

0959. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen*

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

Salzb., 22<sup>nd</sup> May,  
1786

The last riddle is a slap in the face:<sup>3</sup> I forgot that in my letter the other day. – [5] There was a charming *operetta*<sup>4</sup> yesterday in which *M.<sup>dme</sup> Seve*<sup>5</sup> played outstandingly her difficult role, consisting of the most elevated, most varied passions, and was praised by everyone. The piece will be repeated on Wednesday, and on Sunday<sup>6</sup> a *play*, along with a short one of one act, will be put on for the last time, I hear.

[10] Now that Herr Obkürchner<sup>7</sup> had takings of only 13 florins in his *concert*, and had of course hoped for a net profit of at least some 20 florins to lighten his return journey, I would have come within a hair's breadth of having the honour of advancing a few Carolins<sup>8</sup> to him if I had not had the adroitness, as you know in me, to avoid this occurrence in the finest of manners [15] because, as usual, I foresaw it and noticed it from the talk and circumstances.

The otherwise so splendid litanies held in Mirabel<sup>9</sup> have deteriorated so badly under the present government that we now hold only short, poor beer-litanies, that is, simply so that the people get back to their tavern benches quickly again and the cathedral canons and choral vicars do not need to stay on their knees at the altar for long. [20] At the same time, moreover, there are hardly enough people turning up in the music, and only the worst, – for it even to be possible to do something better.

The meetings of the Parliament of the Estates are still going on. However, since the rumour that the dispute between the hereditary knights and the Archbishop<sup>10</sup> has already gone to the Imperial Court Council, [25] but the Archbishop is nevertheless demanding a *resolution* from the Parliament of the Estates and will not allow them to dissolve without one, they may well have the honour of continuing their *sessions* for a long time yet. The general public is not worried about it, since the Archbishop and the chapter<sup>11</sup> are on very friendly terms.

[30] The letter and the duck have been reached me safely, – and the *cantor* brought me the letter, – he and the Nidl girl<sup>12</sup> will tell you both about it personally. I took pleasure in reading the whole story from your letter. – No-one called on us except these 2 persons. But it is also

<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> Cf. No. 0933. Wolfgang had sent some proverbs and riddles, of which he was probably the author.

<sup>4</sup> BD: *Laura Rosetti*, singspiel by Franz Teyber (Schikaneder's music director, cf. note on No. 0954/12), repeated on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0954/16 ff. Schikaneder's troupe was performing in Salzburg.

<sup>6</sup> BD: 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1786.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. No. 0958/58 ff. A visiting musician.

<sup>8</sup> BD: 1 Carolin = 9 to 11 florins. Leopold himself uses different exchange rates at different times.

<sup>9</sup> BD: The chapel in Mirabell, the Archbishop's palace in Salzburg.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> BD: The estate of the prelates was represented in the parliament by the Bishop of Chiemsee, the cathedral Dean and the abbot of St. Peter's.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Probably a daughter of the city apothecary Niderl and niece of the Dr. Niderl von Niederburg whose death in Vienna is described in Nos. 0295/3, 0296/3 ff.

entirely possible for someone to call us and think they have found no-one at home: [35] if I am not at home; – if Heinrich<sup>13</sup> is in his room, or especially if he is playing the violin there; – if Tresel<sup>14</sup> is at the back with Nandl<sup>15</sup> by the child; then, of course, no-one will be heard, whether he rings or knocks. People who call on us already know this and shout up from the courtyard to what was Gretl's<sup>16</sup> – now the child's – room if they cannot reach anyone by knocking.

[40] Now I must close the letter today because I do not have time tomorrow morning, since the Holy Week procession is leaving for Nonnberg<sup>17</sup> at 8 o'clock and I have to conduct, and in the meantime the messenger will collect the letter. Leopoldl joins with me in sending heartfelt kisses to you both, – I greet the children and am eternally your sincere father

[45]

Mozart mp<sup>18</sup>

I send my greetings to Lenerl<sup>19</sup> and send her herewith a love letter from a tender lover.<sup>20</sup>

Heinrich commends himself and looks forward to seeing you both soon.

Nandl and Tresel send 10 kisses to both of you.

[50] The esteemed *Dr.* Streidl<sup>21</sup> died today, and with him the hopes, albeit thin, of his *creditors*.

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<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>16</sup> BD: Sister of Heinrich Marchand, singer, had board, lodging and teaching in the Mozarts' home from February, 1782 to September, 1784. Also in demand as a performer.

<sup>17</sup> BD: To the Erentrudis Church on the Nonnberg ("Nun's Mountain") on the edge of Salzburg.

<sup>18</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Nannerl's serving girl Lena, often called Lenerl.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Not serious; the "lover" is presumably Leopold himself.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Ferdinand Alois Streidl, licentiate in canon and secular law, member of the War Council. Died of consumption.