

1004. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Leopoldl² is well!

Salzb., 20th Nov., 1786

Since I do not know when the glass-carrier woman³ will burst in on me and immediately want to run away again, [5] and Monday, Wednesday and Friday are precisely the days when I have a great deal to do from 12 noon and throughout the afternoon, I will write a few words in advance. The latest is that Chief Court Clerk Prex⁴ has finally become municipal judge in Radstatt,⁵ of which *Dr. Prex* was informed by the esteemed Court Chancellor⁶ as soon as he heard the news from Vienna. [10] Now, I have no idea if the previous municipal judge has died or been *promoted*. Our High Prince's⁷ *decision* probably brought even more people to the esteemed Court Chancellor. In the meantime I hope that my esteemed son⁸ will have brought calm to his thoughts and to yourself, and I would wish that the two of you might place more trust in the Providence of God, who knows better than we simple creatures what – [15] and how this thing and that, which we previously did not understand, is necessary for the salvation of our souls and our childrens⁹.

In certain things I can see neither rhyme nor reason. Why? – Because a lot is being said without thorough consideration and planning. – As proof: my esteemed son often said, if I had 600 florins in town, I would resign from my district administration post.⁹ [20] – Yes, even: – – – if someone gives me 300 florins per year, I will let him have my post.

And now, with all the haste imaginable, in one morning, after going to Confession etc., the step towards Neumark is taken with all the eagerness imaginable; – [25] after *Baron Motzl*¹⁰ and the esteemed *Pfleger* of Deissendorf¹¹ made N.B. the remark that Neumark was not at all lucrative, you nevertheless went to see the Court Chancellor, whom my esteemed son N.B. had never gone to see before, wrote the request in the afternoon and entrusted me with handing it in. And now, even if Neumark can only yield 900 florins, although I hear that they are raising it to 1000, – what then does St. Gilgen yield now? – – – – If you are willing to live *absent* in town with 600 florins or even 300 florins, [30] – what reason, then, do you have to complain about Neumark, – or does one live more cheaply in Salzb. than in Neumark, where you furthermore have free accommodation? – Would it not be just as necessary to move house to Salzburg as to Neumark? – and can I not recuperate the other costs incurred in taking up the new administrative post if I am earning 900 florins per year, [35] when I was willing to get by in town with 600 florins, yes, even with 300 florins? – – Otherwise the stag

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

⁴ “Oberschreiber Prex”. BD: Franz Prex, son of the Salzburg physician Dr. Johann Prex whom Mozart also met in Paris in 1766 (cf. Nos. 0109/89; 0110/4).

⁵ BD: Radstadt, 57 km southwest of Salzburg, suffered a number of major fires reported in the letters.

⁶ “H: HofCanz.”. 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.

⁷ “Hochf.”.

⁸ Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law. Cf. Nos. 0997/5 ff. and 0999/11 ff. on his plans for a new position in Neumarkt.

⁹ “Pflege”.

¹⁰ “B: Motzl”. BD: Georg Anton Franz, Baron [Freiherr] von Motz(e)l (1729-1801): vice-president of the Court Chamber [Hofkammer]

¹¹ “H: Pfleger”. BD: Christoph Sigmund von Pichl; Teisendorf is 25 km west of Salzburg.

is still carrying everything on his horns,¹² and it is therefore unnecessary to worry about it. I am writing all this because I can easily imagine, since I know my family, that unnecessary and vexing thoughts and words will be uttered on the subject from time to time, [40] when in fact, if it must happen, no-one can resist God's decrees.

Now I have come home at 5 o'clock in the evening after carrying out my tasks, in the meantime the glass-carrier woman has called, and will pass beyond the gates before the end of the day. So I have to keep it short, she will turn up immediately. [45] I will order the fish. Joseph *Barisani*¹³ has had to travel into the mountains because of the cattle disease which is prevailing outside the town, where he will see to it that nothing breaks out there as well. There is an astonishing commotion here, the *doctores* and others had to make *visits* everywhere, and no cattle, that is oxen and cows, can be slaughtered and sold without being examined by the experts. [50] Along with this I am sending you both 6 lb¹⁴ of candles, which my begging gradually got together for you, and books aplenty from the Eberlins' Waberl,¹⁵ who commends herself. If it should be possible for me to come out to you, partly depending on weather and road, partly depending on my health, which is now much better, I may chance to *visit* you, since I truly have much to talk about.

[55] The housekeeper Miedl¹⁶ in the Magister's house has bought the socks for Wolfg. – I honestly have not yet had time to buy any for Nannerl¹⁷: – nor is it that cold yet. I will send them with the messenger.¹⁸

Wolfg. certainly learns more in a week here than in a month in St. Gilgen. I know that for sure.

[60] Heinrich¹⁹ commends himself and thanks you for the *Ariad: on Naxos*²⁰ etc.

On the subject of the scissors that are missing here, I never thought it was you, that was a *spiritosa inventione*²¹ by my esteemed son because I said that they could no longer be found after the time that you were here and the Hubers' Nannerl²² always had the scissors for sewing in the servants' room. [65] I and all of us think that they are with the person who more often has a thread to cut than I do.

Now I kiss you and my esteemed son from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

¹² BD: A phrase used occasionally by Leopold to say that all possibilities are still open; cf. No. 0991/19.

¹³ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. Here in action as district physician.

¹⁴ □ = lb. = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

¹⁵ BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762).

¹⁶ BD: Magister Abele's sister. The "Magister" ran the private school where Wolfgang Berchtold was now a pupil.

¹⁷ BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 1002/29. *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.

²¹ BD: An ingenious invention.

²² BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant; often took on sewing work.

Mozart mp²³

[70] High-spirited Leopoldl, who reads bla bla bla in books, kisses you both. Nandl²⁴ and Trese²⁵ kiss your hands, and I send my greetings to Lenerl.²⁶

²³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

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

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

²⁶ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.