

0958. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*A Madame / Mad.<sup>me</sup> / de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen*

Little Leopoldl<sup>2</sup> is well!

Salzb., 18<sup>th</sup> May,  
1786.

[5] I am writing little by little and will see if I can get the letter away with the Graz messenger without having it go on a walk to Gratz with him. As soon as I saw Herr Polis<sup>3</sup> going past my window early yesterday morning shouting loudly and chattering with a woman, I was glad to know you would both be spared further embarrassment. In the morning the Hubers' Nannerl<sup>4</sup> had asked about him at the court judge's house, [10] – and he had written to his cook, who used to be with you,<sup>5</sup> *Sybilla Drinks No Beer*,<sup>6</sup> saying that he would send a calf, lambs, ducks, chickens etc. and heaven knows what else home in advance, but would also bring part of it himself. The serving girl spread the news everywhere. It looked as if he had travelled out to the Assembly like the Franciscans. [15] If the man continues this way, when he should in fact constantly become more sensible at such an age, he will become a great burden indeed for his wife and children, or even get free *accommodation*<sup>7</sup> in the magnificent new building<sup>8</sup> at St. Sebastian's. Last week I heard that he had travelled, or wanted to travel, to St. Gilgen, and his letter to his maid convinced me of it. [20] You two must know more about the rest of it: the Hubers' Nannerl called on me as early as Sunday, and told me the rest of it etc. She travelled to Stras[s]wa[l]chen in vain; the Zimmermanns' Nannerl<sup>9</sup> was already gone, and had travelled through here on the way to Carinthia in order to marry there. The old Schnedizeny<sup>10</sup> wrote telling Carl<sup>11</sup> everything for him to tell the Hubers' Nannerl, [25] but he did not say anything about it to her: the old fellow was very angry about it.

Leopoldl, too, has now paid a couple of visits. When Herr *D'Ypold*<sup>12</sup> learned that he was being carried around the garden, he came to issue an invitation to him *in forma*.<sup>13</sup> So Nandl<sup>14</sup> carried him up, and he led her into his rooms and gave him some *biscuit*. Yesterday I had him brought to Fr. Hagenauer,<sup>15</sup> [30] which gave her the greatest joy because he is not shy, does not cry, and laughs and bleats like a goat. Everyone is in love with his fresh, bright, large, Blue Eyes, and they are all struck by the fact that the boy hears and sees everything; – if

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<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Lorenz Joseph Polis von Moulin.

<sup>4</sup> BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Presumably the Monica mentioned in earlier letters.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Leopold is playing on the title of an after-play, "Sybilla, the friend of wine", published in Brno in 1767.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Polis was eventually taken into a sanatorium, as was his wife after his death in 1794.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The house built for the prebendaries of Salzburg also included huts for the deranged.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Her cousin.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Maximilian, hereditary knight [Ritter] von Schnedizeni, Royal Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat], Administrator [Pfleger] in Strasswalchen.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Franz Karl von Schnedizeni (c. 1751-1803), nephew of Maximilian, state official and brewery owner. His grandfather was a witness at the wedding of Mozart's grandfather, Wolfgang Nikolaus Pertl.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the "de" (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.

<sup>13</sup> = formally.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>15</sup> BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer, wife of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, sometime landlord to the Mozart family.

anyone clears his throat, sneezes, blows his nose, starts to speak, goes one step further, moves unexpectedly etc., in short! [35] whatever is happening in the room or in the street to interest eyes or ear, his head and his eyes turn in that very moment and at the greatest speed towards the place where the thing is happening. I now no longer doubt that, with God's help, you will both see it. The chickens have been delivered and are gorging themselves to the benefit of your health.

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[40] We had a so-called English equestrian<sup>16</sup> here, who has travelled on up into Imperial territories;<sup>17</sup> – on the other hand, another one<sup>18</sup> came to us immediately, this time coming down to us from Munich, and travelling on down to Vienna etc, – he paraded around so magnificently with his own military music and a Moor, then numerous horses, so that everyone ran to the riding school as if crazed. He has *performed* 3 times, [45] and if the weather is favourable, he will make another appearance. I must save the special, the good, – and the charlatanry of it to tell you in person.

