

0992. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

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

[Salzburg,] Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> [October], 1786

Leopold<sup>2</sup> is naughty, zestful and in good form!

The latest news I can send you is clearly that I had blood let 2 days ago, on the 18<sup>th</sup>. [5] On St. Teresa's Day<sup>3</sup> I happened to speak with old Herr *Barisani*<sup>4</sup> during the congratulatory *compliments*,<sup>5</sup> and he said it could do me no harm to let a little air out;<sup>6</sup> on the evening of Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> I went down to *M:<sup>lle</sup> Janette's*,<sup>7</sup> where I found *Joseph Barisani*, his wife and sister-in-law. This gentleman told me the same thing again: – [10] I accordingly reached a decision immediately, told *Tresel*<sup>8</sup> she should make an appointment for me with your barber first thing in the morning, and at 10 o'clock I let 5 ounces as the *doctores* said. After eating I sent the blood to the *Dr.* because I had already seen myself that it did not look good, and he sent me a message that I should break the vein again at 4 or 5 o'clock in the evening and let a further 4 ounces. [15] I had the most abominable blood-letting day because it snowed the whole day on this same 18<sup>th</sup>, and the weather is still bad. I cannot yet say anything about the effects of the blood-letting. I am sleeping, eating etc. well, as before. As soon as I speak to the *Dr.*, and not before, I will hear whether – or what I may have to take.

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The Archbishop<sup>9</sup> is not going to Tittmoning,<sup>10</sup> we are therefore not going to Michaelbeuern this time. The Archbishop, however, is apparently travelling to Vienna with his brother Count Guntacker,<sup>11</sup> which people are speaking of as certain!

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of news is – that Heinrich<sup>12</sup> is now the *Primo Violino*<sup>13</sup> at court. – *Brunetti*<sup>14</sup> has no longer been able to attend court for a week now, he is *miserable*; nor is he

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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: 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> BD: 15<sup>th</sup> October.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Leopold went to congratulate Barisani's wife, Maria Theresia, on her name day.

<sup>6</sup> There seems to have been a belief at that time that the arteries had air in them. BD: Bloodletting was usually used in cases of heart problems, high blood pressure and blood coagulation. Between 200 and 300 ml. were taken.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Perhaps a sister of “Mitzerl”, the proprietor of a Salzburg dancing school, with whom she is mentioned in 0931/43.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] 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>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0991/16 ff.

<sup>11</sup> “Gr: Guntacker”. BD: Franz de Paula Gundacker I, Graf Colloredo (1731-1807), eldest brother of the Archbishop, Imperial Court Counsellor [Reichshofrat] and (from 1788) Prince [Fürst] and Imperial Vice-Chancellor [Reichsvizekanzler].

<sup>12</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Only temporarily. He is no longer mentioned in the Salzburg court calendar for 1787. He entered employment with the Prince [Fürst] von Thurn und Taxis in Regensburg.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

likely to recover his health. [25] Of his own accord, *Latouche*<sup>15</sup> has now asked to return home, [25] and chose the excuse that the air is detrimental to him. The Archbishop sent him a message that he should go soon, since the weather is getting constantly worse; he set off on Thursday, namely yesterday, by post-coach, and did not receive the travelling money until he was sitting in the post-coach. A fine honour! He went away so hastily, and so quietly, that no-one discovered until yesterday that he was already gone. [30] They say N.B. he has left something behind.<sup>16</sup>

If you are so extremely constipated when you take your daily soup for breakfast, you *absolutely* must change about and occasionally take *coffee* for the sake of moving your bowels. These are just tricks! Another is to drink *coffee* daily, – or a great deal, – another is only occasionally. [35] And the light *chocolate* which they sell for 1 florin 15 kreuzers does not, by God!, cause heat in anyone.

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For the silver cord and the tassel I had to pay 1 fl 30 kr.

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We will collect the candles by gradual purchases, – as and when we can get them; now I have – 6  $\text{lb}$ <sup>17</sup> at home, à 14 kr. We will pay for them together so that we are supplied with them more frequently.

