

1002. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold<sup>2</sup> is well!

Salzb., 17<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1786

What about me? – – Also somewhat better since casting off my 67<sup>th</sup> year with a laxative potion on my birthday;<sup>3</sup> [5] and I still feel the greatest temptation to drive to St. Gilgen on the 15<sup>th</sup>; who knows what may often cure a man? I really must have diversion so that I do not sink into sadness. Today I had to reply to a letter<sup>4</sup> from your brother, which cost me a great deal of writing, consequently I can write only very little to you, – [10] it is late, I also want to go to the *theatre*<sup>5</sup> today since I am now free, and I have just come to the end of the letter to Vienna. As you can easily imagine, I had to write a very emphatic letter since he made no less a proposal to me than that I should take his 2 children<sup>6</sup> into my keeping, since he would like to make a journey<sup>7</sup> through Germany to England half-way through Carnival etc. [15] – but I did a good job of writing and promised to send him the *continuation* of my letter with the next post. That good, honest *silhouette* cutter, Herr Miller, had praised Leopold to your brother, consequently he found out that the child is staying with me, which I had never told him about in my letters; so this good idea occurred to him or perhaps to his wife. [20] That would of course be not a bad thing, – they could travel in peace, – could die, – – could stay in England, – – then I could run after them with the children etc. or after the payment for the children which he is offering me for household maids and children etc. – *Basta!*<sup>8</sup> My excuse is solid and enlightening, if he wishes to learn from it. –

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[25]

After the *play*, at 10 o'clock

I ask you to pass on my thanks to Nannerl<sup>9</sup> for the congratulations, she wrote truly beautifully.

Heinrich<sup>10</sup> commends himself: – didn't he ask my esteemed son to send him *Ariadne* on *Naxos*?<sup>11</sup> – – – –

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[30] The royal baker's wife has died.<sup>12</sup>

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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: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1719.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 1000, lost.

<sup>5</sup> BD: *Viktorine oder Wohltun trägt Zinsen* ["Viktorine, or Good Deeds bear Interest"], a comedy in 4 acts by Friedrich Ludwig Schröder, performed for the first time in Vienna in 1784.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Carl Thomas and Johann Thomas Leopold. The latter died two days before Leopold's letter (cf. note on No. 0994/10).

<sup>7</sup> BD: Mozart was probably encouraged to undertake this journey by the following persons who were staying in Vienna: his pupil Thomas Atwood, Michael O'Kelly, Anna and Stephen Storace. It did not, however, take place.

<sup>8</sup> = "Enough!"

<sup>9</sup> BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young. After her marriage, Leopold addressed his daughter as "Frau Tochter" ["Madame Daughter"] in correspondence.

<sup>10</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>11</sup> BD: *Ariadne auf Naxos*, melodrama in one act by Georg Benda (1722-1795), from 1750-1778 court music director in Gotha, composer. Cf. No. 0907/51.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0995/33-35, where her drinking is mentioned.

Along with this I am sending you something<sup>13</sup> childish to laugh at, on one page in the *original* Swabian language – on the opposite page written comprehensibly. You must send it back again soon, it does not belong to me. Then a book by Wieland,<sup>14</sup> read it as opportunity arises.

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[35] Wolfg.<sup>15</sup> called to *congratulate* me, and was so happy that he could not stop telling me about it. They also had an astonishing St. Martin's feast with gateaux, pastries, wild game, capons and wine etc. etc. –

The messenger did not bring me any little box, he will have delivered it to Wolfg. himself. [40] I have already had another one made.

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> at half past 7.

Tresel<sup>16</sup> has gradually begged together some *lbs*<sup>17</sup> of candles in the house, which I will send with the glass-carrier woman<sup>18</sup> as long as the woman does not always show up so late, for she usually says, I am leaving again in an hour. [45] Can one do anything in that situation? Often I was not even at home. – and can one then write anything? If I have time later today or tomorrow, I will do some writing in advance in case the woman happens to come on Monday.

I am sending you here the measurements for Leopoldl's little bed. The whole thread is the length. And from one little knot to the other is the width. These are namely the inner dimensions of the bed frame. [50] But the straw bag must be not smaller, but rather somewhat larger because it rises up when it is filled and therefore becomes too narrow and too short. I hope to receive it soon, for he is lying very dangerously in the cradle. Now take good care of your health! I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

[55]

Mozart mp<sup>19</sup>

Herr *Bullinger*<sup>20</sup> is here, he commends himself, would have wished to see you, but he cannot get away, is staying with the esteemed Cathedral Dean<sup>21</sup> and will leave for Munich in the coming week for his new position as house tutor.<sup>22</sup> There was great commotion in Munich, the Elector<sup>23</sup> left for Mannheim at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> because a *courier* had brought news of the Electress'<sup>24</sup> terminal illness. – But now she is getting better. – the *opera*

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<sup>13</sup> BD: *Adams und Evens Erschaffung und ihr Sündenfall...* [Adam and Eve's creation and the fall of man. A spiritual Lenten play with sound and action... translated from the Swabian into Austrian].

<sup>14</sup> BD: Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1795), author. The Mozarts had read his book *Abderiten*. The book in question here has not been identified.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Nannerl's stepson, now being educated in Salzburg. Congratulations on Leopold's name-day or birthday.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

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

<sup>20</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

<sup>21</sup> "H: Domdechant". BD: Sigmund Christoph (\* 1754), Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Imperial hereditary seneschal [Reichs-Erbtruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, Cologne and Constance.

<sup>22</sup> "Hofmeister".

<sup>23</sup> "Churfürst". BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.

<sup>24</sup> "Churfürstin" BD: Maria Elisabeth Auguste of the Palatinate-Bavaria (1721-1794), wife of the Elector, who now lived in Munich.

*Castor and Pollux*<sup>25</sup> by Vogler will in fact be performed after all because the music has now arrived in its entirety.

Leopold sends little kisses to both of you. Nandl<sup>26</sup> and Tresel kiss your hands, [65] and please give my greetings to Lenerl.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0994/12 ff.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>27</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.