

Salzb., 14<sup>th</sup> Decemb.,  
1786.Leopoldl<sup>2</sup> is well and is singing from notation.

[5] On Monday the shop-boy<sup>3</sup> brought me the box. It was half-past 1, at quarter past 1 I came back from the Kapellhaus,<sup>4</sup> was just eating, went to Weiser's<sup>5</sup> after the meal – etc. etc., was not coming home until after 5. I therefore had no choice but to say to the boy that he should call to collect the box because he said he was driving into town again on Friday. [10] The idea of immediately sending books out to you in the box again seemed ridiculous to me, the various books would have looked wonderful after having to dance their way through all the *figures* of all possible *contredanses* during the 6 hours of being conveyed out to you in this big box.

It was not until half past 5 that I opened the box, and then I went to the *theatre*. [15] Leopoldl sends thanks for the little bed.<sup>6</sup> I thank you for the dripping, which is finer than what I got from the scales.<sup>7</sup> The Eberlins' Waberl<sup>8</sup> thanks you for the sausages which I sent on to her, – I will bring her the books this evening myself, for there was such astonishing rain and wind yesterday that I did not cross the bridge at all. Wolfg.<sup>9</sup> thanks you for the table linen and cutlery and the socks which I found along with them. [20] The silk spinner cannot do any work on it before the feast-days, has too much work. I have bought 1 lb<sup>10</sup> of the cotton yarn and have taken it to be spun; I had someone fetch it from Hagenauer's<sup>11</sup> for me so as to get a fine one, for sometimes the merchants receive poor wares against their will. Now I have completed all my *tasks*, as far as I am aware.

[25] But now there is something I must not forget and which I wanted to write to you about a long time ago. I want to take sago<sup>12</sup> now, but do not know how much water and how many spoonfuls of sago I must take, since you also have the metal utensils out there with you. Once I know the *quantity*, I can buy a couple of pans and will not need those metal utensils: so let me hear more about this soon. [30]

It is quite true that the herb soups do me good service. But the bloodletting had the unwelcome effect on my left arm that I constantly have an extremely cold feeling in this arm, and have to do more to keep it warm, since the arm and hand are always cold, although I wear

<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: Employed by glass-maker Schmauss in St. Gilgen.

<sup>4</sup> Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and business magnate, son of Ignaz Anton Weiser (cf. No. 0053/8). Married to Theresia Haffner (1740-1798), daughter of Siegmund Haffner the Elder (cf. No. 0068/28).

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1002/48 ff. Leopoldl needed a bigger bed.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1010/74-76. Some commodities were in short supply at this moment.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762).

<sup>9</sup> BD: Nannerl's stepson, currently a boarding pupil in Salzburg.

<sup>10</sup> = lb. = 1 pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Leopold's household remedy, mentioned several times in recent letters.

fine flannel on my arm. [35] You know how I always used to have warm hands when everyone else felt cold.

Two days ago, Nandl<sup>13</sup> was at Herr von *D'Yppold's*<sup>14</sup> for almost 2 hours in the afternoon, and he shared delightful entertainment with Leopoldl and asked me to send his *compliments* to you both.

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[40] *Gilowsky's* so-called bride<sup>15</sup> |: as people name her here :| now enters the *Gilowsky* house more often, since the sisters use all means at their disposal to put the old father to sleep. I was myself almost on the point of believing that they are already married. Administrator Sepperl<sup>16</sup> told me that Catherl,<sup>17</sup> too, called on his father and wanted to borrow money for her brother; [45] the Administrator replied: By all means, if I have adequate security. What, said Catherl, is he not in service here and resident here? The Administrator laughed at her and gave his opinion with his natural, unadorned straightforwardness and let her leave in the greatest ignominy. I am very curious to see the outcome of this romance. [50] He and she were otherwise always at the *theatre* with the Chief Equerry's family,<sup>18</sup> but for the last few *plays* now they have no longer joined them. They will probably have realised that they need the 24ers<sup>19</sup> more urgently elsewhere.

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On Sunday, Herr Kassl<sup>20</sup> drove to the esteemed Senior Court Clerk<sup>21</sup> in Deissendorf with the Raders' Nannerl.<sup>22</sup>

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[55] Herr Steiger<sup>23</sup> really did go to Hungary to buy wheat. Some time ago, the Parliament of the Estates wanted to buy wheat when a schaff<sup>24</sup> was 2 florins cheaper, the Archbishop<sup>25</sup> did not allow it. Now he has parted with 20000 f in *Souvrains d'or*<sup>26</sup> because they are rising, and now they have to buy and then the money will have to be paid back when gold falls again, so he is now making the best use of his *Souvrains d'or*. [60]

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<sup>13</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>14</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>15</sup> BD: Franz von Gilowsky and his "bride", Josepha von Laudes. A relationship opposed by his father. Cf. No. 0995/14 ff. Franz Xaver Wenzel [von] Gilowsky (1757-1816) was the son of Salzburg ante-chamber servant and court barber/surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799); studied medicine in Vienna, master surgeon, brother of "Katherl", witness at Mozart's wedding.

