

0954. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is well!

Salzb., 5th May, 1786.

I cannot write much this time, since I did not have any time until this evening. The messenger³ delivered the little box and the money in the letter correctly. [5] Schickaneder⁴ has been here since Sunday while on his way to Augspurg, – will perform 6 or 8 *operas*, since he has only *opera* people with him. The first was on Wednesday and on Sunday there will be a completely new one. They sang and acted extremely well. His wife is in Klangfurt⁵ with the *acting* company, and they are coming here this autumn, and he is coming from Augspurg, [10] accordingly there will then be *operas* and *plays* together. Schickaneder therefore came to me straight away and offered me and Heinrich⁶ 2 free theatre *tickets*. His *composer* is Herr Deiber,⁷ the brother of the famous singer who has now been living for some years from her own means; he is my very good acquaintance from Vienna, a thorough, excellent musical artist, good composer, organist and violoncellist. [15] He called on us once again yesterday afternoon and we played some *quadro*⁸ by your brother. Md.^{me} Seve,⁹ a very young widow, was also there, a pretty, good person without any *coquetry* or *grimaces*. She plays the leading roles in singspiels, is not an extraordinary singer, but clean and good, has a pleasant voice and good, natural *acting*. [20] The portrayal of old Count Adlstan¹⁰ by a young man was, all things considered, outstanding. In short! They all sang and acted well! So they will certainly stay on here at least 14 days from Sunday. You should accordingly travel into town too if the Hubers' Nannerl¹¹ does so. The esteemed senior court clerk of Deissendorf¹² was here last Sunday and Monday; he called on me in the afternoon on both days, [25] and on Sunday he went to court with me to hear the music. He was therefore present at just the right time 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: 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: 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.

⁴ BD: Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812), actor and theatre director. He took over the Moser troupe in 1778, which he took to Ulm, Stuttgart, Augspurg, Neuburg an der Donau, Nuremberg, Erlangen, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Laibach, Klagenfurt and Linz 1780. They were in Salzburg 1780/81. He soon got to know the Mozart family, gave them free entry to the theatre every evening, and participated in the air-rifle club. He was important in giving Mozart familiarity with stage practice. In 1786 they performed operas 10 times and plays three times in Salzburg.

⁵ BD: The acting company performed in Klagenfurt, Trieste and Laibach 1786-1788, then moved into the Theater auf der Wieden founded in Vienna in 1787. The performances of both troupes together in Salzburg in 1786 as envisaged in this letter did not in fact take place.

⁶ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, once a pupil in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. Now a performer.

⁷ BD: Franz Teiber (1758-1810), 1786-1788 director of music in Schikaneder's troupe. The sister mentioned is no doubt Elisabeth Teyber/Teiber (1744-1816), singer, member of perhaps the only family in Vienna to have maintained contacts with all the members of the Mozart family for 20 years.

⁸ BD: No doubt some of the the six string quartets dedicated to Joseph Haydn.

⁹ BD: She sung e.g. Konstanze in the *Abduction from the Seraglio* and otherwise had acting roles as first lover and as a *naïve*.

¹⁰ "Gr: Adlstan". BD: Obviously in Johann Adam Hiller's (1728-1804) *Adelstan und Röschen*.

¹¹ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant, Nannerl's new servant.

¹² "H: Oberschreiber". BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law and also a witness at Nannerl's wedding. A high administrative official, currently in Teisendorf.

witness the following stories: – – As the consecration of the new Prince von Leoben¹³ was conducted in the cathedral by the Archbishop himself this Sunday, it was very striking that the *bass Herr Stängel* did not turn up for Sung Mass. But around midday it had already become clear that he had taken blissful flight on the wings of love [30] with the Little Poodle, or Little Easter Lamb, the Griesgasse¹⁴ barber's daughter Traudl, and had taken his treasure somewhere safe, since his brother, a Benedictine from Kaysersheim,¹⁵ was here for around a week, gave him money, left 4 days before him, took his clothes and some of the girl's clothes with him, and created the opportunities in advance, [35] so that on the Sunday in question the enamoured couple were able to stroll out of the gate at 5 o'clock, just as on any special morning, mount the horses at the chosen place and set off peacefully on their way. – no-one noticed they were gone. *actus primus*!¹⁶ – When Herr Desimoni¹⁷ also imagined to himself that there was a role for him to play, they unfortunately discovered that more or less everything was ready, yes, already packed [40] so that he could go out and take a little look at the world with the daughter of Frau *Cajetana*, his chambermaid. The esteemed wife of the Senior Administrator of Deissendorff¹⁸ lured her to the Ursulines to pay a visit to her sister and: Woe, alas! There she had to stay, and Herr *Desimoni* had to leave the house and is now living in deep despair in Bortenschlager's house on the marketplace. [45] This happened on the Saturday before the *Consecration* Sunday. So this *actus 2^{dus}*¹⁹ was not a *success*. How do you like it? – It is exactly my taste! – At least one is always hearing something new!

For some days I have the esteemed Court Chamber Councillor of the Bishop of Augsburg here, Herr von Zapf,²⁰ who brought my brother Franz Aloysi's²¹ son with him, [50] whom I had never met. They are leaving again on Sunday. Herr von Zapf is a scholar, travels around for the sake of libraries, – they always dine at St. Peter's.²²

The glass-carrier woman²³ came as she was leaving, all I could do was quickly give her the *concerto*²⁴ to take.

