

0918. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

*A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen*²

Salzb., 13th January,
1786

Leopoldl³ is in good health, good cheer and good spirits. Most of the rash is already gone.

[5] News. Herr Feiner⁴ has just done himself out of his employment in the most stupid way in the world. He again took the notion of travelling back to Rastatt or Karlsruhe in his native land, where he had been only a year ago. To make it easier to obtain leave, he *produced* a letter from his cousin, who wrote nothing less than because he is always complaining about the burden of waiting on the Prince at meals [10] and also that in the long term the oboe will be damaging to his health, he should take leave to travel for 3 months and then see what he might hope to get in due time if he stays with him |: his cousin |: – if he finds that he could live contentedly, it is then up to him if he wants to stay on there immediately, and hand in notice in Salzburg; this way he would at least enjoy his salary 3 months longer. [15] If, however, he does not get leave, he would like to hand in notice, he |: his cousin |: is willing to keep him. The reply was a quite natural one: – once this month is over, his service will be terminated. Was it perhaps a 10-year-old brat who *produced* this letter? – I was immediately ordered to write to your brother on account of Andre⁵ because he is lodging there, along with Fiala.⁶ [20] – If Andre is willing to serve for 15 florins per month, he can come. Yet another fine *task!* – So I wrote immediately. During this time I have received only one answer from your brother, dated 28th *December*, to 2 letters from me. He wrote to me saying that he had hastily given 3 *subscription concerts* with 120 subscribers; – [25] that he wrote a new *clavier concerto*⁷ in *E^b* for the occasion, in which |: which is something unusual |: he had to repeat the *Andante*; that he took Fiala into his house right away, he writes nothing about Andre, but Norman⁸ told Brunetti⁹ about him in a letter; – that he has already made representations in 3 places on Fiala's behalf so that he can earn his bread; and that he will send me a new *clavier sonata* by post-coach.

[30] The election of the prelate has already been fixed for the 31st *January*. It is beyond any doubt that *Father Dominicus* will be nominated for election with many *votis*. That there are learned men in St. Peter's: that, too, is true, only they are in part too old, and sick. *Father Ildefonsus Lidl*,¹⁰ who has the right age and health, has already got into the bad books of the *convent*, [35] the *university*, – and the Prince by his arrogance and *chicanery* to the extent that

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 Address from DME.

³ 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.

⁴ BD: Joseph Feiner, valet and oboist in the court music.

⁵ BD: The young oboist André, presumably from the well-known family of musicians and publishers in Offenbach, travelling to Vienna with his teacher Fiala.

⁶ BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed.

⁷ BD: KV 482, cf. No. 0910/2.

⁸ BD: This violinist seems to have moved from Salzburg to Vienna, cf. No. 0803/20.

⁹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261. Cf. No. 0346/10.

¹⁰ BD: Father Ildefonsus Lidl (* 1738), Benedictine in Saint Peter's in Salzburg, previously a professor of theology, later parish priest in Dornbach by Vienna. During a literary dispute with Lorenz Hübner in 1790, the latter described him as "despised even by his own people".

they even had to send him off to St. Veit's¹¹ in Bavaria as a monastery professor. As I see it, the *sub-prior* Kaserer, *Virgilius* or *Coelestinus Spazenegger*, whatever he is called, and *Father Dominicus* will stand for election. As far as scholarship is concerned, this is the last quality needed, yes, the most dispensable one for someone exercising *rule*, [40] and sad experience has caused the monastery to drop the superstition of considering great learnedness in choosing the prelate. In the Empire,¹² in Bavaria, and other countries, scholarly prelates have thrown the monasteries into debt and disorder. The whole *university* here, at the last election in Weingarten,¹³ said that *Professor Father Anselmus Rittler*, [45] who has left here, would be a born prelate if his learnedness and, above all, his professorship here did not stand in his way. This is also quite natural. When he gains a professorship, the mildest man becomes a wrangler, becomes habitually stubborn; everyone wants to make a name by unusual opinions; [50] in the end he also becomes proud; he is away from the ordered life of the monastery for many years, and then becomes either too sharp or too lenient as a superior; in *economics* he has no idea at all! – The consequences are natural! What use is the proudly learned prelate in Monnsee?¹⁴ – was there not constant warring and confusion? – That is how it went in Fuldenbach, – in Weingarten, in Benedictbayern, in Nideraltach and Oberaltach¹⁵ etc. etc. [55] The best prelate is a good, orderly religious, but one whose manner is not that of a pedant, but of a man of the world; – – a good moralist with the necessary theology without hair-splitting learnedness, – one who understands economics without being a penny-pincher; – a man who knows how to lead his subjects more with patience and love than with anger and sharpness, [60] one who has powers of reflection and sound common sense. Great learnedness hardly ever comes into it, – and if that were the case, the prelate does not of course do anything in such important matters without the chapter. There let the *super*-learned shoot their *cannons* in the air, loaded with feathers and saw-meal, against the mighty and despotic rulers of the land. – [65] *Father Dominicus* was master of the kitchens for 2 years and often simultaneously treasurer, while holding the Sunday sermons in the monastery, all at the same time, until he was moved to be Father Confessor in Nonnberg¹⁶ after the ladies of the convent made a special request to the Archbishop and the Prelate. He has not had the least conflict with even one of his fellow brothers and is therefore thoroughly popular; the Archbishop also knows him better than anyone else [70] because he often gave audiences on matters in Nonnberg: yet, *de Capitulis fratrum, judica post actum*.¹⁷

