

0948. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopoldl² is well,
whereas

Salzb., 12th April,
1786.

[5] The Poor Bishop of Chiemsee³ is in Eternity.

We arrived at quarter to 5,⁴ and he had died 2 hours before. He had already had catarrh for around 14 days, his *medicus ordinarius*,⁵ the young Helmreich, did not treat it as being particularly dangerous. During the *concert* in the town hall,⁶ old *Barisani*⁷ was fetched from the *concert* by the esteemed Cathedral Dean⁸ himself. [10] – I came back, and stood behind the Archbishop's chair as *Barisani* was called in and questioned by the Archbishop, and heard that he found he was in very precarious state. I said the same thing to you both, that the Bishop is dangerously ill. Now I hear that he initially had a hot catarrh, Helmreich was unconcerned by it, and only then did they fetch *Barisani* for the first time, straight from the town hall, [15] without the knowledge of the Bishop and Helmreich; that *Barisani* found that the Prince had a swollen stomach, feared a regression of the podagra into the *intestines* and gangrene; which is just what followed, or was in fact already the case. On Friday *Barisani* had already told the Bishop that he should put his affairs in order, [20] and on Saturday he told him he was not likely to live beyond Sunday. The Prince was hardly inclined to believe it because he did not feel weak. But he confessed and had his chaplain administer the most worthy Sacrament, but at 7 o'clock on Sunday morning he took the Sacrament in public and received Extreme Unction. At 10 o'clock he had all his household staff assembled by his bed in the room and said, I thank you for your good services etc. etc. Nothing is more painful to me than that I cannot reward you, I cannot give you anything except my blessing. |; which he did give them too | and pray to God on your behalf = I have paid many of my debts, and if God had given me 2 years more to live, everything would have been paid. Esteemed Doctor [30] |; he said to Helmreich :| I furthermore commend to you these people whom I am leaving behind, you have good reason to tend to them in every case that arises. Those were clear words. – He sent a *billet*⁹ to the Archbishop via the esteemed cathedral Dean in which he took leave of him and begged forgiveness, with such presence of mind, for previous frictions between them [35] that the Archbishop laid the *note* on the table and burst into tears along with the cathedral Dean. At 2 o'clock all was still well, – then he suddenly had a fit of cramp and died at quarter to 3. He was about 7 or 8 months older than myself, born anno 1719, consequently reached 67 years of age.

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: 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.

³ BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), from 1772 Prince-Bishop [Fürst-Bischof] of Chiemsee, a life-long supporter of Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0138/48; 0261/6.

⁴ BD: Leopold had just got back from a visit to his daughter with the organ-builder.

⁵ Physician-in-ordinary. BD: Probably Dr. med. Ernst Anton Helmreichen von Brunnfeld (1728-1795), Physician to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftsphysikus]; his elder brother was Municipal Physician [Stadtphysikus].

⁶ A concert series mentioned often in recent letters.

⁷ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

⁸ BD: Sigmund Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Cathedral Dean [Domdechant] in Salzburg, nephew of Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786).

⁹ = a written note.

The advice which I gave Herr Marchand¹⁰ regarding his daughter,¹¹ [40] and which he followed even before my departure, has had the desired effect; I had a long conversation with Count Seeau¹² on various musical and theatrical subjects, did not even mention Gredl once, but led into our conversation in such a way that he was obliged to mention her himself, I remained *indifferent*, said that he was right, and thus coaxed him into revealing his opinion and his plan. [45] That put me in a position to give Marchand secure advice. – Now she has received a *decree* of appointment as singer at court with 500 florins per annum for 3 years. That was all we asked for, the rest happened on its own; explaining it all would involve me in too much shedding of ink. In the *oratorio* in the Music Lovers' *Concert – Bettulia Liberata*¹³ – she sang the main part, *La Giudita* |: Judith |: that much I must tell you. [50] Count Seeau was the main opponent of employing Gredl, whereas the Elector himself was inclined in favour of her. The advice which I gave Marchand must have melted Seeau, and now he himself was *promoting* her. Details in person in due time; one could laugh about it! Enough, with my advice it had to go this way, – otherwise it would truly mean that I did not know Seeau, [55] and I certainly do know him and his weak side.

