

0994. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 27th Octb.,
1786

Little Leopoldl² is getting naughtier every day!

Along with this I am sending you both some true, good Bavarian poems which are heartbreaking to read, [5] and which announce to the whole world the toasts that were washed down throats because of the birth of the two princes.³

Yesterday Count Guntacker⁴ and his wife left. The Archbishop will certainly travel to Vienna on the 3rd or 4th. How long he will be away is something he probably does not know himself.

[10] Your Leopoldl now has a comrade in Vienna, as you will both gather from your brother's letter,⁵ which I have enclosed.

The Marchands⁶ commend themselves, and he gave me the news that first of all it does not look at all likely that Vogler's opera⁷ will be given; indeed, that they did not even know whether an *opera* or anything else should be put on or not. [15] Everything is in confusion! – Secondly, that Brunetti⁸ has written to Eck⁹ asking whether he could come here for 6 months to play *concertos* and to replace him as a *conductor*, since he had thoughts of going to Italy to patch up his health: |: or perhaps to die there :| – – – Eck, however, has apparently sent his excuses that he cannot come, [20] and in Munich they are almost ready to believe he will take his leave towards summer and go to the Prussian court.

Desimoni's¹⁰ debts are said to amount to 1000 florins, since he has incurred astonishing debts again since the market.¹¹ He has asked the Archbishop to allow him to travel to enable him to pay his debts from his earnings. [25] But the Archbishop let him know that he has another remedy, namely to put him in prison at 6 kreuzers per day and have him brought back and fore by soldiers for music duties. His beloved has written to him from the Ursuline convent saying that he should make no further plans concerning her since his behaviour proves to her that she could reach the age of a hundred before he had paid all his

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: Ludwig von Zweibrücken and Pius von Birkenfeld, both of the house of Palatinate-Bavaria-Wittelsbach, whose births were celebrated intensively in Traunstein and Burghausen between 8th and 15th October, 1786.

⁴ "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].

⁵ BD: Mozart's third child, Johann Thomas Leopold, was born on 18th October, 1786. He died of a suffocating spasm on 15th November, 1786.

⁶ BD: The family of 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.

⁷ BD: *Castore e Pollux*, by Georg Joseph Vogler; it received its première in Munich on 26th November, 1786. (Cf. No. 1002/61 ff.)

⁸ His poor health was mentioned in No. 0992/23 ff. BD: Violinist in the court music.

⁹ BD: Johann Friedrich Eck (1766-c.1820), violinist, son of the Mannheim horn player Georg Eck.

¹⁰ BD: Oboist at court. For the story of his elopement cf. No. 0954/37 ff.

¹¹ BD: The market on 24th September.

debts in order to be able to marry her, [30] because he constantly adds on twice as many new ones. *Deus Confirmet!*¹²

The fact that *Latouche* has left a blessed *corpus*¹³ behind is also known to the Archbishop and to everyone, since this is a person who has already delivered samples of her character 2 or 3 times. I do not know her; [35] she is said to have gone with the *calcant*¹⁴ Joseph several times, the one who is now very wretched and has consumption and cannot carry out his services any longer. The Italians bring honour to the Archbishop's *protection!*

Exchange of correspondence backwards and forwards on the subject of Frankfurt, – *memoranda*, – *protection*, disputes and commotion between *Ceccarelli*¹⁵ and *Tomaselli*¹⁶ in front of the Archbishop, with no end of influence from Hafner's trading company!¹⁷ [40] and in the end neither of them can go. – It has long been all over for *Ceccarelli* because proof came from Franckfurt that *Ceccarelli* had wheedled his way into the agreement by intrigues and falsehoods in order to push *Tomaselli* aside. *Che bestie!*¹⁸ – At least the Italians always keep the Archbishop *occupied* with something so that he does not get bored.

