

0923. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 19th January,
1786

The woman³ will have given you the candles and the little box from *D'Yppold*⁴ which she got yesterday. One can reasonably understand that the organ builder⁵ cannot come out to you at once, [5] since he cannot expose himself to criticism right at the beginning, and cannot know when the Archbishop will have some little business or questions or tasks for him, – and then he has a plethora of things to arrange regarding furnishing his accommodation, settlement⁶ etc. etc., paying the fee for the decree of appointment, presenting his decree etc. to the Paymaster,⁷ who has just sent a message to me today concerning this etc. etc. Disagreements have already risen as well. The esteemed clergyman Egedacher⁸ thought it would be a good idea to put some tools on one side. The heirs' representative, a master baker, gave instructions to open a *chest* and found them etc. Since there had been negotiations with the representative for all tools and materials and they had been paid for, there was a row, [15] and Herr von Edlbach⁹ is absolutely furious with the clergyman Egedacher. Herr Schmid has bought a bed from Eged. and is now sleeping in Egedacher's workshop next to the goods he has purchased, – until he can move everything to the *accommodation* he is to take in the Tragasse.¹⁰ It is on one floor of Frau Rumml's bookbinding shop, and she bequeathed it to the Bürgerspital, and the esteemed administrator Zezi¹¹ wants to let the *accommodation* to Schmid for 60 florins, when it otherwise went for 75 florins. –

There are 2 pieces left over from a broken string on the *clavichord*. One is left wrapped round the tuning pin, – the other rolls itself up where it is secured. So send me a broken remainder or piece of these strings with the next messenger,¹² – or with the glass-carrier woman, – to be quite sure, – [25] so that we can bring a string of exactly the right proportions for each note. Then we will come as soon as circumstances allow.

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: 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ [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.] For some time now, Nannerl has been waiting for her fortepiano to be repaired.

⁶ Schmid bought up tools and materials belonging to his predecessor, Egedacher.

⁷ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family.

⁸ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the "old man", as the court organ builder was often called.

⁹ BD: Probably Court Councillor [Hofrat] Joseph Schlossgängl von Edlenbach

¹⁰ BD: Correctly "Getreidegasse".

¹¹ BD: Christian Ignaz Zezi († 1819) in the "tradgasse"/ "tragasse" (= Getreidegasse), town councillor and administrator of the *Bürgerspital* ["Citizens' hospital"].

¹² BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a wagon driver who came to Salzburg once a week. The "glass-carrier woman" also provided a service on this route.

I informed you both that I had to write to your brother in Vienna on account of Andre,¹³ which I did on the 10th January. – Then I had to wait for an answer on the 17th, namely on Tuesday, when the post comes. [30] Nothing came. – Today, Thursday, the postman came with a letter which was written on the 14th and consequently arrived on the 17th, and begged my pardon that his fingers had slipped into it by accident and torn it open, and he tried to maintain that the letter had come today with the Imperial Post!¹⁴ – What do you say about that? [35] – – It would have been impossible for the letter to go out into the Empire¹⁵ from Vienna on the 14th and make its way back here again, – and precisely this letter had to be so ill-fated that this fellow’s finger got into it, – and he was unable to notice this and tore it open so easily? – This is all quite stupid! The Archbishop thought he could find something in it, I don’t know what, [40] and thought that my son would perhaps disparage and rail against him. The postman had to present this excuse and take the blame, and could not deliver the letter until the Archbishop had given it back to the Chancellor¹⁶ again etc. – But there was nothing to be gathered from it except that Andre will hardly come, since Count Ardedy¹⁷ in Hungary gives him 150 florins salary, 50 florins every year for a suit, [45] then accommodation, board, wood and lighting free etc. etc. He was sorry that the incident had not happened a few weeks earlier, as Andre has just accepted this post and it would make a bad impression if he ran off again straight away, all the more so if he could not show that he had improved his situation as a result, – since, on the contrary, it would be a retrograde step, [50] exchanging 200 florins of Imperial money, not to mention the other provisions, for 180 florins, or 15 florins per month in Salzburg money.¹⁸ – So, in short, it is over! A dead end. Today I went to the post office and made a complaint about the opened letter and declared that if anything of the kind should happen to me again, I would not give them another reminder, [55] but take my complaint directly to the Imperial Post Office¹⁹ in Vienna – or to the Imperial Head Post Office,²⁰ depending on the place the letter comes from. So tally-ho! I am ready for anything!

In my haste I could not write much about the new cook;²¹ – I was at Hagenauer’s²² in the evening, and everyone said to me that they found the servant not at all bad: [60] first of all, because she is a quite normal person without any airs and graces and accustomed to joining in with work of every kind, 2^{ndly} because she has served for such a long time in one place, around 11 or 12 years. 3^{dly} because she can also deal competently with washing and other things. 4^{thly}, because she has also been a servant to the nasty wife of the Regional Judge²³ in the Gnigl.²⁴ They were all glad that they had chanced to ask her, [65] because she did not want to seek a new position until St. George’s Day, and her cousin, to whom she had just come from Tittmoning, asked to be allowed to keep her there until then. Enough! Thank God that you have someone; – for my part, I was heartily glad, I had already given up all hope, and now refuse to take any more requests concerning N.B. cooks, unless in the end it comes down

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0900/61. The young oboist André, presumably from the well-known family of musicians and publishers in Offenbach, went to Vienna with his teacher Fiala and has now been offered a post in Salzburg.

