

0911. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen

Salzb., 22nd Dec.,
1785

Little Leopold² is well, praise God!

[5] I thank you for what you sent me. So I immediately went to *Dr. Barisani*³ once I had read through the letter. Both said that one must now wait and see if the monthly period comes again, or even fails to appear. The pillules should furthermore not be laxatives, but only cleansers. Everyone says that so little *coffee* and the beer are not harming you, [10] since the beer in particular is of value to you as a moisturiser, and you are drinking neither one nor the other immoderately.

Yesterday evening at 5 o'clock, the esteemed prelate of St Peter's⁴ passed over into eternity after a short illness of some days. – How would you like it if Father Dominicus became prelate? – – what is sure is that he is very close to it.

[15] I had begun to write a long letter to Marchand⁵ because I was expecting the messenger not today, but tomorrow. – Now, as I had to finish it quickly and send it off, I am writing this at night, after being at *Barisani's* once again at 7 o'clock to speak to him about the matter in more detail, because after 1 o'clock he, his wife and Joseph were still sitting at table, 2 Capuchins were there, [20] I therefore could not speak as I wished to.

Now the old man has told me, after all my discussion with him alone, that a little *coffee* could not harm you; – rather that perhaps the beer would not be good for you because you have pressure and heat, and you were not used to drinking beer here, – that you should take nothing except occasionally a little tartar⁶ before meals, [25] – and then, as usual, the camomile tea with marshmallow as well, – if you are having rising hot flushes of this kind, you should drink a light lemonade. – Then repeated barley gruel soups now and again for moistening, which you need. Otherwise one has to wait and see if the monthly period comes, or even fails to appear. [30] but if such an alteration with shivering and hot flushes comes over you again, you should stay quietly in bed and send your urine, passed early in the morning on an empty stomach, into town: you should also take meat soups on Friday and Saturday, all of which the doctor directed me to write down for you, sent with compliments from himself and all the *Barisanis*. [35] But what I particularly ask is that you should inform me immediately by special messenger if anything happens to you, and I will pay him for his journey here. One's health is the primary thing that one must take care of; on the one hand as God's command, – on the other as a law of nature, otherwise one is not only not a Christian, but a beast. At the moment, I personally think it is an impurity in the uterus – or a pregnancy. [40] It will soon become clear. Meanwhile it is certain that you are of a hot constitution and are lean, consequently you must pay attention principally to moistening and cooling.

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: Leopold's grandson by Nannerl.

³ BD: Leopold is talking about father and son Barisani: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Dr. Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), his eldest son.

⁴ A large Benedictine foundation in the centre of Salzburg.

⁵ 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.

⁶ BD: Used as a mild laxative.

The morning of the 23rd.

Concerning the organ builder:⁷ I shall soon see what is to be done, I will probably drive out to you with him, he will certainly be able to get away for a couple of days here, [45] especially if he brings a journeyman with him. I will certainly try to arrange it; is he not under *obligation* to me, then? – he will do it all for me. If only there were a sleigh path, or else if only the weather is not too bad. – It still looks as if not much snow wants to come at all, – or rather we will continue to expect that *December's* weather will not come until January. [50] I will certainly have a word about the *boutell*:⁸ – the excuse about the fire in the glassworks⁹ is not very solid. My esteemed son¹⁰ has simply forgotten it, – – I will certainly excuse it some other way: because the work with the coin glasses had to be taken care of first, it was of course possible that the master glassmaker forgot etc. etc. –

[55] I wholeheartedly accept the *task* with the cook¹¹ – I will do what is possible and answer next messenger day.

I received the money because it was in the letter, only it was not necessary to pay for the *chocolate*, since I would have mixed what you sent back in with mine, little by little, if it had been sent back to me.

[60] Wenzl Sadlo¹² is in hospital. *Barisani*¹³ said to me that, at the moment, the side where the stroke has affected him will probably remain lamed.

I had to laugh when I read that my esteemed son was ashamed of himself and did not want to show his face in Salzburg because the Prince¹⁴ has inveighed against all servants of the state in his fee schedule.¹⁵ –

[65] Are there no other honest civil servants, then? – is the Prince not already known, then, not only in Salzburg, but in all other places? – – is he not telling obvious untruths, then, when he says he will reduce his public *administration* fees substantially, when, on the contrary, they are pushed up higher? – does he not do exactly the same thing with his chapter and *court gentlemen*? – – [70] what new inventions will St. Peter's monastery¹⁶ perhaps have to expect now? – – etc. etc. Now there really are 19 cathedral canons here, since all were summoned by the chapter; they have already had 3 chapter *sessions* to *clear up* the matter, come to an agreement with the Prince and take measures to pay their debts. What I do know is that in future those *praesentes*¹⁷ in the cathedral will no longer divide the presence money among themselves, [75] but will only receive their due share, while the *presence* share for those absent will be added *ad massam*,¹⁸ and so on in all other cases etc. *Baron von Gemmingen*¹⁹

⁷ 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 wished him to repair Nannerl's fortepiano.

⁸ = “bottles”. BD: Cf. No. 909/25.

⁹ BD: Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in St. Gilgen in 1701.

¹⁰ Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

¹¹ BD: Cf. No. 0909/67 ff. etc. on the need to replace Nannerl's present cook in St. Gilgen.

¹² 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. In No. 0909/44-46 Leopold tells of his recent stroke.

¹³ BD: Probably Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

¹⁴ “Fürst”. 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.

¹⁵ BD: The new *Salzburger Ordnung für die Pfleg-*, ... (1786) criticised the law courts for their fee setting.

¹⁶ The large Benedictine foundation in the centre of Salzburg.

¹⁷ “Present” (in the course of duty).

¹⁸ “To the mass of the funds”.

was due to become Senior Master of the Hunt,²⁰ as he had promised him; but now that he sees how he has been led around by the nose, he has *resigned*, [80] and is now going to the Prince of Spayer²¹ as Senior Master of the Hunt, with a salary of 2500 florins, a coach and horse, *quarters* and board.

Now I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp²²

Nandl²³ and Tresel²⁴ commend themselves.

[85] Leopoldl is well despite his rash,²⁵ which makes him smart where it is beginning to dry out.

The theatre is now closed. – I have received no letter from your brother during this time.

If you would include a couple of sausages I would be very grateful.

[90] I am giving the messenger the white and blue bags and the cloth to take with him.

I hope to send a *clavier* part for the new *concertos*²⁶ in a week.

¹⁹ “Baron v Gemmingen”. BD: Otto, Baron [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*.

²⁰ “oberstjägermeister”.

²¹ “zum Fürsten von Spayer”. BD: August, Count [Graf] Limburg-Styrum, Prince-Bishop [Fürstbischof] of Speyer.

²² mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²³ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

²⁴ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²⁵ BD: Leopold uses the unusual dialect word “Arch”.

²⁶ BD: Leopold had received KV 466, 467 from Wolfgang in Vienna, cf. No. 0906/12.