

0969. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is well, praise God!

Salzb., 28th *Julii* [1786]

Just as I was getting dressed, the glass-carrier woman³ put in an appearance, since she is setting off again in half an hour. [5] She told me of the flooding which has affected you once again. I had nothing to give her – nor did I have any time at that moment. Here, too, there was no lack of worry about new flooding and everywhere, especially on the bridge, they took all possible counter-measures, with which they have been proceeding uninterruptedly from ships under the bridge since the water level fell a little. [10] Since I got back here again,⁴ we have had excellent meat from Hungarian oxen;⁵ – yesterday 54 of them were once again distributed among the butchers, who are very dissatisfied with this, but do not have the heart to say a word about it; only their wives take the liberty of murmuring about it with half-veiled words.

[15] Frau Azwanger⁶ has already been buried, as has the mother of the so-called Hofmans' *Bellerl*.⁷

Hieronimus *Londron*⁸ really did marry a Countess von Rosenberg⁹ a few days ago on a Rosenberg estate in the Steyrmarch.

The customary 40 hours of prayer in St. Peter's were opened by the esteemed prelate himself, as preacher, on St. James' Day.¹⁰ [20] As I had never heard him, I went along and was really uncommonly satisfied, since he held a truly good and in every respect useful sermon, comprehensible to everyone, in the best manner, with composure and with such pure, loud, clear enunciation that one did not miss a word of it, even at the back by the door.

[25] Everyone here was very angry with the farmers outside the town. The grain was standing there in heaps dry as straw, – and on St. James' Day, when they could have brought in a great deal in the afternoon, at least after the church service, not a soul budged, they went into town and after church took a seat in the inn, to return home drunk in the evening. [30] Only the inhabitants of the Bruderhaus,¹¹ some with horses, some with their hands, brought in their tithe in the afternoon, with labourers and fools¹² pulling a cart etc. I saw it with my own eyes.

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: 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.

⁴ BD: He returned from St. Gilgen on 21st July, 1786, cf. No. 0968/10

⁵ BD: Oxen from Hungary were introduced because at that time Bavaria and Austria mutually blocked the movement of cattle across their borders and across the Salzburg border

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0968/50. Marie Elenore, née Haffner, daughter of the mayor of Salzburg, Sigmung Haffner and wife of Raimund Felix Atzwanger, Salzburg city councillor, tax collector general, representative in the parliament of the estates.

⁷ BD: Isabella Hofmann's mother; they are probably related to the Hofmann brothers mentioned ("university prefect") in No. 0914/27.

⁸ "Gr: Hieronimus". BD: Hieronymus Maria ("Momolo") Lodron (1766-1823), member of the influential Salzburg family, married Maria Caecilia, née Komtesse Orsini-Rosenberg (1766-1841).

⁹ "gräfin von Rosenberg".

¹⁰ BD: 25th August.

¹¹ Salzburg Wiki: The Bruderhaus ["Brother House"] was built in 1496 and was the second hospital in the town.

¹² BD: The deranged persons accommodated in the Brother House.

In the night on St. James' Day, at 10 o'clock, it started to rain, and such downpours came the whole night through and on St. Anne's Day, and continued to alternate until yesterday evening, that there was always an entire river on the streets. [35] Some farmers went on a pilgrimage walk during the two abolished holidays: probably to ask for rain, which they received right through to the skin.

Now I wish you all the good things for your birthday you can think of, and everything that is fruitful for body and soul. Our wishes are good, you know me; the fulfilment of them is in the hands of our loving God alone, from whom we must request them. [40] If my wish for myself is that I may live a good long time yet, I do not do this for my own sake, but for the sake of my children and children's children. I have learned to discern truth and illusion, and the experience of countless examples convinces me that one cannot take too much care with the upbringing of young people, on whom our entire temporal and eternal well-being undeniably depends, [45] and we shall have to answer for it before God. May God keep you!

The messenger¹³ has delivered part III¹⁴ and the letters.

Gatti¹⁵ is already here.

I will enquire immediately about the little black hat and purchase everything from the Hubers' Nannerl¹⁶ and send it soon.

[50] I included congratulations in your name in the letter to Munich anyway. Herr Marchand¹⁷ likewise wrote back to me returning the congratulations to both of you. He also said that he was thinking of visiting me in Salzburg at the end of August or beginning of September.

That your monthly periods are irregular and seldom again is not at all to my liking. [55] But what else can one expect if one does not make proper use of the prescribed remedies? – After taking baths a little, they did come properly, even if not strongly. At present, admittedly, this is no weather for taking baths, but now, with God's help, better weather will yet come. One must therefore take advantage of it immediately and, with the exception of Sundays and compulsory feast days, [60] assiduously take a bath every day. I will send you herbs. Since you have to lie in bed after the bath, as the *doctor* prescribed, it is extremely ridiculous, or rather damaging and irresponsible, to get up and run out into the open air and into church, and on top of that sometimes to remain in the draft near the open church door. [65] Man must answer to God for his health, especially when I am a mother!

Hearing Mass daily is a very praiseworthy form of devotion, but is not even commanded by the church, and all the less so by God. Can you say afterwards it was the right course if one ruins one's health and becomes so ill [70] that one cannot hear Mass even on Sundays and feast-days? – It is not your peasant louts who will be angry; for in St. Gilgen, if anyone releases a *crepitem ventris*,¹⁸ the whole village, along with all *members* of the council, will smell it. Everyone will know that the chief administrator's wife¹⁹ must need a bath, and it

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ BD: Translation of Richardson's *Sir Charles Grandison*, cf. No. 0813/14.

¹⁵ BD: Luigi Gatti (1740-1817), deputy director of music at the Reale Accademia in Mantua, later employed as second, then first, music director in Salzburg. Leopold was his deputy.

¹⁶ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

¹⁷ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

¹⁸ BD: *Fart; breaking wind*.

¹⁹ "Frau Pflegerin".

will not be necessary for the esteemed *doctor* [75] to send the *vicario*²⁰ a note to be announced from the pulpit or nailed onto the church tower. To my vexation, I have heard from the clerks, from the maids and the deputy administrator's wife²¹ that you have been going to church; I leave it up to your conscience!

When are you thinking of journeying to Gmunten?²²

[80] the morning of the 29th. I am very angry, the messenger called here before it was even 7 o'clock. Here is the watch, a chain for Herr Pertl,²³ 2 portraits.²⁴ You must take the things out of the small box carefully so that nothing breaks.

I kiss both of you from the heart, send greetings to the children and am in haste as always your father

Mozart mp²⁵

²⁰ = local priest.

²¹ "Amtmannin".

²² BD: Gmunden on the lake Traunsee.

²³ BD: Joseph Max Kajetan Pertl (†1788), a relative of Mozart's mother (Anna Maria, née Pertl), a court clerk in St. Gilgen and thus subordinate to Mozart's brother-in-law Berchtold.

²⁴ BD: Probably two silhouettes representing Leopold and his grandson.

²⁵ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.