

0981. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen
Along with 3 little coils of
clavier strings²

Salzb., 25th Aug.,
1786

Little Leopold³ is well!

In a letter to Heinrich⁴ from Munich, [5] Herr *Brochard*⁵ writes that the poor people in the meadowland suffered a great deal of damage and misery from 3 floodings of the Löchel⁶ on the Iser.⁷ – that 2 foreigners in succession were *arrested*, one of whom pretended to be a Prussian *officer*, but is said to be one of those who carried out the big robbery in *Lyon* that time. – the 2nd was taken into custody because of a robbery he committed on another foreigner also living at *Albert's*.⁸ – the following is written at the end of the same letter: news has just come in that the King in Prussia⁹ really has died. – – But he has died quite frequently already. – otherwise he writes of a very severe thunderstorm which burnt down a house outside the town and also a granary in another place. – then that very many people set off for Augspurg [15] – but also some of them out of business *interest* on the occasion of the hot air *balloon*,¹⁰ for example the violinist Herr Hampf with his father and sister; – then the famous dancer Herr *Crux* with his daughter,¹¹ who learned with Herr *Fränzl*¹² in Mannheim, and although she cost her father 1600 florins, plays very beautifully indeed for a woman, I am told. [20] So these will give *concerts*, – and Schikaneder will fairly certainly attempt to put on Count Waltron¹³ in the open air again; it is only a pity that he can have no other *military* in Augspurg than the old, worn-out city soldiers and hired guards. If the weather conditions yesterday and today were the same as with us, the hot air *balloon* will certainly not be able to start its journey, – [25] but if it has taken place, it will very soon have found itself among the clouds, so some will have had little to see for the expense of travelling to Augspurg. I think they will be quite

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 Address and remark on the strings from DME.

³ 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.

⁴ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts’ home for three years until 1774.

⁵ BD: Georg Paul Brochard, actor, brother of Theobald Marchand’s wife, father of Maria Johanna Brochard (*1775), who was from 1783 the third boarder learning in the Mozarts’ home in Salzburg.

⁶ BD: The “island” on the left bank of the river Isar [not “Iser”] in Munich, near the Schwabinger Bach.

⁷ BD: Should be “Isar”.

⁸ BD: Franz Joseph Albert (1728-1789), landlord of the inn “Zum Schwarzen Adler” [“The Black Eagle”], where the Mozarts apparently stayed on a number of occasions.

⁹ BD: Frederick II, † 18th August, 1786.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. note on No. 0980/13. In No. 0982/53 ff. it emerges that the musicians earned nothing there.

¹¹ BD: Johann Peter Anton and Maria Anna Antonia Crux (baptised in Mannheim in 1772); she undertook numerous concert tours, including to London, Copenhagen and Stockholm. She was among those who travelled to Prague with Mozart (cf. No. 1022/63) and met him again in Frankfurt am Main in 1790 (cf. No. 1138/37-38).

¹² BD: Ignaz Fränzl (1736-1811), from 1747 violinist in Mannheim. Concertmaster from 1774. Mozart gave an opinion of his playing in No. 0377/19 ff. He was married to the sister of Cannabich’s wife. He did not move to Munich in 1778, when most musicians with the court (cf. No. 0504/47-48). He stayed as director of the court theatre [Hoftheater]. His son Ferdinand (1770-1833) became concertmaster in Munich in 1789.

¹³ “Gr. Waltron”. BD: *Der Graf von Waltron oder die Subordination* [Count von Waltron or The Subordination], play in 3 acts by Heinrich Ferdinand Möller (1745-1798), performed by Schikaneder in various locations employing horses, carts and also real soldiers.

happy to postpone it so that more is spent in the town: after all, one can entertain oneself in the meantime with *concerts* – and with *plays*.

[30] Yesterday there was our grand *festivity* with an enclosed hunt of two Hungarian oxen.¹⁴ Proceedings were very boring; and what kind of hunt can it be when nothing but oxen and oxen¹⁵ are present? – They want to hold another one on Sunday.