¹⁴ “Reichspost”.

¹⁵ “Reich” = Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, a collection of states occupying approximately the area of modern Germany.

¹⁶ “Canzler”.

¹⁷ “Graf”. BD: Probably Ladislaus, Count [Graf] Erdödy, a subscriber to Mozart’s concerts in 1784, described as resident in Schloss Galgócz, Hungary.

¹⁸ BD: 200 Austrian guldens = 224 Salzburg florins.

¹⁹ “Kayser: Postammt”.

²⁰ “Reichsoberpostammt”.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0922/14 ff.

²² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

²³ “Landrichterin”.

²⁴ At that time not yet part of Salzburg.

to advertising for a cook from Paris; yes, I would be willing to get involved in that. – In the meantime, just observe what kind of failings the new cook may have.

The 20th January.

Thank you for the fish. Little Leopoldl²⁵ is in fine fettle, only everyone suspects that he will start teething early because he is always digging in his mouth with both hands and biting and gnawing; [75] – some days he has what they call gum swelling and a temperature, which immediately passes again. Otherwise he is in high spirits and plays with old Tarock²⁶ card figures.

It was not just a notion when I ventured the opinion that *Father Dominicus*²⁷ had certain hopes of becoming Prelate: one can be quite sure that he will come through the first *scrutinio*²⁸ with a respectable number of votes, [80] – I know with near certainty of 12 votes. But there will be 38 voters; a *majority* will therefore need 20 votes. – I will write to you both about particular circumstances and impassioned roguery which are intended to, and may, harm him, a quite astonishing and irresponsible piece of villainy which I discovered. [85] I have indeed, as a not inexperienced *sapper*, dug my own *counter-mines* in return; whether they will explode successfully or not – depends on circumstances and luck.

I am delighted to hear that the holy sister²⁹ is moving to *Schnedizeni*.³⁰ This is so that she can *deliberate* with him – –. Now it will become clear to everyone what her holy vocation is. [90] What business of ours is the rest of it? – – Don't you think that this servant will be to his liking too? – – Her strong, large body and her holy, half-closed eyes excite him. What he has to pay for the *contract* he claims as expenses from his esteemed *uncle*; but do you to know what the secret clause is? – – Lenerl,³¹ to whom I send compliments, should not take it to heart. [95] All women should be ashamed of themselves for allowing themselves to be led around by the nose by this person for some little present and making themselves the subject of gossip everywhere.

The confectioner's daughter?³² – – Alas, she was such a great virtuoso that people gradually left during the *concerto* – [100] and during the *cadenza*, which lasted quarter of an hour, I was really and earnestly terrified and thought the young girl had gone mad: it was terrifying, the *violinists* stood up and gave snuff to each other.

the morning of the 21st.

Leopoldl is in good health and has slept well and has just eaten his gruel. [105] – Yesterday the theatre³³ was so full that the people from court carried all the trestles and steps that they could find up to the *gallery* in order to see over the 3rd bench. We could hardly get through on our way there. Now I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am as always your father

²⁵ BD: Leopold's grandson by Nannerl, staying with Leopoldl.

²⁶ BD: A popular card game.

²⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0918/30 ff.

²⁸ = "round of voting".

²⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0909/67 ff., Nannerl's troublesome cook.

³⁰ BD: Franz Karl von Schnedizeni (c. 1751-1803), state official and brewery owner. At this point he was still a bachelor. His grandfather was a witness at the wedding of Mozart's grandfather, Wolfgang Nikolaus Pertl.

³¹ BD: One of Nannerl's servants.

³² BD: Presumably the daughter of the first Royal Confectioner [Hofzuckerbäcker], Andreas Ueberacker.

³³ BD: The play was *Der Bürgermeister* [The Mayor] by Friedrich Alois, Count [Graf] Brühl (1739-1793), first performed in Vienna in 1785.

I have heard that *Schnedizeni* lures his servants with presents.³⁵ Tresel, or whatever her name is, had already heard news here about his acquaintance with Lenerl; but he was here recently and persuaded her it was all untrue, so she once again believes she is his one and only love. [115] And that is simply how it is out of town, – I even know that he got a beautiful bonnet made for Lenerl. Of course it does a servant good to be given something beautiful as a present etc. – as long as it goes no further. – And in the final analysis, if one does not personally tell them they can do as they want, and they are determined to bring calamity upon themselves, one is neither guilty nor responsible: [120] who can place himself between their servants and the pit? That is ridiculous.

³⁴ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³⁵ BD: Further details expatiating on lines 88 ff.