<sup>16</sup> "Verwalter Sepperl". BD: Johann Paul Wölf(f), administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] close to Salzburg.

<sup>17</sup> BD: "Catherl", "Katherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Graf\* Plaz.

<sup>18</sup> "Oberbereiterischen". BD: The family of Senior Equerry [Oberbereiter] Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables.

<sup>19</sup> BD: A 24 kreuzer coin; the cost of admission to the side galleries in the theatre. 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Joseph Thomas Cassel, listed as violinist and double-bass player in the court music 1778-1779. BD VII: Joseph Thomas Cassel († 1788), court violinist 1777-1788.

<sup>21</sup> "Oberschreiber". BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1749-1809), one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law. An official in Teissendorf.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Maria Anna Nader; cf. Nos. 0264/40; 0831/31; 0871/65, 70.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Franz Adam Staiger, Supervisor of Buildings for the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftsbauverwalter]. Cf. No. 1010/87-88.

<sup>24</sup> 1 Bavarian schaff = 222 litres. (R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig 2/1896.)

<sup>25</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.

<sup>26</sup> BD: At that time, 1 souvrain d'or corresponded to 13 florins 20 kreuzers in Viennese currency or 15 florins 25 kreuzers in Salzburg currency.

This morning there was thunder and lightning around 6 o'clock, after which an astonishing wind with downpours of rain developed towards morning; the wind persisted the whole day and now, after 4 o'clock in the evening, one might think it is trying to tear everything down: initially it was not cold, but now the opinion is that it will bring snow, [65] for it feels as if one were sitting in the room in a shirt despite all the stoking of the heating stove.

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There is still no certain news about the Archbishop's arrival:<sup>27</sup> now some tend to believe he will now not arrive before Christmas, and indeed not before the new year. They also claim to know he is feeling vexed, which one can easily suspect, otherwise he would not be using up his money in Vienna if business were going as hoped. [70]

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*Brunetti*<sup>28</sup> is deteriorating daily, and now his poor wife recognises that there is no hope left. Yesterday he received the sacraments again.

Herr Günther Sebast., the barber, having been ill for so long now, is now close to death, – he said farewell to all his people yesterday.

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[75] You will remember the Italian Count *Lodron*,<sup>29</sup> who was in the *Virgilian Collegio*,<sup>30</sup> the heir to the Royal Marshall<sup>31</sup> |; now Senior Chamberlain<sup>32</sup> |; Count *Lodron*. He too is here, will stay here, has the rights of *secondo genitur*<sup>33</sup> after the death of his *uncle*, and will probably be given a position at court here, now that he has gained knowledge of the world by spending large sums from his patrimony. He was in Paris for 2 years, – [80] was in England, took great pleasure in speaking English with me – was in Holland etc., in Portugal etc., a truly impressive, young, noble *court gentleman*.

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### The 15<sup>th</sup> December

Two nights ago, after lying ill so long with consumption, *Joseph the calcant*<sup>34</sup> died, and today the other *calcants* made a collection for the funeral, [85] since he was due New Year money from each of them anyway. Yet another major post vacant at court!

I have not yet heard of any appearance by the people whom the Archbishop is supposed to have taken on:<sup>35</sup> – nor do I believe that they are meant to come before New Year, since the Prince<sup>36</sup> himself is still in Vienna.

[90] When I came back home at half past 4, I found the letter the messenger<sup>37</sup> had brought. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday I never come home earlier, can therefore not do anything more since it is already time for the *Avemaria*,<sup>38</sup> when the shops close.

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<sup>27</sup> BD: Still in Vienna; his return had been expected since the beginning of December (cf. No. 1005/45-46), but a delay of a fortnight was mentioned in No. 1010/38.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Antonio Brunetti, violinist in the court music. Cf. his illness in Nos. 1006/25ff., 1007/31 ff., 1010/34-36.

<sup>29</sup> “den welschen Gr: Lodron”. BD: Franz, the second-youngest of the seven children of Count [Graf] Nikolaus Sebastian Lodron, once Royal Marshal [Hofmarschall], now Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer]. Resident in Italy.

<sup>30</sup> BD: The quarters within the “Priesterhaus” [Priests’ House] reserved for noble boys studying in Salzburg.

<sup>31</sup> “Hofmarchal”.

<sup>32</sup> “OberstCammerer”.

<sup>33</sup> = “second-born son”.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0994/34-36.

<sup>35</sup> BD: Cf. lines 66 ff. and No. 1010/39-40.

<sup>36</sup> “Fürst”.

<sup>37</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.

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I cannot send for the glass-maker's boy since Tresel<sup>39</sup> is always ill anyway [95] and has to suffer enough with her bodily pains and with her blood-red, fleshy eyes if she is to carry out the most urgent errands in the morning in this astonishingly stormy weather. The boy promised he would come on Friday. But he did not show up. The Eberlins' Waberl,<sup>40</sup> who commends herself, has sent me nothing less than a whole library of books, so I will have to send them little by little: [100] so the glass-carrier woman<sup>41</sup> must not forget to call on me when she comes into town.

