

Salzb., 27th January, 1786

10 o'clock in the evening, after eating.

The *play*² has met with little or no applause. One a lover of painting and *insects*, of stones and the things of nature, – – [5] another of building and *architecture*, – yet another of human physiognomy³ and what one can judge from that: – is there are any way in which these persons can entertain the public with their chatter and long explanations? – – The majority did not understand a single word of it. –

Regarding the stick of salt,⁴ if you are waiting until there is a sleigh-path, it will stay here forever, [10] for there will not be any sleigh-path now this year, that is certain! –

The city authorities are giving the ball: *Md:me Schlaucher* and *Saurwein*⁵ are providing the feeding and boozing service. And the *Faro*⁶ is given by – whom? – Be astonished! And laugh! The corps of the most worthy *officers*, who owe 500 florins to the merchants and some of whom do not have slice of bread at home, – and now those who want to make a grand impression and join in have borrowed 50 florins each [15] to set up the bank. Of course it was the esteemed Colonel⁷ who put down the most, then Count *Lizow*,⁸ – *Wicka*,⁹ – *Major*¹⁰ – *Biber*¹¹ from the castle, – then others such as *Clessin*,¹² – *Schenkind*,¹³ – *Andretter*,¹⁴ – *Mölk*,¹⁵ – and Count *Menin*¹⁶ had to stick their noses in it with 50 florins, as well as others that I don't know. [20] The Archbishop invited some guests to the first *ball* and, I hear, there were somewhat over 70 persons there. All *balls* in the inns |: apart from the free dances¹⁷ |: have been forbidden. Private *parties* must be registered by the innkeeper, giving all the names, to

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: *Jeder reitet sein Steckpferd* [“Everyone has his hobbyhorse”], comedy in 5 acts by Friedrich Aloys, Count [Graf] Brühl (1739-1793).

³ BD: Johann Kaspar Lavater’s *Physiognomische Fragmente...* [“*Physiognomic fragments for improving the knowledge and love of mankind*”] appeared for the first time in 1775-1778.

⁴ Presumably some of the salt which was part of the remuneration for those involved in salt working in the region. Its delivery had been promised in Nos. 0909/103; 0916/66-68.

⁵ BD: the wife of the first personal valet, Franz Schlauka; “Sau[e]rwein” was an old name for the inn “Zum Schwarzen Elephant” [“The Black Elephant”].

⁶ BD: Pharo, a game of chance.

⁷ “Oberst”.

⁸ “Graf”. BD: Johann Gottfried, Count [Graf] Lützwow, commandant of the fortress in Salzburg, vice president of the Council of War.

⁹ BD: Johann Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Wicka, lieutenant colonel [Oberstleutnant].

¹⁰ BD: Ferdinand Dück(h)er, Baron [Freiherr] von Haslau (1740-1814), from 1778 in charge of the Salzburg police, Hofkriegsrat.

¹¹ BD: Johann Karl Anton von Bibern (1719-1804), vice-commandant of Salzburg castle.

¹² BD: Johann Dominikus Clessin von Königsklee, captain and master of the bodyguard.

¹³ BD: Anton von Schönkind († 1794), first lieutenant [Oberleutnant] in the grenadiers.

¹⁴ BD: Presumably Johann Ernst, Edlen von Antretter († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat].

¹⁵ BD: It is not clear which member of the large Mölk family is meant here.

¹⁶ “Graf”. BD: Nothing known.

¹⁷ Public dances organised by innkeepers. (Cf. Franz Rieder, *Handbuch der k.k. Verordnungen über geistliche Angelegenheiten für ...*, vol. 3, Vienna, 1859. Otherwise balls without masks were allowed in Salzburg inns at any time until eight in the evening, except during Advent and Lent.

gain permission, and a contribution has to be made to the poor fund. So people must in fact go to the town hall or dance at home or at a free dance mixing with everyone.

I have seen the Process of the 3 Kings¹⁸ before, 3 years ago in the *original* French, – and afterwards read it in German. It was my favourite book at that time because it spoke the truth to the high and mighty.

For the cabbage I paid 16 kreuzers, for the big cup 8 kreuzers, so that makes 24 kreuzers.¹⁹

[30] This morning, the 28th. Little Leopold²⁰ is in good health and humour. I still have not let him hear the violin.²¹ I happened to make a test with the brass candlestick, where I used a little key to play *pianissimo* and then *forte* in alternation on the hollow base, to which I sang. At that moment he became so motionless and attentive that he not only did not avert his gaze from me anymore, [35] but no longer moved a foot or hand, even a finger, when he otherwise moves everything incessantly so that he even works his leggings off again a minute after one had just put them on him. The servants could speak to him as much as they wanted, it was no use, he paid not the least attention. In short! he was motionless watching me and the candlestick. – [40]

Now I have to send the letter to the messenger,²² perhaps he is not coming because he has nothing to bring me. I kiss both of you from the heart, send greetings to the children and am as always your father

Mozart mp²³

[45] At the moment I can get the shoes for 34 kreuzers.

¹⁸ BD: *Der Process der 3 Könige*, after Bouffonidor's *Le Procès des trois rois*. It mocked Louis XVI,

¹⁹ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0897/114 ff.

²² 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.

²³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.