Here it snowed deplorably and was cold. [55] Then a couple of fine days indeed. Since yesterday evening we have had rain.

Aloysi Merhofer²⁵ entrusted Peranzgy²⁶ with writing the verses for *Duscheck*,²⁷ the motivation for it can already be seen in the first or 2nd stanza, the swelling bosom! But otherwise there was nothing to it at all!

¹³ “des neuen Fürsten”. BD: Alexander, Count [Graf] Engel zu Wagrain (* 1723), Bishop of Loeben from 18th April, 1786. His bishopric was subordinate to Salzburg.

¹⁴ A street in Salzburg.

¹⁵ BD: Kaisheim by Donauwörth.

¹⁶ = “*the first act*”.

¹⁷ BD: Peter (de) Simoni († 1811 aged 53), became oboist in the court music in 1786, was also active in the cathedral and theatre; also played cor anglais and flute.

¹⁸ “Fr: Pflegerin”. BD: Maria Juliane von Pichl, née von Fröhlichsburg, widow Rottmayr, the wife of the Senior Administrator [Pfleger] in Teisendorf, Christoph Sigmund von Pichl.

¹⁹ *The second act*.

²⁰ “Hofkammerrat”. BD: Probably Georg Wilhelm Zapf (1748-1810), from 1773 notary in Augsburg, 1786 privy councillor to the Elector of Mainz.

²¹ BD: Leopold's brother Franz Aloys[i] (1727-1791), book-binder and case-maker in Salzburg. There is no information available on his son, who is the brother of the “Bäsele”.

²² Large Benedictine monastery in the centre of Salzburg.

²³ 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.

²⁴ BD: KV 466?

²⁵ BD: Alois Vinzenz Mehofer, probably a son of the quartermaster Franz Anton Mehofer, related to Josepha Duscheck via the Weisers.

²⁶ BD: A member of the extensive Berhandtzky family. Possibly Placidus Berhandtzky von Adlersberg?

²⁷ BD: Josepha Duscheck (1753-1824) was a singer; wife of Franz Xaver Duscheck (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

I still have no information from Vienna!²⁸ *Ceccarelli*²⁹ is in Munich; since there are no *concerts* at the moment, [60] there are hopes of organising a little *subscription* among the *nobility* for him.

Ram³⁰ and *Cannabich*³¹ have already got to Munich by another route.³² – So at the moment no-one is coming to Salzburg.

There has been only one town hall *concert* since Easter.

[65] I send greetings to the Hubers' Nannerl, let her know that I can certainly see that time is passing very slowly for her in St. Gilgen because she already wants to come back into town again, when she could in fact stay out there until around Ascension Day.³³ Her beloved sends her a message that she can certainly stay out there longer, since he is busy every day, morning and afternoon, with the rehearsals in the theatre because not *plays* but exclusively *operas* are being performed now. [70] Today they will already have the 3rd rehearsal for the *opera* on Sunday. He humbly kisses her alabaster hands, and sends a kiss for every pockmark in her face. Of course there is no fun in St. Gilgen until it becomes warm and green; but spinster cousin Nandl³⁴ is also of the opinion that she should stay out there longer since she is not missing anything at the moment, [75] and in the meantime truly fine weather will come again, when she can then visit St. Wolfgang and the holy glass works,³⁵ as well as the miracle-working Falkenstein.³⁶ Nor will she have seen the devil yet, chained in the sea from which he gazes out terrifyingly. – Now I must close, here is a little love letter to my esteemed son,³⁷ to whom I commend myself, I kiss you both from the heart, [80] send greetings to the children and am as always eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp³⁸

the morning of the 6th May.

Leopoldl kisses all of you. Nandl and Tresel³⁹ commend themselves. [85] Tomorrow Heinrich,⁴⁰ who commends himself, will play a violin *concerto* at court.

*Latouche*⁴¹ will hear him for the first time.

Send the *Fantasy Sonata*⁴² by Wolfg. in to me, unless, as I hope, you are coming yourselves. I must get it *copied* for Heinrich, – when you come into town, you must bring all the *clavier parts* with you, [90] given that I have the other parts for the *concertos*⁴³ here. I send greetings to the maids, especially to Lenerl.⁴⁴ – As I said! The Hubers' Nannerl can stay out with you longer, – unless you want to come into town too.

²⁸ BD: Concerning the premiere of *Le nozze di Figaro*, cf. No. 0952/53-54.

²⁹ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; frequent guest in the Mozarts' house.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ 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.

³² Cf. No. 0952/21 ff.

³³ BD: In 1786 on 15th May.

³⁴ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse"). Cf. No. 0875/20 etc.

³⁵ BD: The glass works in Zinkenbach, operated in alternation with the works in Eich, St. Gilgen.

³⁶ BD: A rockface near St. Wolfgang where, according to legend, St. Wolfgang outwitted the devil.

³⁷ Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

³⁸ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³⁹ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴⁰ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, once a pupil in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. Now a performer.

⁴¹ BD: Italian violinist; his arrival in Salzburg is mentioned in No. 0950/13 (18th April, 1786). Leopold's comments on him are generally pejorative.

⁴² BD: KV 475 and 457.

⁴³ BD: KV 466, 467, 482.

⁴⁴ BD: Nannerl's serving girl Lena, often called Lenerl.