

0968. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is fit and well.

[Salzburg,] Friday, 21st [July,] 1786

Having driven past the church at half past 9,³ we were in Hof⁴ in less than 3 hours, reaching it before it even before half past 12. [5] The little coach from Hof was in Salzburg along with the landlord, so I had to put up with paying the Kesslers' Woferl⁵ the 3 florins demanded. So we fed the horse and ourselves, and did not get away until quarter past 2, and nevertheless arrived in Salzburg, *à dispetto*⁶ our backsides, at quarter to 5, and the bells started ringing for the Rosary in Mirabell⁷ [10] just as we drove past the paymaster⁸ and exchanged compliments. – the driver went straight back to Hof.

Something of the damage caused by the flooding⁹ can be seen wherever one goes. It is very striking to see the Mirabell wall entirely torn down at the Dwarves' Garden¹⁰ behind the shipbuilders' houses, where the shooting range is, [15] and the other part of the wall at the corner, where people throw bread down to the ducks, is likewise totally torn down; it left the slabs lying on the road, with not a single one falling into the ditch. – The old stonemason with his little dwarf *family*¹¹ moved into the Traube.¹² The gatekeeper¹³ was in the theatre, where one pays admission. [20] In front of the *Cajetanerthor*¹⁴ one walks on nothing but heaped up grit and stones as far as St. Joseph, they have only done what is necessary for the coaches. At the Müllnerthor,¹⁵ part of the wall by the road has been hollowed out to a depth of several feet. Behind the Bear,¹⁶ a garden wall was completely torn away etc. etc. Herr von Schiedenhofen¹⁷ told me that all his farmers were standing in water, [25] consequently he had all their animals and people in the castle with him.¹⁸ – They already estimate the damage to the state treasury, according to the reports received, at half a million. Hallein¹⁹ has already stated that it needs 36000 tree trunks. The parts along the sides of the bridge are still down and they have only nailed little battens across. Both footways are blocked, 2 guards above and below and a *corporal*, [30] only one coach is allowed to drive over it slowly. They are

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: In St. Gilgen.

⁴ BD: About 13 km east-north-east of Salzburg, with an inn.

⁵ BD: Wolfgang, son of the coachman Kessler.

⁶ = "despite".

⁷ Held in the chapel of Mirabell, the Archbishop's residence on the edge of Salzburg.

⁸ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family.

⁹ BD: Haslberger's chronicle tells of incessant downpours from 23rd to 26th June and flooding.

¹⁰ BD: A garden with sandstone dwarf figures between the river Salzach and Mirabell.

¹¹ BD: Jakob Mössl, Leopold's neighbour on the Hannibalplatz, had three daughters and two sons. Two of the daughters had stunted growth, hence the use of "dwarf".

¹² BD: "The Grape", an inn in the Linzer Gasse.

¹³ BD: Usually lived at the entrance to the garden at Mirabell.

¹⁴ BD: "Theatine Gate", in the south-east on the left bank.

¹⁵ BD: Gate in the north-west on the left bank.

¹⁶ "Beren". BD: Inn "Zum Bären" in Mülln, then still a suburb.

¹⁷ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

¹⁸ BD: Triebenbach, about 14 km downstream from Salzburg.

¹⁹ Around 30 km upstream from Salzburg.

worried every time it rains heavily, as the weir at Hallein has been severely undermined and, naturally, greatly weakened by this astonishing flood, and they are of course working on it day and night, repairing it and taking every possible action. Should a new, hefty surge tear the weir apart, [35] the bridge here will be gone beyond rescue, since it has suffered astonishingly and has only been preserved due to taking good measures which I cannot describe, – but which one can see.

Yesterday, the 20th, we had the first, but also the only, fine day; today terrible rainstorms fell on us yet again. [40] Outside the town the grain is almost harvested and heaped up or whatever one calls it: a few fine days – it will all be ready to bring in. Our walking route along the water has gone completely. One goes down into the sand-and-stone-covered fields belonging to Sandner and the warehouse miller,²⁰ the depth of the water had lessened there, and everything in sight is sand and grit, as if all of this had been the usual course of the Salza[ch] throughout the ages. [45] – Sandner immediately sold his farm to his mother, the overseer of the lease. The stone bridge at Plain²¹ was also torn down.

Frau Reifenstuhl²² gave birth to a little girl who died at once.
[50] Frau Atzwanger²³ will die, she is very near the end with consumption.
The esteemed cathedral provost²⁴ was in great danger, but is pretty much better again, even being able to go for a slow drive.

*Bologna*²⁵ arrived here on the 16th in the company of *Petrazani*,²⁶ has called on me every day. Yesterday and the day before, we played *quartets*. He wants to stay here and bathe N.B. in Stein.²⁷ He wrote to Count Seeau²⁸ about this yesterday. He commends himself!

The messenger²⁹ has delivered my packet, but I did not speak to him. When I came home in the evening, I also learned, against all expectations, that the glass-carrier woman³⁰ had been here, [60] and so I found the *opera*,³¹ and although I heard that the glass-carrier woman and the messenger would come tomorrow, I will hardly be able to see them since I have to be in the cathedral by 8 o'clock.

