

0952. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is fit
and well!

Salzb., 28th April,
1786.

[5] The other day I forgot to write that Herr Reitter³ has set off, with others as well, on the land survey in Carinthia decided upon by Austria and Salzburg. Each person gets 2 florins a day, I hear. –

The organ-builder,⁴ who set off 10 days ago, will have been at home for a couple of days by now.

[10] I thought I would be able to write a lot today, but a foreigner called on me, namely Herr Caravaglia,⁵ a *bassoonist* in the service of the king of Naples; he met me in Vienna a year ago, and we have known each other since meeting in Naples *anno* 1770. He has been travelling for some years now, in England, Holland and Russia. Now he is going back to Naples. [15] He has with him his own large coach, his wife – a singer, his wife's brother, a 3-year-old child, and a servant. He has just come from Regensburg, has 2 letters for the Archbishop⁶ and one each for the ladies Wallis⁷ and *Lizow*,⁸ and one for the esteemed Cathedral Dean⁹ as well. Since the new Imperial Bishop in Loiben, Count Engl,¹⁰ is being consecrated by the Archbishop in the cathedral on Sunday, there is hope that the Archbishop will hear Herr *Caravaglia* and his wife. [20]

I have furthermore been told by Herr Marchand¹¹ that Herr Ramm¹² will get into Salzburg with the young *Cannabich*¹³ on the 2nd or 3rd May; he has also already received a letter to Ramm from the *Cannabich* household¹⁴ which will give him the news that Herr *Cannabich*,

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: Cf. No. 0885/10. He was meant to come to St. Gilgen as tutor to Nannerl's three youngest stepsons.

⁴ BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), organ builder, 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. Recently involved in repairing a keyboard instrument for Nannerl.

⁵ BD: Caravaglia, Caravaglia: otherwise mentioned nowhere in the letters and travel diaries.

⁶ 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.

⁷ BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁸ BD: Antonie, Countess [Gräfin] Lützwow, nee Komtesse Czernin von Chudenitz, (1738-1780), a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus and wife of Johann Nepomuk Gottfried, Count [Graf] Lützwow, commander of the fortress in Salzburg, vice-president of the Council of War [Kriegsrat]. Mozart wrote the clavier concerto KV 246 for her in 1776. Cf. No. 0319/37, 39.

⁹ BD: Sigmund Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Cathedral Dean [Domdechant] in Salzburg, nephew of Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), the deceased Bishop in Chiemsee.

¹⁰ “gr. Engl”. BD: Alexander, Count [Graf] Engel zu Wagrain (* 1723), Bishop of Loeben from 18th April, 1786. His bishopric was subordinate to Salzburg.

¹¹ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand (1746-1794), two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

¹² BD: Friedrich Ramm, oboist, joined the court music in Mannheim aged 14, travelled to Paris with Mozart, went to Munich with the court in 1778.

¹³ BD: Karl Konrad Cannabich (1771-1806), violinist, son and successor of Christian Cannabich, director of the court music first in Mannheim and then in Munich.

¹⁴ BD: In Munich.

Md.^{me} Cannabich and Rosel, *M^{dme} Schulz*,¹⁵ will come to Salzburg [25] to fetch Herr Ramm and the young *Cannabich* and to see Salzburg. – Yet another embarrassment for the Archbishop – because he sent a message, when Ramm was travelling through, that he would hear the young *Cannabich* on his way back.

The new violinist *Latouche*¹⁶ finally let people hear him last Sunday: [30] he played such an easy *concerto* that Herr Preyman¹⁷ would have given an equally beautiful and less forced performance *prima vista*.¹⁸ It was simply like a pupil reciting his lesson for the first time and trembling. He is only 30 years old, and if he *practises* for another 20 years, he will surely gain the *courage* which is, in the opinion of the Italians, the one and only thing he is still lacking, [35] and with the help of dear God become a bold, unabashed *violinist* in his 50th year. He is a less spirited *leader* of the 2nd *violins* than Herr Pintzer.¹⁹ *Basta!*²⁰ That's the way to do it!

The messenger²¹ has just brought the little box, my thanks to you: – he delivered everything in good order the other day too. For some days we had constant hope of seeing a thunderstorm and heavy rain; [40] it always looked likely; but the wind repeatedly drove it away and it remained fine until yesterday afternoon, the 27th, when at last heavy rain came and continued through the whole of last night, but it has already stopped again today. In the meantime, everything is becoming visibly green, and tree and field are recovering.

