

1015. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is well!

Salzb., 29th Xbr.,³
1786.

He, and all of us, wish all of you a happy and blessed New Year! and with that Amen!

[5] On holy Christmas Day, between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening, Herr *Brunetti*⁴ passed into eternity. The church service is in St. Peter's at 9 o'clock today. Heinrich,⁵ who has never seen anyone die in his life, was just on his way there at 4 o'clock after vespers and heard that a *doctor* and clergyman had been sent for, stayed there because *Dr. Barisani*⁶ said he will not hold on much longer, and then watched all, all of it with inquisitive attentiveness in the manner you are familiar with. His inquisitiveness was soon transformed into fearful reflection and mature pondering, and he came back home completely speechless and petrified, since this event had a greater effect than 10 sermons. This was a very sound lesson for him indeed! [15] and he said: My God! So it had to be Brunetti who was the first person I saw die. He looked better after his death than when alive, only thinner. He now no longer had the strength to bring up the matter from the festering pustules, which had issued from him in great quantities during this time, since the lungs were probably almost completely suppurated already, – so this was how he ended.

[20] Since I have been sending Heinrich to the Capellhaus⁷ in my place since that time, he was invited to eat again yesterday; – so I went along for his sake so that he did not stay too long into the evening or even start drinking. – You know that otherwise I am already back home at 11 o'clock, – but since they were performing a *cantata* |: the Schoolmaster⁸ |: [25] I did not want rob him of his fun. We went there at 6 o'clock, – and when we came back home after 12 o'clock we heard that in the meantime the glass-carrier woman had called and wanted to leave already in the morning again. That, of course, was very inconvenient! So I had to get out of bed again in the morning.

Here are the noodles. 18 kr per □⁹ – therefore: . . . 36 kreuzers
[30] the purchase of the music paper 48

1 f 24 kr

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 = “December”.

⁴ BD: Violinist in the court music; on his illness cf. Nos. 1012/25; 1013/7.

⁵ 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.

⁶ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

⁷ Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

⁸ BD: *Missa der Schulmeister* KV App. 236 (KV⁶: App. C 1. 15), a parody on the form of the Mass which has been ascribed to Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, Franz Xaver Bixi, Florian Gassmann, Franz Joseph Aumann, Leopold Mozart and W.A. Mozart. Cf. H.C. Robbins Landon, *Mozart fäschlich zugeschriebene Messen*. MJB 1957, p. 85 ff., here p. 91.

⁹ = lb. = one pound weight = approx. 0.5 kg.

I received no more than 2 *plays* from the Eberlins' Waberl,¹⁰ which I am sending you herewith. – I received the money. Nandl¹¹ and Tresel¹² send hand-kisses and thank you most obediently, – if there had been time, Nandl would have written. [35] I will obtain the money for Deissendorf¹³ and the fish for Munich myself.

It will hardly be conceivable for the trip to Munich to take place.¹⁴ Yes, in the present circumstances it is out of the question, since the Archbishop could not give any concerts at all without Heinrich. – Who is to *lead the orchestra*? – Pinzger¹⁵ or Stadler?¹⁶ [40] – –

The new *bass*¹⁷ is a man, and very good for the church, since he sings clearly, brightly and accurately.

I have not seen the umbrella, – I do not know whether the glass-carrier woman brought it, – nor does Tresel know anything about it, – I will hear about it when the woman comes. [45]

I have already been taking the sago for some days, and now I am eating fasting dishes for the first time again. I feel not at all bad, only my left arm and my left hand are always colder than the right. I hope it will improve little by little.

[50] Heinrich commends himself, I kiss both of you from the heart, repeat my sincere good wishes, greet the children and am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp¹⁸

Now the 3rd part |: *act* :| of the *opera*¹⁹ has finally reached Munich in the last few days. [55] – that was a confusion! – – The Marchands²⁰ include *compliments* to both of you in all their letters. I wish Lenerl²¹ all the best for the New Year too and an upright husband as well.

¹⁰ BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762). Concerning the books cf. No. 1011/135 ff.

¹¹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

¹² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹³ BD: For Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1749-1809), one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law. A regional administrative official in Teisendorf.

¹⁴ BD: Leopold managed to travel to Munich again in carnival, 1787.

¹⁵ BD: Andrä Pinsker (c.1742-1817), violinist in the court music, concert violinist and dance composer.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ BD: Matthias Joseph Šidra; Cf. Nos. 1010/40, 42; 1012/4.

¹⁸ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁹ BD: *Castor e Polluce* by Georg Joseph Vogler; cf. Nos. 0994/13; 1002/61-63.

²⁰ BD: The family of Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

²¹ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.