counsellor von Hermes<sup>11</sup> asked me, along with her compliments, to remind my esteemed son,<sup>12</sup> – whether you may have forgotten about the *bottles* in the glass factory? She begs you urgently.

Last time I wrote that Leopoldl had a suppurating ear, then it came to the other ear too, and finally he had the so-called arch<sup>13</sup> all over his face. [30] He was, and also still is, always cheerful and fresh, even though a lot of matter is oozing out, and the thing must also be smarting astonishingly. They say, and it is quite natural too, that it is very beneficial to the health once one has come through it because a great deal of sharp, unhealthy matter comes out

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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: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), 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. Leopold also wants him to repair Nannerl's fortepiano.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the court organ builder was often called.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Looking after the keyboard instruments generally was part of his remit.

<sup>6</sup> BD: West of Constance (by Lake Constance).

<sup>7</sup> Augsburg, Leopold's hometown, with which he has many connections.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The Augsburg bookseller Conrad Heinrich Stage.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Johann Franz Xaver Stark, clergyman, organist and later music director at Mainz Cathedral. The Mozart family met his family in 1763. His keyboard reduction of *The Abduction from the Seraglio* was published by Bernhard Schott in Mainz in 1785, at which point Mozart stopped work on his version (cf. No. 0850/21 ff.).

<sup>10</sup> BD: A publisher in Vienna. Cf. No.

<sup>11</sup> “Hofrath”. BD: Maria Theresia, wife of Court Counsellor [Hofrat] Joachim Vital Virgil Hermes von Fürstenhof (1737-1793).

<sup>12</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

<sup>13</sup> BD: A regional word for a rash.

of the body. – He was asleep when the deputy administrator was here.<sup>14</sup> The latter will bring out the whole Lotto<sup>15</sup> paraphernalia with him, [35] only I forgot the little board to lay the marbles in.

The messenger<sup>16</sup> is here now, and brought me the loin of ibex, my thanks to you both, – regarding the tongue in the shoebuckle, I will have to send someone out to you so that he can get it finished at once out there; [40] since I know of no-one in St. Gilgen who has such skills in fitting tongues into shoe buckles. If I had more buckles, I would send them to him, but, as it is, someone will have to lend him some for holy Christmas Day; I have given all my *transferable*<sup>17</sup> buckles away. Now we are facing a great predicament in the church music with the violins too. Wenzl Sadlo<sup>18</sup> has suffered a stroke and is completely lame on one side. They have a little hope for him, since he is starting to feel pains in his arm and leg. – Now they have resorted to the Kapellhaus<sup>19</sup> boys. The 2 older Kapellhaus boys must now serve as violinists in the church, so that he<sup>20</sup> does not on any account need to employ Preyman<sup>21</sup> or spend any more money at all, because after Carnival, [50] on the *recommendation* of Count *Colloredo*<sup>22</sup> in Venice, he is getting a young violinist from there, *de Touche*,<sup>23</sup> whose father was a Frenchman. No-one knows what he can do, but he must certainly be outstanding because he is an Italian, and on top of that his father was a Frenchman. It is indeed a fine confusion which I observe with a smile on my face.

[55] From your last letter I was able to gather that you might believe I had sent Marchand's<sup>24</sup> letter to you both so that you could read that he has invited me to Munich. But I sent the letter only because of the *business* with Zweybrücken and the petition from the citizenry.<sup>25</sup> Leopoldl is very well provided for in my house, if I went to Munich for 12 or 14 days, [60] which I certainly will not do, however, for the sake of this old *opera* which I have already seen; all the more so because I could not decide whether to go to Passau or to drive out to you for a few days.

That the esteemed manager<sup>26</sup> did not even get out of the coach and give you both the pleasure of hearing 2 words of news about Leopoldl: this is – [65] I do not know what name I should christen this. Enough! I am seldom mistaken in what I think about people. After all, he showed astonishing joy and chatted, God knows what he wanted to say to you both, how much he liked the child etc. etc. The fact that the big, lazy praying nun, your cook, is an appallingly indolent person has been confirmed to me in detail not only by the messenger and

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<sup>14</sup> “Amtman”. BD: Cf. note on No. 0876/73. Second-in-charge after Leopold's son-in-law.

<sup>15</sup> BD: As promised in No. 0907/94-97.

<sup>16</sup> BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a carter who came to Salzburg once a week. The “glass-carrier woman” also provided a service on this route.