²⁰ BD: The mill next to the iron warehouse in the Griesgasse.

²¹ BD: The brook at Maria Plain, the pilgrimage church near Salzburg.

²² BD: The wife of the merchant Reifenstuhl mentioned in No. 0918/96.

²³ BD: Marie Eleonore, née Haffner, daughter of the mayor of Salzburg, Siegmund Haffner, and wife of Raimund Felix Atzwanger, Salzburg city councillor, tax collector general, representative in the parliament of the estates.

²⁴ BD: Virgilius Maria Augustin, Count [Graf] Firmian (1714-1788), a younger brother of the Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian, who died on 7th March, 1786.

²⁵ BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84. Began a love affair with Regina (“Regerl”) Weyrother, left for Munich in September, 1784.

²⁶ BD: Presumably a musician from Munich.

²⁷ BD: Stein: a suburb on the right bank of the Salzach. Bathing was still somewhat novel in Salzburg and Vienna at this time.

²⁸ “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.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ BD: From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the “gläserträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold’s regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

³¹ BD: Probably the autograph score of *Figaro*, which Leopold had been expecting from Wolfgang in Vienna by the end of May (cf. 0958/80) and had obviously sent to Nannerl for a time.

Today I was in the Kapellhaus³² at 12 o'clock, came home to eat at midday after 1 o'clock, – at 2 o'clock to *Mss.^{lle} Weiser*,³³ at 3 o'clock went to vespers, [65] at 4 o'clock the practice concert started at Count *Arco's*,³⁴ which takes place every Friday, then to young Hagenauer's³⁵ children – afterwards to the newspaper writer Hübner³⁶ about a commission from Munich, and came home after 8 o'clock. Accordingly, I am having to write this at half past 10 at night.

The greens had already been sold because we had already been waiting 2 or 3 days for the glass-carrier woman. [70]

Of course I will send the overdue newspaper³⁷ of the 23rd *Junii*.
I am sending the little comb and brush. – It was too late to buy a new little brush: so next time.

Here too is the libretto³⁸ etc. etc. and a letter from Egedacher³⁹ [75] with a reasonable⁴⁰ remittance enclosed in an equally reasonable letter.

As soon the organ-builder⁴¹ receives the strings he is expecting, I will send a whole set out to you. He cannot do without the ones he has at the moment simply because he is stringing newly built instruments. He commends himself.

[80] I could not possibly have found time to draw up the appalling *expenditure details* you requested, I am happy if I get this letter written.

Now, I must on no account forget the main thing and congratulate you on your name-day, yet you know how little any of us have ever concerned ourselves with these things. Deeds and not wishes are the proofs of true friendship and tender paternal love; [85] of these you are convinced, I know, and that gives me pleasure. – I wish you constant good health and – you can wish for everything else yourself.

Nandl⁴² thanks you, and both maids furthermore simply send good wishes upon good wishes, both to you and your daughter,⁴³ [90] to whom I should specially send a wish of great length and breadth; if only it were not so late, for my wish might in the end resemble a sermon, and I would become so immersed in writing that the Capuchins would have to remind me about going to bed with their little matins bell at 12 o'clock. Meanwhile I wish her a great

³² Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

³³ BD: Maria Anna (Nannerl), (* 1767), daughter of the merchant Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and business magnate. She was one of Leopold's pupils.

³⁴ "Graf". BD: Leopold Ferdinand III, Count [Graf] Arco (1764-1832), whose "Hofmeister" [here ≈ tutor] was Abbé Bullinger

³⁵ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. Leopold taught three of his children.

³⁶ BD: Lorenz Hübner (1753-1807), for a short time a Jesuit, then a grammar school teacher; called to Salzburg to take over and improve the *Salzburger Staatszeitung* [Salzburg State Newspaper].

³⁷ BD: It appears that Leopold regularly sent the *Oberdeutsche Staatszeitung* on to St. Gilgen.

³⁸ BD: Presumably the text booklet for *Figaro*.

³⁹ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the "old man", as the deceased court organ builder was often called.

⁴⁰ BD: Ironical.

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

⁴³ BD: Nannerl's step-daughter, likewise called Nannerl.

deal of industry and joy in reading and playing the clavier, [95] and a greater inclination to keep herself tidy and clean her teeth, otherwise she will not get a husband: – and that would be terrible! So when she comes into town at Michaelmas I will immediately observe whether she has mouth odour. Now, good night! I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your ever sincere father

[100]

Mozart mp⁴⁴

The esteemed *Doctor*⁴⁵ from Gmunten was here at Haslberger's.

The morning of the 22nd. Little Leopoldl kisses all of you, is fit and well, thanks you for the *congratulations* on his birthday.

Every day this week I had celebrations and a *requiem* in the cathedral and letters to write to Munich, Vienna, Augspurg. [105]

⁴⁴ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁴⁵ BD: Presumably the father-in-law of Haselberger's brother.