Today they are expecting *M^{dme}: Duschek*¹⁴ with her husband, unless she is perhaps already here. Herr Eck¹⁵ is probably coming with them as well in order to return to Munich, unless he perhaps takes another road via Regensburg etc. to pursue his own *interests*. [60] Also due to come today, with the Tyrol post-coach, [60] is the Italian violinist.¹⁶

I will inform the messenger¹⁷ when there is music in the town *hall* again – I do not yet know of anything.

Leopoldl is well, lively and in good spirits, just before I started the letter he put his Tyrolean bonnet on his feet. He kisses all of you, stamps and threshes and would like to have everything that glitters: [65] watches, rings, *snuff boxes*, buttons on clothing etc. – and throws now one thing, now another onto the ground so as to have the pleasure of being able to pick it up himself. —

The cards cost 8 kreuzers.

The mint water¹⁸ 9 kreuzers, it is filled up, therefore more than a massl.¹⁹

*Gilowsky's*²⁰ mint water is very expensive, costs 18 kreuzers, is wrapped in a piece of paper at the side of the box. [70] I have enclosed the clothing in a pinafore.

¹⁰ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand.

¹¹ BD: Maria Margarethe (“Gretl, Gredl”, see line 50). She was a boarding pupil of Leopold’s for some time and is now particularly known as a singer.

¹² “Graf”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau (†1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, (†1768) was Senior Master of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

¹³ BD: Unlikely to have been Mozart’s composition. A libretto dated February 1786, with handwritten entries probably by Da Ponte, may have provided the basis for setting by another composer.

¹⁴ BD: Josepha Duschek (1753-1824) was a singer; wife of Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

¹⁵ BD: Johann Friedrich Eck (1766-c.1820), violinist, son of horn player Georg Eck.

¹⁶ BD: Latouche, cf. No. 0939/19 ff.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ BD: Presumably a distillate of mint.

¹⁹ R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig 2/1896. Fluid: Mass in Bavaria: 1.064 litres.

²⁰ BD: Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court surgeon. Father of “Katherl”. In No. 0705 called the “Barber of Salzburg”.

How about sending the waxed linen wadding, into which I had sewn your *tunic*, back to me again?

Now they have buried the auxiliary sexton of the cathedral, the former hunter in Plain and Halleringen respectively. [75]

Who will become Bishop in Chiemsee? – –

In order: – the Bishop of Lavant.²¹

and Bishop of Lavant? – probably Count Starmberg.²²

Once the now departed Bishop knew that he had to die, [80] he sent someone to the chapterhouse to see who had been given the duties of *canon* for this month. When he heard that it had fallen to *Gandolf Khunburg*,²³ he wrote a *billet* to the wife of the Senior Master of the Stables,²⁴ saying she should at once report this news to Ellwang²⁵ and she understood the rest of it herself. That is, to ask for a position as *canon* for her son.

Now I kiss you both from the heart, send greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father [85]

Mozart mp²⁶

I send my greetings to the maids, especially Lenerl.²⁷

²¹ BD: Vinzenz Joseph, Count [Graf] Schrattenbach; he remained Bishop of Lavant until 1790. The new Bishop in Chiemsee was in fact Cathedral Dean Franz Xaver, Baron [Freiherr], later Prince [Fürst], Breuner (* 1723), received the rank of Prince [Fürst] so that he could retain his rank as Bishop of Lavant after being appointed Bishop in Chiemsee, a post he held 1786-1797.

²² “Gr:”. BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1749-1819), one of the twin brothers named Count [Graf] Starhemberg.

²³ BD: Gandolf, Count [Graf] Kuenburg, son of Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain, Privy Councillor, from 1764 Master-in-Chief of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

²⁴ “Oberststallmeisterin”. BD: Friederike Maria Anna, Countess [Gräfin] Kuenburg, née Komtesse Waldstein (1742-1802), wife of Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg.

²⁵ BD: Ellwangen in Württemberg. A foundation of secular canons, given to various dignitaries of the church during the 18th century as a secondary benefice.

²⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁷ BD: Nannerl’s serving girl Lena, often called Lenerl.