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I was very struck by the story of Frau von *Aman*.<sup>42</sup> What lies people are capable of! I have neither spoken to Frau *Zezi*<sup>43</sup> nor seen Frau von *Amman* for many weeks now. [105] What you said in your letter was entirely new to me, although it does not surprise me! The matter is following its natural course, – she is a fool, and since this is entirely of her own making, how could the two of you hope that such a foolish, concupiscent person would overcome her desires with reason, since her animal tendencies completely outweigh her mind or reason. – I have proofs of this myself. [110] – and who, then, was the kind-hearted man<sup>44</sup> who finally made her so happy? – – I know nothing at all about this, and you also know me and know that I do not pursue such matters, but on the other hand nothing is easier for me than to forgive, apportioning blame only to those in a supervisory role, who know the person's inclinations and do nothing to prevent it. Her ardent feelings for this male person were obviously well known [115] – and nevertheless no-one intervened, although they should have done alone because of the scandal and the leading astray of her children. This is the way many people act, – letting the elephants get away and wasting time catching midges.

Perhaps the man from Strobl<sup>45</sup> could bring out a few books for you? – [120] there really are a lot!

Regarding Egedacher's<sup>46</sup> *sonatas*, there is no need for you to worry, it is not urgent, I have to write to him at New Year anyway; it is really only so that he knows where the *sonatas* are. If I send him something, he will be satisfied for the time being. The constant writing is not good for your health! [125]

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The plaster for the cook cost nothing, I sent someone to fetch it from Frau Hagenauer,<sup>47</sup> – you could perhaps have realised that because I did not mention it.

The Emperor's<sup>48</sup> reluctance to make a move is quite natural for another reason. [130] Didn't he do the same thing in the bishopric of Passau? Didn't he make the parish priests of

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<sup>38</sup> BD: = “Angelus”, the ringing of a bell at 6 p.m. commemorating the Annunciation.

<sup>39</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>40</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762).

<sup>41</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>42</sup> BD: Maria Franziska von Amann, née Polis von Moulin, widow of Optatus Basil von Amann; resident in Strobl. Cf. note on No. 0746/4.

<sup>43</sup> BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

<sup>44</sup> BD: Petrazani, probably a Munich musician, arrived in Salzburg on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1786; cf. No. 0968/54.

<sup>45</sup> BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1739-1794), older brother of Leopold's son-in-law, administered an iron warehouse in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee.

<sup>46</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the deceased court organ builder was often called. He left Salzburg in March, 1786, but forgot to take some sonatas with him. Cf. No. 1010/61 ff.

<sup>47</sup> BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer, wife of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant, friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

<sup>48</sup> BD: Joseph II, son of Maria Theresia. On the events referred to here cf. No. 0732/18 ff., where the Emperor took the opportunity offered by the death of a Cardinal to reduce the area subject to the Diocese of Passau. This also entailed a significant reduction in the number of church properties subject to Salzburg. This led to conflict with the Elector of Bavaria.

Passau subject to the newly established bishopric of Lintz? – Can't the Elector challenge him on this and ask whether he is sovereign in his own country? –

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The morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

[135] Since you need the music paper, I sent someone to fetch some this morning – and include 4 books along with it so that you both have something to read. – As far as paying the messenger is concerned, I would simply like to clarify the position, because I am always being told that it turns out so expensive. There should be, or indeed will be, some terms fixed in writing as to what he charges per pound. If I am not mistaken, someone told me he charges 2 kreuzers per  $\text{fl.}$ . That would really not be much. [140] What I would do, therefore, in the case of something like this music paper and the books, for example, is to weigh them in my room and to pay him without enquiring what he wants to charge. He charges simply according to what he thinks, and he would be a fool if he did not take more when one asks what it costs. If this only happened now and again, [145] it would not of course be worth the trouble of weighing everything, but since it takes place every week over so many years, it is a significant point that calls for this orderly procedure.

Heinrich<sup>49</sup> commends himself. I have just been with Leopoldl, he is in high spirits from morning to night, – kisses my hand whenever I go across to him or when he comes over here, [150] and always grabs to see if I have a beard or whether I have been shaved. He sends you both his hand-kiss. – I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children, and am eternally your sincere

father Mozart mp<sup>50</sup>

Snow fell last night, and the weather is bright and fairly cold. [155] My hope and wish is that this winter may not prove penetratingly cold, for I have certainly bought enough wood already. Nandl and Tresel kiss your hands and I send greetings to Lenerl.<sup>51</sup>

News that the esteemed administrator of Strobl<sup>52</sup> was here with his wife reached me via Tresel, who saw them in the street, and they had a boy with them. [160]

Do not forget the *proportions* for the *sago*, so that I know how much water and how many spoonfuls to take.

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<sup>49</sup> 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>50</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>51</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

<sup>52</sup> Cf. line 119.