

0999. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen*<sup>2</sup>

Little Leopold<sup>3</sup> is well,

Salzb., 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.,  
1786

and thanks you for the congratulations on our name-day,<sup>4</sup> and I too thank you both heartily, [5] and would have thanked you in person, or rather would have celebrated the birthday<sup>5</sup> and name-day on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in St. Gilgen if the road and the weather had been different.

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The candles amount to only 5 lb.<sup>6</sup> Yesterday we begged our way to another 1 lb. For now we must act as if we were taking them for ourselves, outside the town none are being sold. [10]

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The main thing I have to write about is the story with Neumark.<sup>7</sup> – It is of course quite true that one must consider and reflect on everything properly beforehand: – but who can evade his fate? – – Anything that happens faster than normal like this is usually due to the irresistible force of fate. [15] And I can certainly see that you are most discontent, – most discontent for *economic* reasons! – Be cheerful, dear children! You have comrades! The esteemed Chief administrator in Neumarkt<sup>8</sup> and his wife are mortally despondent. Their hearts are full of regrets: he had his mind on getting another, better salaried administrative district,<sup>9</sup> and was assigned to Mittersill,<sup>10</sup> [20] – yes, this too only for *economic* reasons, but now it has been done; only one should not always consider things by leaping *ab uno extremo ad aliud extremum*,<sup>11</sup> but rather think about them with a cool head, all the way through, – the good and the bad side, and then arrange everything sensibly. For, in the end, what else can one do? – Perhaps cherish fond hopes in the meantime that the Archbishop<sup>12</sup> will not enact it? [25] – – and why should he not enact it? – Because you are a true servant of the state? – Because you have never applied for anything before? – Because the reasons are fair and so natural that you are therefore not seeking any advantage from the exchange? – Unless the Archbishop has already come to another decision, [30] just be sure to have everything ready for the journey. To tell the truth, the matter does not appear as black to me as you are painting it. The income in Neumark is, if not better, at least the same as that in St. Gilgen; – You have already calculated in some detail the expenses of this move as 1000 florins. Please forgive me, that is

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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> Address from DME.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> BD: The 15<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Leopold’s birthday: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1719.

<sup>6</sup> = lb. = 1 pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 0997/5.

<sup>8</sup> “Pfleger”. BD: Johann Nepomuk Maria Zillner von Zillerberg, who in fact continued in Neumarkt.

<sup>9</sup> “Pflieg”.

<sup>10</sup> BD: This administrative post initially remained vacant after the departure of Johann Christoph von Trauners. Zillerberg remained in Neumarkt and Berchtold in St. Gilgen.

<sup>11</sup> = “from one extreme to the other”.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] 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.

exaggerated! But I know, of course, that one has to paint as concrete a picture as possible of the notion in one's mind [35] in order to make sure of laying a heavy 1000 florin stone on one's breast, a stone that unceasingly causes anxiety to the *economic* heart and forces one to yield sighs everywhere. Alas, alas, – nothing happens without a reason, and if it does happen, it may result in good consequences in due time for so many reasons that I do not have time to go into here; it is already late, [40] I had to write a letter to Marchand<sup>13</sup> and one to your brother with an enclosure for *Msr. Crux*,<sup>14</sup> who is travelling to Vienna with his daughter. Keep well, I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and I am your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>15</sup>

Heinrich<sup>16</sup> commends himself.

[45] My thanks also go to the children and to Lenerl<sup>17</sup> for the congratulations.

*Dr. Steger's*<sup>18</sup> wife and the trumpeter Schwarz<sup>19</sup> have died.

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<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Johann Peter Anton Crux; his daughter, Maria Anna Antonia, was a distinguished violinist; cf. note on No. 0981/17.

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

<sup>16</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>17</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

<sup>18</sup> BD: The wife of Dr. jur. Joachim Anton Joseph Steger, Apostolic and Imperial public notary, advocate to the Consistory and Court Council

<sup>19</sup> BD: Johann Joseph Schwarz, court and military trumpeter, also violinist, entered the Archbishop's service in 1739, became supervisor of the trumpeters and court musicians in 1781.