[45] Now the messenger¹⁹ has called; he is already leaving at 6 o'clock tomorrow, or at least sending off a carriage with his *baggage*. I thank you for what you have sent, I have to eat meat anyway today and tomorrow because I have to take *serum lactis*²⁰ 3 times a day and always follow it an hour later with *tincturam rheb. aquosa*²¹ with *liquore annodino*²² because my blood was full of heat, [50] and I had a completely vermilion, fiery decorative rim around my face etc: –

Otherwise I feel fresher and lighter. I have to *continue* for at least 10 or 12 days. I have to drink *chocolate* at 7 o'clock. At 8 o'clock *serum lactis*, at 9 o'clock the tinctur. At half past 4 *serum lactis*, at half past 5 the tinctur, at 10 or half past 10 *serum lactis*, at 11 or half-past 11 the *tinctur*, then good night. [55]

I wrote it on the paper wrapping for the grass roots. 24 kr. – The tassel and the cord were brought to the house by the braid-maker himself, and I paid him myself.

*Barisani*²³ said to me that there is no risk for you in drinking *coffee* if it helps to open your bowels; [60] otherwise you could give yourself haemorrhoids. Just go ahead with drinking *coffee*, once in 100 years one gets black fingernails²⁴ from it.

I simply took some books of *plays* quickly from my desk and hurriedly put it into the box along with the little buttons which cost 24 kr and ran to the *theatre*, otherwise I would have missed it. [65] Tresel²⁵ had to take it to the messenger before the end of the day, but he

¹² BD: May God strengthen [her in it].

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0992/24. A "blessed body" is a pregnancy.

¹⁴ BD: Responsible for working the organ bellows; also the servant to the orchestra.

¹⁵ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; frequent guest in the Mozarts' house.

¹⁶ BD: Giuseppe Tomaselli (1758-1836), tenor, valued as a teacher of voice and keyboard.

¹⁷ BD: Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787), son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant († 1772).

¹⁸ = "What beasts! / How bestial".

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: Whey.

²¹ BD: Watery tincture of rhubarb.

²² BD: *Liquor anodynus* = spirit of wine, a remedy for cramps.

²³ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

²⁴ BD: Circumlocution for death.

²⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

will collect the letter tomorrow. I forgot the wound clavier string and have therefore now enclosed it with your brother's letter.

I wrote this last point after the *theatre*,²⁶ which did not finish until around half past 9, but I left earlier in order to eat earlier because of the *medicine* that I still had to take afterwards. [70] The music by Winter²⁷ was beautiful, and *M.^{me} Zumpe*²⁸ acts excellently. 2 women are good in every way, *Millner*²⁹ and *Zumpe*. The men are poor, with the exception of *Borgers*,³⁰ I seldom go, perhaps *once* a week.

Now good night! I hope to see my esteemed son³¹ and Wolfg.,³² [75] and perhaps also to see you in St. Gilgen with Heinrich³³ once the Archbishop has left. I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children, and am eternally your faithful father

Mozart mp³⁴

Herr Marchand³⁵ always sends compliments to you both when he writes, Heinrich commends himself. Tresel and Nandl³⁶ kiss [your hands],³⁷ Leopoldl sends kisses to all of you, [80] in recent days he has been coming to wake me.

²⁶ BD: *Leonardo und Blandine*, a melodrama in 2 acts by Baron Götz "after the composition" by Winter; it was followed by *Die Nachschrift*, a comedy in one act "by a Jew" (B.D. Arnstein) and then the ballet *Die Rauchfangkehrer oder Liebe macht Flügel* by *Jungheim*, a member of the ensemble.

²⁷ BD: Peter von Winter (1754-1825), joined the Mannheim court music in 1775 and went to Munich with the court in 1778; 1780-1782 studies with Salieri in Vienna, where three ballets with his music were performed.

²⁸ BD: She played two roles.

²⁹ BD: Müllner, leading soubrette.

³⁰ BD: Formerly with Seyler's troupe. He now mainly played father roles.

³¹ Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

³² BD: Nannerl's stepson, who was due to continue his education in Salzburg, cf. No. 0990/37-38.

³³ 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.

³⁴ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³⁵ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand. Two of his children had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three and two years respectively. They left in September, 1784.

³⁶ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³⁷ BD: Paper damaged; *your hands* supplied.