

0976. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

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

[Salzburg,] 12<sup>th</sup> Aug., [1786]

Praise God, the messenger<sup>2</sup> has been *despatched*. Now the glass-carrier woman<sup>3</sup> will come and take the herbs, soap and sugar with her.

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[5] The herbs<sup>4</sup> were picked just this morning on the Mönchberg,<sup>5</sup> because Tresel<sup>6</sup> could not find the herb woman at the market at 6 o'clock in the morning, and her daughter went to pluck them and brought them at 8 o'clock. The messenger had already been *despatched* by half past 7. You must separate the herbs, they are easy to recognise. [10] If it turns out that there is too little or even none of one herb for a bath, that is no reason for omitting the bath: it suffices to take not more than a handful of camomile from the garden; if there is too little of the others, one takes if need be only one handful instead of two. At such short notice one cannot get these things so exactly, [15] since the herb woman did not appear at the market on St. Lawrence's day.<sup>7</sup> Since the glass-carrier woman had so much wet and messy stuff to take out to you, such as the herbs and soap, I did not want to give her the dress as well. The 2 cloths are coming out to you again along with this, they have to come back into town again so that they are on hand if needed.

[20] Your cloth has always been kept with the dress, of course. You are not meant to pay for the herbs, I will put aside 4 kreuzers for you for every bath, which is truly valuable, and is thus a *generouse present*;<sup>8</sup> this is in all events easier than when I had to send my wife of blessed memory to the spa at Gastein<sup>9</sup> for 12 ducats,<sup>10</sup> although I had only 29 florins 30 kreuzers monthly salary; [25] indeed, I then drove the coach myself to collect her. I took everything as it came, and my thought was always that God, in his divine Providence, takes care of us if we observe precisely our obligations of love towards God, our fellow man and towards ourselves; but our love towards ourselves consists of our self-preservation and concern for our future blessedness. [30] I have ended up writing this moral epistle because I am waiting for the glass-carrier woman, who intends to come at half past 9.

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It is said that the present *military auditor*<sup>11</sup> will marry the elder Lürzer daughter from the brassmonger's.

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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: 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.

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<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0975/55.

<sup>5</sup> Hill overlooking Salzburg from the west.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>7</sup> BD: 10<sup>th</sup> August.

<sup>8</sup> = "generous present".

<sup>9</sup> BD: Leopold's wife went to Gastein to recover after the death of their two-month-old third child in 1750.

<sup>10</sup> BD: = 54 florins.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Franz Anton Geiger, titular captain [Titularhauptmann] and Secretary to the Court War Council [Secretarius des Hofkriegsrats].

Today there was news that yesterday the lightning struck in 5 places without causing damage, [35] partly on lightning conductors, partly in trees and fields without damage.

Little Leopoldl<sup>12</sup> kisses all of you. Nandl<sup>13</sup> and Tresel<sup>14</sup> send hand-kisses and commend themselves. And I am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>15</sup>

[40] 3 $\frac{3}{8}$  lb<sup>16</sup> sugar à 36 kreuzers, I have paid him.  
Soap 14 lb à 13 kreuzers, also paid  
and herbs.

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<sup>12</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>13</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

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

<sup>15</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>16</sup> lb = 1 pound weight  $\approx$  0.5 kg.