

1013. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 22<sup>nd</sup> Xbris,<sup>2</sup>  
1786.

Little Leopold<sup>3</sup> is in good health and spirits!

I am very sorry that I cannot come out to you just when we have such a good sleigh path. [5] The Archbishop<sup>4</sup> has already arrived here, at a little after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon,<sup>5</sup> it would therefore make a very bad impression if some duty were required of me and I were not here, especially since *Brunetti*<sup>6</sup> is still alive and has festering pustules bursting one after the other; and if he should die, I know for certain that I will have to examine all the music he had in his keeping – if not alone, then certainly in *collaboration* with *Gatti*<sup>7</sup> etc. etc.; [10] nor can I know what will come up now following the Prince's<sup>8</sup> arrival. I have moreover not carried out any church duties for a long time now, and now they are coming in droves, and I am expected to steal away at such a moment and be fit enough to travel in this cold weather? – You know that I do not want to make a bad impression, [15] and do not want to do anything myself that would cause people to talk about me. I must furthermore make sure that Heinrich<sup>9</sup> carries out thoroughly the numerous church duties that are coming up, since he is the first violin, and there is a lack of people because Stadler<sup>10</sup> often has to take the sung Mass at the *university* at the moment and consequently there are no violinists available; and this is precisely the reason why Heinrich has to put all this work into church duties, [20] since the shortage makes it necessary.

Even before the Archbishop arrived back here, some of his entourage wrote saying that he will be travelling to Munich immediately after New Year. This story is still persisting, all the more so because the Archbishop told Countess von Wallis<sup>11</sup> that she should stay on in Vienna for 4 weeks, namely until his return from Munich. [25] And the Countess really has stayed on in Vienna. – The second probability is: – that the Emperor will simply pass the matter to the Elector with a recommendation in favour of the Archbishop, for the reasons I already mentioned to you both in my letter.<sup>12</sup> So the Archbishop is free to address himself to the Elector *personally* and to attempt to induce more favourable thoughts on the Elector's part, all under the protection and support of the Emperor<sup>13</sup> and with the assistance of the Imperial Ambassador. [30] Who knows, then, whether I may come out to you before Carnival after all, – now I must first of all wait to see what happens at court and I cannot be absent

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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> = “December”.

<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: 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>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1011/66.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Violinist in the court music; on his illness cf. 1012/25.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0686/61.

<sup>8</sup> = the Archbishop.

<sup>9</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>10</sup> BD: Mathias (Franz de Paula) Stadler (c. 1744-1827); after completing grammar school in Salzburg, he studied law was later employed as a tenor in the court music, took over Leopold's duties as a violin teacher one month after the latter's death in 1787. In 1767 he sang Oebalus in *Apollo et Hyacinthus* KV 38.

<sup>11</sup> “Gräfin”. BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1011/129.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

when the Prince arrives. I am surprised that you do not travel into town. If I were you, I would certainly keep out of the way of *Md.<sup>me</sup> von Amman*<sup>14</sup> during the feast-days: [35] you will be saddled with her enough, and her shamelessness will set the most disgraceful of examples for your whole household. Do the two of you believe it can be kept under a veil of secrecy? – – That is laughable! That clown of a woman will tell everyone herself. Nothing has been heard of it here yet! – But when she is away, – when the children are in other hands? – will no-one think about her? [40] All the servants in the Polis<sup>15</sup> household? – all the locals etc. etc. who will already know, – she herself will have given most of them cause to remember her. – It is quite true that I was the first to tell Frau *Zezi*,<sup>16</sup> and now it has already come out into the open; but I did not tell her that she was pregnant, but that she should keep a more watchful eye on her conduct, [45] otherwise she would soon find herself caught up in scandal; and from the point of view of calculating the time, I told her at just the right moment, for it must have been 6 months ago, – and she has been in her happy condition for fully 5 months now. – I prophesy that they will put her in a convent for safe keeping, and someone will have to take the children in for fostering, for she is a clown with a shameless taste for luxury.

[50] Along with this I am sending you 8 lb<sup>17</sup> of candles: I carefully worked out how to get hold of them, and Tresel<sup>18</sup> carried out my stratagem most adeptly.

|      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
|      | so – <u>8 lb candles</u> à 13 kreuzers . . . . .         | 1 f 44 kr |
|      | 4 lemons, the fine ones are à 2½ . . . . .               | –. 10 k   |
|      | in the meantime <u>¼ lb</u> cotton yarn until the other  |           |
| [55] | has been spun, so that you have something now . . .      | –. 8 k    |
|      | 1 lb <i>Cyprian</i> cotton, <u>which I have paid for</u> |           |
|      | and will be spun little by little . . . . .              | –. 54 k   |
|      |  | 2 f 56 k  |

This is coming by messenger, along with a box with saffron, which I am giving [60] you as a New Year present to give your backsides a yellow colour.

Now you are getting that damned box that caused me so much bitter gall.

|      |  |                  |
|------|--|------------------|
|      | The box cost . . . . .   | –. 17 k          |
|      | to the bookbinder for lining it . . . . .                        | –. 6 k           |
|      | to the carpenter for preparing it all . . . . .                  | –. 4 k           |
| [65] | to the blacksmith including 3 little keys . . . . .              | –. 48 k          |
|      | to the craftsman, along with many kind words,                    |                  |
|      | for covering it, for which he had to cut up an ell <sup>19</sup> |                  |
|      | of fine linen cloth . . . . .                                    | –. 55 k          |
|      |  | 2 f 10 kr        |
| [70] | the preceding. . . . .   | <u>2 . 56. ”</u> |
|      |  | 5 f –6. ”        |

Now the messenger<sup>20</sup> has already been, I must close and put it all in a package, he will already be leaving at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning. I kiss you both from the heart – greet the children and am eternally your sincere father

[75] Mozart mp<sup>21</sup>

Heinrich commends himself.

Leopoldl sends kisses to you both.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Involved in an affair with an Italian musician. Cf. No. 1011/102 ff.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Lorenz Joseph Polis, the father of Franziska von Amann.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

<sup>17</sup> = lb = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>19</sup> 1 ell [Munich] = 83.3 cm. (R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig <sup>2</sup>/1896.)

<sup>20</sup> BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

<sup>21</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

Nandl<sup>22</sup> and Tresel kiss your hands and I greet Lenerl.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>23</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.