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Two days ago a rhetorician should have demonstrated, in the town hall, his skills in elevated declamation etc. from Klopstock's *Messiah*.<sup>19</sup> [50] But since the 4<sup>th</sup> lesson of the *Experimental Physics*<sup>20</sup> was on just then and at 5 o'clock the Litany in Mirabell,<sup>21</sup> and at 6 o'clock opera in the theatre, furthermore the most beautiful weather, 3 persons turned up! So the esteemed Doctor Geiger had to postpone his *declamation* until Saturday, when it will no longer be held in the town hall but in the Reading Society<sup>22</sup> Room in the house on the Ritzenbogen.<sup>23</sup> [55] Besides scholars and the members of the Reading Society, who are putting together an *honorarium* from the admission *takings*, probably no-one will come because people do not understand what it is or might be. It costs 36 kreuzers per person. Today, the 19<sup>th</sup> May, at 6 o'clock, there will be a grand *concert* in the town hall. The further details are explained by the advertising leaflet which is enclosed. [60] Herr Obkirchner<sup>24</sup> is the son of the old leader of the military oboes here. He has already been in the service of the Prince<sup>25</sup> von Fürstenberg in Donauöschingen for many years. May God grant that he takes in 7 or 8 florins so as to be able to pay for printing the leaflets and the other little expenses, which will come to around 7 florins, without having to add anything from his own pocket.

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[65] Today, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday there was the Celebrated *Concert*,<sup>26</sup> at which all of 13 florins came in. This honest man came here to visit his old, retired father and mother, had a letter of *recommendation* to the esteemed Court Chancellor,<sup>27</sup> who said to him that he should give a *concert*, and yet neither he nor his wife came to it. Now! Keep well! I hope the Graz messenger will deliver the letter, [70] and that you will be so prudent as to send someone to

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<sup>16</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0956/81 ff. Jean Masson performed with his own company three times on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1786. BD VIII, p. 93: He later demonstrated his riding skills at the Royal Stables [Hofstall] on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1788.

<sup>17</sup> "ins Reich". The "Reich" refers to the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, the numerous member states covered an area corresponding very roughly to modern Germany.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Peter Mayhen, the Royal Spanish Equestrian, performed in the Summer Riding School on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1786.

<sup>19</sup> BD: He wanted to read the 7<sup>th</sup> canto of Klopstock's *Messiade*, followed by something light-hearted.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0956/43.

<sup>21</sup> The chapel in Mirabell, the Archbishop's residence in Salzburg.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Founded in 1784 by Lorenz Hübner, cf. No. 0534/9.

<sup>23</sup> Salzburgwiki: The *Ritzerbogen* is a street passing under a group of houses in the old town.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Michael Obkircher († 1814), flautist and court lackey in Donaueschingen, today in Baden-Württemberg.

<sup>25</sup> "Fürst". BD: Joseph Maria Benedikt, Prince [Fürst] von Fürstenberg. Residence in Donaueschingen.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Obkircher's concert.

<sup>27</sup> "HofCanzler". BD: Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), director of the Privy Chancellery [geheime Kanzlei]; from 1774 Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler], a position between the President and Director. Member of the eclectic lodge "Zur Fürsicht" ["Under the sign of Providence"] in Salzburg.

ask whether he might have something for you? – – I kiss both of you from the heart, send greetings to the children and am your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>28</sup>

I have furthermore received the *interest* from St. Peter's,<sup>29</sup> will keep it in my hands until you both arrive; as far as I can gather, the owner in this case does not withdraw it at the half-year, but at New Year. [75] I must speak with both of you about this, and with you, my daughter, about linen and other things in my household.

At your brother's second *opera*, 5 numbers were *repeated*; – and 7 numbers were *repeated* at the 3<sup>rd</sup> performance, among which a little *duetto* had to be sung 3 times. If he keeps his word, [80] the word book for the *opera* and the whole *opera score* will come by post-coach on the last day of May. He commends himself to both of you.

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<sup>28</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Leopold had obviously lent money to the monastery.