Can you imagine whom the apothecary is marrying? – – the poor Katerl Schepfer,¹⁸ the 24-year-old daughter of the blessedly departed Schepfer. I am glad for the sake of the poor Schepfer children, and also out of affection for their blessedly departed parents. [75] On the 5th the organ builder¹⁹ came and brought a journeyman; he alighted and came to me, and sent his journeyman to Breu in Stain.²⁰ On the 6th I brought him to Count *Arco*.²¹

¹¹ BD: Benedictine foundation near Mühldorf am Inn.

¹² [Römisches] “Reich”. A collection of states occupying approximately the area of modern Germany.

¹³ BD: Benedictine foundation of Weingarten, near Ravensburg, Baden.

¹⁴ BD: The last prelate at the Benedictine foundation in Mondsee was Abbot Opportunius II Dunkl (1728-1784).

¹⁵ BD: Fuldenbach by Augsburg, Benediktbeuern in Upper Bavaria, Niederaltach and Oberaltach on the Danube.

¹⁶ BD: A convent on a hill above the old town of Salzburg.

¹⁷ BD: “Judge the brothers’ chapter after its outcome”.

¹⁸ BD: Katharina, the daughter of the Salzburg merchant Johann Baptist Schöpfer von Klarenbrunn, who had a Holy Mass read on the occasion of the death of Mozart’s mother (cf. No. 0467/18 ff.). She was born of Schöpfer’s marriage to Maria Katherina Eva, née Rauchenbichler von Rauchenbühl (1733-1777).

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: This should read “Bräuer am Stein”, an inn and brewery in Salzburg.

²¹ “Graf”. BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), Senior Royal Marshall [Obersthofmarschall].

now, when he said to the latter that he wanted to proceed immediately with the settlement for Egedacher's²² tools, wood, zinc, – to arrange everything with his lodgings and other things, – [80] to examine the organs in the cathedral and the instruments at court, and afterwards to ask His High Princely Grace²³ to give him leave to travel home for some weeks and sell his things there and then return with his wife, – the first astonishing uproar started when Count *Arco* informed the Archbishop, since both thought that he apparently intended to leave so soon again after a few days, [85] as if all of this could be done so quickly. I immediately sent him to the Court Chancellor,²⁴ who understood everything, and since the organ builder himself declared that he would stay here until spring, the whole matter is closed. In the meantime, there were a few *meetings* between Schmid and the Egedacher heirs and authorised representatives, and on my advice he took over everything, [90] even the unusable, still unfinished, bare and clumsy *clavier* sides, so that the cleric Egedacher²⁵ is deprived of the opportunity to make bad *claviers*, which would only result in consternation for everyone involved; accordingly, as I hear, Schmid has already reached a agreement to pay 600 florins for all of this material, has already done so, and the authorised representatives are very satisfied.

[95] Herr Haselberger's²⁶ esteemed brother was here for around 3 days, – but I only saw these people as they went up to Haselberger's from Reifenstuel's²⁷ in darkness, it was 6 o'clock in the evening, I therefore only saw the wagging of 2 magnificent ladies' bonnets, which were accompanied by 2 fur travel coats. Herr von Hafner²⁸ sent his coach to take them out to have breakfast with him two days ago.

[100] With Fräulein *Louise Robini*²⁹ things are simply going as they usually do with such people, her brother left for Munich on the morning of the 3rd of January, and the same day, or the next, she was so ill that she herself even asked for the Holy *Sacrament*, which she received the same day at 6 o'clock in the evening. A letter went to her brother with the next post. Now he has been back here for 3 or 4 days already. [105]

I was very anxious. It was 5 o'clock in the evening, and the messenger³⁰ had still not come, and when I sent someone up there, the reply was he had arrived a long time ago, but is not at home now. – At 6 o'clock I sent someone again, – in the meantime the glass-carrier woman³¹ came. I had the glasses placed in the big room until the tomorrow morning, [110] then Tresel³² can go with her, perhaps after 8 o'clock. I thank you for the fish, and especially for the wild duck. – Haselberger's esteemed brother has married a widow, as far as I gather, in

²² BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher (†14th 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”.

²³ “S: Hochf: Gnaden”. The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

²⁴ “HofCanzler”. BD: Cf. No. 0895/49-50. Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), director of the Privy Chancellery [geheime Kanzlei]; from 1774 Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler], a position between the President and Director. Member of the eclectic lodge “Zur Fürsicht” [“Under the sign of Providence”] in Salzburg.

²⁵ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man” Egedacher.

²⁶ BD VIII p. 128: Possibly the spice merchant Joseph Stephan Has[e]lberger on the Rathausplatz.

