

1012. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 19th Dec.,
1786

Little Leopold² is well!

I am writing a few words in haste, since I have no time. [5] The *bass* singer³ taken on by the Archbishop⁴ arrived yesterday evening and called on me today; it was just as I had told everyone: this is the only person the Archbishop will be bringing with him for the court music, for he did not get another soul, although he was looking for an *oboist*, *first horn* player, trumpeter, violin and *contrabass* players. The Archbishop is expected here tomorrow; we will see if he arrives. – [10] He has apparently taken on a *Deputy Auditor*⁵ as well. – As far as buying candles is concerned, this will be hardly be possible under the present arrangements,⁶ you cannot depend on this at all, we have to count ourselves lucky if we get any for ourselves. I am giving the man from Strobl⁷ only 2 books to take with him; the rest are coming with the glass-carrier woman.⁸ But you should not believe that this is such an astonishing quantity [15] just because I wrote that it was nothing less than a whole library of books: what I meant was that it would cost too much by messenger,⁹ and I would have to send it little by little. – The *bass* is from Bohemia, has a wife and child, they are now looking for accommodation. The Archbishop had to present him with a *decree* of appointment beforehand in Vienna. [20] You say in your letter that you hope I have not told anyone about that certain matter.¹⁰ That is in fact insulting, since you know that I do not approve of it when other people speak about their fellow creatures in this way without rhyme or reason.

I kiss both of you, send greetings to the children and am as always your

Mozart mp¹¹

[25] *Brunetti* is not dead yet.¹²

The Gilowskys' Catherl¹³ will not be calling on either you or me, you can be sure of that, she does not even mention her brother in my presence, let alone the esteemed bride.¹⁴

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: The singer Šidra; Cf. No. 1010/40, 42.

⁴ BD: Spent a long time in Vienna looking for musicians. His return has been delayed repeatedly. Cf. No. 1010/40, 42.

⁵ "Vice Controleur".

⁶ BD: Commodities are short in Salzburg at the moment, especially candles and meat. Officials have imposed strict purchase procedures. Cf. Nos. 1007/8 ff.; 1010/68 ff.

⁷ BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1739-1794), elder brother of Leopold's son-in-law, administered an iron warehouse in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee. Cf. No. 1011/119.

⁸ BD: From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the "glaträgerin" ["glass-carrier woman"] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 1011/102 ff. The story of Frau von Amann's love affair.

¹¹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹² BD: Violinist in the court music; on his protracted illness cf. Nos. 1006/25 ff.; 1007/31 ff.; 1010/34-36.

¹³ 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, Count [Graf] Plaz.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1011/40 ff. Her brother was involved in a romantic relationship disapproved of by their father. She had been trying to borrow money from friends for her brother.

I am gradually beginning to feel more warmth in my arm. I hope it will sort itself out completely.¹⁵ [30]

I believe I know the kind-hearted Italian,¹⁶ he is lodging with *Gatti*,¹⁷ therefore in that house¹⁸ or on one floor of it.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 1011/31 ff. One of a series of ailments described by Leopold in recent letters.

¹⁶ BD: The Italian musician “kindly” fulfilling Frau von Amann’s desires. Cf. No. 1011/110.

¹⁷ BD: Luigi Gatti (1740-1817), deputy director of music at the Reale Accademia in Mantua, later employed as second, then first, music director in Salzburg. Leopold was his deputy. Cf. No. 0686/61.

¹⁸ BD: Where Franziska von Amann lives.