[45] Here there is turmoil with the butchers. Even by Easter I was having to pay 6 kreuzers for meat. Candles now cost 14 kreuzers, butter 15 kreuzers, dripping from 18 to 20 kreuzers. Lungs and things of that kind are marked at double the price etc. etc.

*M^{dme}. Duschek's*²² inheritance must have turned out very small; [50] in that connection, I know that the old man lent out his money very incautiously, and in one place lost 9000 florins on which he was taking 7 or 8 *percent*. That was stupid! The man who pays too high a percentage interest is obviously a bad debtor.

Today, the 28th, your brother's *opera Le Nozze di Figaro*²³ is being *staged* for the first time. It will be a great thing if he *succeeds*, [55] for I know that he has astonishingly strong *cabals* against him. *Salieri*²⁴ with his whole following will again make every effort to set heaven and earth in motion. *M.^{sr}* and *M.^{dme} Duschek* had already told me that your brother has so many

¹⁵ BD: Rosa Schulz, née Cannabich, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 Mozart dedicated to her the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b).

¹⁶ BD: Italian violinist; his arrival in Salzburg is mentioned in No. 0950/13 (18th April, 1786).

¹⁷ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not offered employment in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Prince [Fürst] Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

¹⁸ = "at (first) sight".

¹⁹ BD: Andrä Pinsker (c. 1742-1817), played violin and also viola in the court music, composer of dance music. Leopold seems not to have valued him particularly as a musician.

²⁰ = Enough!

²¹ 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.

²² 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. Recent letters contain some speculation on the inheritance from Weiser, cf. No. 0914/5 ff. and later letters.

²³ *The Marriage of Figaro*.

²⁴ BD: Antonio Salieri (1750-1825), composer, succeeded Bonno as court music director in Vienna in 1788. In 1807 he wrote a reference for Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart, stating that he had a rare talent and would certainly be as great a success as his father. He was succeeded in 1825 by Joseph Eybler.

cabals against him precisely because he enjoys such a great reputation because of his particular talent and skill.

[60] *M.^{sr}* and *M.^{dme}* *Duscheck*, who left on Tuesday, commend themselves and would very much have wished to see you.

On Easter Monday, Gredl²⁵ sang for the first time as a court singer in the court concert and for the second time at the festival of the St. George Knights²⁶ on the 26th in the same place, and received the most abundant applause. All the Marchands commend themselves to both of you. [65] They will probably come to Salzburg in high summer, or whenever it proves possible.

Herr Marchand has not yet been able to do anything with the jewellery.²⁷ – A Jew who saw him offered him 850 florins for it *N.B.* without pins. He wanted to send it back to me with *Md.^{me}* *Cannabich*, – but I asked him to keep them until he travels to Salzburg himself; [70] perhaps something could come of it in Munich after all.

The silver *coffee* pot weighs too much, otherwise it would already have been sold. Now I have given the copy of all the *specifications* to the clerk at the mint²⁸ because that is where there is most likely to be a demand. [75] On the whole, the good and beautiful pieces weigh a lot; I do indeed have hopes that some of it will be sold, bit by bit. At the moment simply no-one wants to give serious thought to it, everyone who doesn't have to holds back.

The Bishop will be *confirmed* at 10 o'clock tomorrow in the Kaysersaal.²⁹ *Caravoglia* and his wife will not be given an opportunity to perform. [80] The Archbishop could not think up any excuse and said it was too warm in the room, too many people would come, he should give a concert in the town hall. – But he is hardly likely to do that.

The 2 straw hats cost 38 kreuzers each, thus together 1 florins 16 kreuzers. Everything, everything is more expensive, nothing can be done about it, as the Hubers' Nannerl³⁰ will tell you both. – [85] Now good night, I am going to bed, kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am your sincere father

Mozart mp³¹

²⁵ BD: Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”). She was a boarding pupil of Leopold’s for some time.

²⁶ BD: An order established by Elector Karl (Charles) Albert in 1729.

²⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0804/41. For some time now, he had been trying to sell some of Nannerl’s jewellery.

²⁸ BD: Joseph Alex Tiefenthaler, from 1760 clerk to the master of the mint.

²⁹ = “*Emperor’s Hall*”.

³⁰ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

³¹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.