The messenger¹⁶ delivered your letter, in which I received the money and the letter to *Msr. D'Yppold*,¹⁷ and sent it to him immediately.

According to what the esteemed paymaster¹⁸ told me, she¹⁹ is not tall and is 24 years old. She may therefore be the 2nd of the twins. Perhaps she is called *Jeanette*, and he understood the name wrongly out of pure delight, but he explicitly said, when I asked what she is called, – *Babette*, – [40] and my reply to him was: So she is called Baberl?²⁰ he said: Yes! – In the sacristy, he showed me in the distance a chambermaid whom I do not know and is with Fräulein Roserl *Firmian*²¹ and said that she resembled her somewhat; so she is not tall. I saw her from a distance, for I went out with him into the church to the side altar.

Today I heard in the half past 11 Mass that our esteemed ambassador²² in Regensburg [45] has written to the esteemed Court Chancellor²³ and Herr von Zilleberg²⁴ reporting the death of the King in Prussia.²⁵ It is therefore credible, for it is not so easy for a lie to come on one post-day from 2 different countries at the same time. N.B. if the latter is true.

I do not wish to doubt that there is always enough water where you are, [50] since we have had, strictly speaking, 6 floods this summer. It would be no surprise at all if the *fortepiano* were to be ruined entirely in that hole of yours, which is so damp and wet anyway, in this year's extraordinarily wet weather, since I previously noticed the dampness everywhere during my visit, even on the doors of the rooms. – I am sending you herewith 3 strings, N.º 5, 6, and 7, from the organ-builder.²⁶ [55] – Early tomorrow he is off to Tamsweg²⁷ to inspect an organ; he is coming back on Tuesday or Wednesday. By the time you come here around

¹⁴ BD: In the Summer Riding School.

¹⁵ BD: Leopold distinguishes elsewhere (cf. No. 1010/88) between “2-legged” and “4-legged” oxen.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family.

¹⁹ BD: His bride, Babette Erlach. Cf. No. 0977/74.

²⁰ “Babette” and “Baberl” are both diminutives of “Barbara”.

²¹ BD: Rosalie Firmian (* 1748), one of the five surviving daughters of Count [Graf] Franz Lactanz Firmian.

²² “H: Gesandter”. BD: Johann Sebastian Zillner, Baron [Freiherr] von Zillerberg (1740-1807), Privy Councillor [geheimer Rat] and member of the Salzburg Parliament of the Estates [Landmann]. Ambassador in Regensburg (scene of the “Perpetual Diet” from 1663) 1777-1803. Married to Therese von Lützwow.

²³ “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.

²⁴ “H: von Zilleberg”. BD: Friedrich Maria Zillner, Baron [Freiherr] von Zillerberg (1726-1798), Court Councillor to the Prince-Archbishop [hochfürstlicher Hofrat] from 1750. Cf. No. 0871/27-28.

²⁵ “des Königs in Preussen”. BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ Tamsweg: About 50 km south-east of Radstadt, which is about 80 km south of Salzburg.

Michaelmas, another new fortepiano will be finished: – I have also written to *Msr. Marchand*²⁸ saying that I hope he may arrive here at the same time.

[60] The *plays* that our amateurs want to put on here will be performed not only in the theatre, but also for money; but N.B. for the poor.

Leopoldl really does prefer playing with living girls rather than figures, for he cannot stand the Salome Musch²⁹ which Tresel searched out in the attic and brought down to him and throws it away, [65] while otherwise his behaviour is very friendly towards the girls. Now, whether he takes after his father or grandfather here – it is certainly nothing less than natural!

Now good night! It is past 11 o'clock, the messenger said he would come very early tomorrow morning. I kiss you both from the heart, send greetings to the children and am as always your sincere father

[70]

Mozart mp³⁰

Nandl³¹ and Tresel³² send hand-kisses to both of you.

I hope Lennerl,³³ to whom I send greetings, will visit us when she comes to Salzb.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ BD: Apparently the name of a doll, presumably named after the "old cook Salome" mentioned in No. 0990/37.

³⁰ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³¹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

³³ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.