²⁷ BD: Joseph Christian Reifenstuel (* 1745), spice merchant on the Rathausplatz.

²⁸ BD: Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787), son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant. His coach took the guests out to his country house in the Loretograben.

²⁹ BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria Robinig (1757-1786), known as Louise. Cf. No. 0916/13-15.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ 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 established a glassworks in 1701.

³² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

Gmunten³³ or Ischl, wherever he is, and drove to Salzburg after the wedding. I at once called on Hagenauer³⁴ again, from whence I have just returned, after 7 o'clock. We had certainly always been talking about a cook³⁵ and looking for one, [115] but everyone said, I don't know the right person for it. Weiser's servant³⁶ lacks confidence to go as a cook, although she can cook, for she was in the living and dining room, and now she has again entered service as a chambermaid. I would ask you to read my letters properly or, since I often hurry, to spell them out. [120] It is improbable that I wrote that you [should]³⁷ make enquiries about Weiser's servant; rather, I would have written that we can enquire about her better here, or that we must question her thoroughly about her abilities. What I do know is that I wrote that you should not rely on me, but should enquire about a cook yourself. Everyone agrees that no servant wants to move into the country. [125] Servants want lovers; – if she does not do that and is a well-behaved servant, then she prefers to be in the town because of the many churches and devotions and 100 other reasons. I thought I would get the cook from the Johannsspital,³⁸ since the esteemed *Consistorial Advisor* Thaler³⁹ treated the 2 kitchen servants and cook in such a way that they are leaving, but she had already found a post in advance. [130] You ask, are there no more well-behaved servants, then? – – I reply: few! – and they will not move out to you. Countess Kletzl⁴⁰ too has complained to me astonishingly on this point. – – and then, on top of that, good servants also want to be paid well and do not at all allow work to be dictated to them as one was otherwise used to doing. All efforts here are in vain! – [135] The Hagenauers' cook will make further enquiries; but can one be sure, even if one finds a hard-working servant, that she will then also be able to cook properly to suit a *delicate* taste, or at least according what you both expect? – – *de gustibus non est disputandum*.⁴¹ – I always keep to this proverb: cooking is soon done for a hungry stomach, to be taken to mean that it is well enough cooked to eat and the food is not spoiled; [140] but the question of whether the roast or the chicken has turned out slightly too light in colour, or slightly too brown, is not worth the trouble of wasting one word on, let alone a hundred. And surely I can try out the servant beforehand? or does one nowadays discover everything, her good and bad points, in advance? – – You should not believe that. Enough! [145] we will continue to do everything possible to get hold of somebody: in the meantime you must also mull over the possibilities of the worst case: what you might wish to do or be able to do if, as I rather suspect, I do not find anybody; without a special intervention from heaven, nothing outstanding can be hoped for anyway. The best aspect is that a short quarter year is coming up.

[150] As far as the esteemed paymaster⁴² is concerned, there is no need at all to worry that he will be frequenting social events, and his salary up to now will not have been much above 30 florins, and the additional 10 florins will therefore not cover greater expenses; he has now been given a title and rank, but also more work.

[155] I know nothing about any changes⁴³ in the rural areas. If there were anything, it would appear in the *Intelligenzblatt*.⁴⁴

³³ BD: Gemunden, about 60 km east of Salzburg.

³⁴ BD: Presumably Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

³⁵ See numerous references in recent letters to the problems with Nannerl's cook.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0916/96. The former mayor Weiser had recently died.

³⁷ BD: Word missing in sentence.

³⁸ "St. John's Hospital" on the edge of Salzburg.

³⁹ "Consistorial Thaler". BD: Cf. 0887/32. Dr. jur. Philipp Gabriel Taller, adviser to the consistory.

⁴⁰ "Gräfin". BD: The wife of Christoph Joseph, Count [Graf] Kletzl von Altenach und Donaudorf.

⁴¹ = "There is no accounting for taste".

⁴² BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. For speculation about promotions cf. No. 0916/28-29.

⁴³ BD: Changes among those in the service of the Prince-Archbishop.

⁴⁴ BD: A weekly supplement to the *Oberdeutsche Staatszeitung* ["Upper German State Newspaper"].

As far as I know, His *Excellency* the Royal High Steward⁴⁵ is as well as an old, frail man can be. Can you think of any reason why he should come back to Salzburg at this time?⁴⁶

— — —

[160] Leopoldl blows kisses to both of you, laughs, and chats, and is often jubilant. His royal household has grown. Mitzerl⁴⁷ bought him a horse with a rider on it, with a beautiful little red silk ribbon tied on it as well. The horse has a little whistle in its arse. Nandl⁴⁸ and Tresel commend themselves. You would no longer know Leopoldl, I am sure of that. [165] Everything is becoming too short and too small for him. I kiss both of you from the heart, send greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp⁴⁹

⁴⁵ “S:° E: Obersthofmeister”. BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8).

⁴⁶ BD: At this time of year he would usually be in South Tyrol (cf. No. 0939/32).

⁴⁷ “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.

⁴⁸ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

⁴⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.