<sup>17</sup> Leopold uses the obscure word “vaccierende”: BD suggests “buckles which are not firmly fixed”.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Saldo had been a violinist in the Salzburg court music since 1745, also played hunting horn. As was usual, he was also a servant of the antechamber.

<sup>19</sup> Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] 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.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not employed in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Fürst Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Karl, Count [Graf] Colloredo, uncle of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Later correctly referred to as *Latouche*.

<sup>24</sup> BD: No. 0904a. 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>25</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0906/116.

<sup>26</sup> “H: Verwalter”. BD: Cf. No. 0907/53. BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold, younger brother of Leopold's son-in-law. He was in charge of a warehouse for iron goods in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee.

all the women who come into town, [70] but also by the deputy administrator;<sup>27</sup> yes, now a report has even come from the Ursuline nunnery itself saying she was unspeakably lazy and it was for this reason that she would have had difficulty getting as far as taking her vows: even *Dr. Barisani*<sup>28</sup> said to her in my presence that work and exercise would be very beneficial for her condition, which is entirely due to held-back menstruation periods. [75] In short! I have known such a variety of people in my life, but have always found it to be unerringly true that this praying sisters ritual is an unmistakable sign of many moral failings, which abominable, malevolent people want to cover up with hypocrisy. – Simply send her away, – [80] let her pursue a life of ease with her parents in Tyrol; – or carry out farm work. – Do you happen to know what the common fate of such praying sisters is? – – in the end they spend so much time in confession that this leads to getting on closer terms with a cunning, clever priest and becoming a priest’s whore. I can provide you with examples and proof.

[85] Herr Hutterer is now due to come down soon<sup>29</sup> and resume as an *advocate* as before. In the Erlangen newspaper they wrote this: – The esteemed Cathedral Chapter legal officer von Dobrowa<sup>30</sup> gave such a redoubtable account of himself during interrogation that he was released from *arrest*; the *advocate* of His High Princely Grace,<sup>31</sup> detained in custody, was also treated graciously and considerately; [90] but then they will turn their attention to the greater figures who involved themselves in the business with the peasants etc. – Everyone can understand why it was sent to the writer of the Erlangen newspaper. Herr *Beransky*<sup>32</sup> and Eberlin Waberl begged me to ask for St. Gilgen sausage. Be so kind, then, as to buy 6 as soon as they are to be had, – they will also pay me the messenger’s wages, [95] so you do not need to pay the messenger too, for they only asked me to arrange for the messenger to buy them, – but I think the messenger may have forgotten it.

#### The morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Leopoldl is quite cheerful with his mangy face, sleeps and eats well. [100] Yesterday I had three bedcovers cut from the piece of course linen and bought oat chaff to make cushioned underlays so that the urine does not spoil the beds so much.

As soon as I have the cone of salt<sup>33</sup> I will let you know.

I do not need the mustard pot, – I got a double one from Gaymayr. [105] I did tell you that they must be available in Mon[d]see, – all the landlords fetch them or receive them. Now I kiss my esteemed son<sup>34</sup> and yourself from the heart, send greetings to the children, and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>35</sup>

I was given a present of the fee schedule<sup>36</sup> by Herr Schirkhofer<sup>37</sup> [110] and had already read the obvious lies in the preface in the newspapers.

Nandl<sup>38</sup> and Tresel<sup>39</sup> commend themselves.

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<sup>27</sup> “Amtmann”.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0885/13 ff. on the Illuminati investigation in Salzburg. Dr. Hutter was indeed released, with a reprimand, from the castle on the hill on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1785 and restored to his position.

<sup>30</sup> “CapitlSyndicus”. BD: Johann Baptist Anton Daubrawa von Daubrawaick, Court Councillor [Hofrat], Cathedral Chapter Legal Officer [Kapitelsyndikus], seems to have been in Vienna frequently and acted as “messenger” for the Mozart on various occasions.

<sup>31</sup> “S:’ hochf: Gd:”. BD: The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Perhaps Joseph Berhandsky von Adlersberg (1735-1813).

<sup>33</sup> Presumably salt which was part of the remuneration for those involved in salt working in the region.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Leopold standard form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>35</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>36</sup> BD: The new *Salzburger Ordnung für die Pfleg-*, ... (1786) criticised the law courts for their fee setting.

<sup>37</sup> BD: Joseph Gottlieb Schörkhofer, disponent of the Court Council.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

<sup>39</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.