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[40] In your letter you ask for little grass roots and chicory roots, and add that I should send them by the glass-carrier woman,<sup>18</sup> only have seen nothing of any glass-carrier woman; the messenger<sup>19</sup> is coming tomorrow at half past 7 – so I must give it to him since you need it and heaven knows when the glass-carrier woman will put in an appearance. The messenger came for the first time after 3 o'clock, – [45] and then he came again around 5 o'clock and said he had forgotten to say that we should buy frying sausages and send them out in the little box. Tresel will therefore try to get some at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning if, as I hope, there are some to be had, for they do not usually make them until Saturday morning so that they stay fresh.

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[50] Today they wanted to perform Fusst von Stromberg.<sup>20</sup> I had lent them the book and was wondering whether they might manage to perform it. It was furthermore announced after the *performance* two days ago. But today *Clavigo*<sup>21</sup> was performed instead. I had anticipated it; – first of all, they were already saying two days ago that one thing or another would have to be left out; and yesterday morning they were told they were not permitted to perform it at all [55] since it would be a shame if a single word were left out.

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I have received the money in the letter.

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<sup>15</sup> BD: The violinist who had only arrived in April. Cf. No. 0951/12-13 and subsequent letters, in which Leopold has little praise for his abilities.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0994/32: “A blessed body” = a pregnancy.

<sup>17</sup> □ = lb = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

<sup>18</sup> BD: From letter No. 0808 (14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1784) onwards, the “*glasträgerin*” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

<sup>19</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.

<sup>20</sup> BD: *Fust von Stromberg*, a play in four acts by Jakob Maier (1739-1784); it had to wait until 1805 for its première (in the Burgtheater in Vienna).

<sup>21</sup> BD: The tragedy by Goethe, based on the fourth volume of Beaumarchais' recollections. The main roles for its première in Vienna were played by friends and acquaintances of Mozart, including Joseph Lange as Clavigo and Gottlieb Stephanie the Younger as Carlos.

I will send the strings from the organ-builder next time,<sup>22</sup> today it was too late because I have not been out of the house since Wednesday in such wild weather. [60]

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My thanks for the fish, they are just right for tomorrow.

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Tresel<sup>23</sup> and Nandl<sup>24</sup> commend themselves, and Nandl sends the most obedient thanks for the reminder about her blood-letting.

Leopold is sitting opposite me and, together with Nandl, [65] is playing quite peacefully and contentedly with his horses and skittles etc. etc. I am writing; – and Heinrich is at the *theatre*.

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I kiss you both from the heart, – send greetings to the children, and hope to receive news with the next messenger<sup>25</sup> about when my esteemed son<sup>26</sup> will be coming into town with Wolfgang<sup>27</sup> since, as I have already mentioned, [70] they will not all be there until All Saints' Day, [70] and I am your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>28</sup>

The tailor Reisinger<sup>29</sup> gave Tresel the answer that he brought all the pieces of cloth back to you and has nothing more.

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Heinrich commends himself to both of you.

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[75] It seems to me as if Herr von *D'Ypold*<sup>30</sup> must have suffered a vexation since he has neither called on us since the time he was here at your arrival nor sent his servant to us as he used to do; it seems to me that Heinrich may have neglected to thank him for the coach. I will look for an opportunity to find out about it.

[80] I send greetings to Lenerl<sup>31</sup> and ask you to tell her I recently met the foul-mouthed cook, who held the most astonishing diatribe that Lenerl had not visited her and that she has already sent so many messages to St. Gilgen about having the mirror which she left out there sent to her. I excused Lenerl by saying that our Tresel has probably forgotten to tell her. [85] And who knows, said I, who has the mirror, and tried to get away from her chatter. Luckily it was in front of the gate, where she was walking with old fellow like a butcher.

Herr von *D'Ypold*, I hear, has a lot to do, – and has not suffered a vexation.

The frying sausages cost 18 kr.

[90] Chicory . . . . . 4 kr.

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<sup>22</sup> The continuing efforts to restore Nannerl's clavier to full operation.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>25</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.

<sup>26</sup> Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0990/14 ff. (Arrangements for the education of Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang in Salzburg.)

<sup>28</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Actually Reisinger, the tailor previously mentioned in 0827/53 and 0828/30.

<sup>30</sup> 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.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.