

1020. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen

Little Leopold² is well!

Salzb., 12th January [1787]

My thanks to you both for the hare. I was only able to give the glass-carrier woman³ the cloth and some cotton to take with her, for which I paid 8 kreuzers. [5] The endless reminders about the socks! The socks for both Wolfg. and Nannerl⁴ were bought at the same time, and negotiated and paid for in the Magister's⁵ house. I certainly could not, of course, run around the shops with a pair of the boy's socks in a bag |: as a pattern |:; – and at the Magister's they certainly negotiate a better price than I can. By the way, I did not find the Magister at home when I went there in connection with this. [10] I cannot go over there constantly. On Monday, Wednesday, Friday I go to Countess *Lodron* at 10 o'clock, to the *Comtesse*⁶ at 11 o'clock,⁷ to the Kapellhaus⁸ at 12 o'clock, to the Weisers⁹ at 2 o'clock, and from there to the Hagenauers,¹⁰ then back home, take my sago¹¹ – followed by the theatre.¹² On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday I go to the *Comtesse* at 10 o'clock, to the *Comtesse* at 11 o'clock. [15] After 1 o'clock Sepperl¹³ comes, after 2 o'clock I go to the Weisers. I have to steal the time to write a letter to Munich, Vienna or anywhere else.

Your brother will now be in Prague with his wife, for he wrote to me last Monday¹⁴ saying he would be leaving for that town. His opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*¹⁵ has been performed to such great applause there [20] that the *orchestra* and a group of very knowledgeable music-lovers sent him an invitation, and sent him a poem¹⁶ written about him. I have it from your brother and Count Starhemberg¹⁷ has it from Prague. I will send it to you next messenger day.¹⁸ *Md.^{me}*

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 "gläserträgerin" ["glass-carrier woman"] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

⁴ BD: Two of Nannerl's step-children.

⁵ Magister ≈ Master of Arts. BD: Magister Abele, proprietor of the private boarding school attended by Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang.

⁶ "Comtesse" generally refers to an unmarried countess. Leopold's pupil Aloisia, Countess [Komtesse] Lodron, cf. No. 1017/12.

⁷ BD: Here Leopold, aged 67, embarks on a description of his keyboard teaching activities around Salzburg. Cf. No. 1016/11 ff. and No. 0429/48 ff.!

⁸ Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

⁹ BD: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and business magnate. His daughter Maria Anna ("Nannerl", * 1767) was his pupil.

¹⁰ BD: Johannes Nepomuk Anton Hagenauer (1741-1799), eldest son of merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer. His three daughters received teaching from Leopold.

¹¹ BD: taken by Leopold as a household remedy.

¹² BD: To see a German translation of Beaumarchais' *Marriage de Figaro*.

¹³ BD: Joseph Wölf(f)l (1773-1812), a pupil at the cathedral music school (Kapellhaus) 1783-1786, son of Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] close to Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: 8th January, 1787.

¹⁵ BD: Since 12th December, 1786, performed by Pasquale Bondini's theatre troupe, conducted by music director Johann Joseph Strobach.

¹⁶ BD: By Anton Daniel Breicha, physician, active on the stage as an amateur. Text in Deutsch Dok pp. 184-185.

¹⁷ BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1748-1819), cathedral canon, one of the twin brothers Graf Starhemberg.

*Duscheck*¹⁹ is going to *Berlin*, and the talk about your brother's journey to England²⁰ is indeed still being confirmed from Vienna, from Prague and from Munich. [25]

The Marchands²¹ commend themselves, – the fish arrived here in good condition; he will write to you both himself.

I did not set eye on *Vicarius Prex*.²² [30] So he lied in the priestly manner. [30] *Laudon*²³ did not go to Gmünd²⁴ with Count *Lodron*: so yet another lie! – the Royal Marshall²⁵ has not received the last sacraments: – so yet another lie! etc. etc.

The esteemed Cathedral Dean²⁶ and the 3 bishops²⁷ held a social gathering in the absence of the Prince²⁸ and his entourage. After hearing that the Archbishop²⁹ also wished to attend the gatherings, [35] they held the gatherings at court on Sundays, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays in rotation in the homes of the 4 persons mentioned, and this arrangement is preferred by the entire *nobility* as providing pleasant change. There is theatre on the other days.

The brother of the violinist *Strinasachi*³⁰ is here, [40] he played a *concerto* at Epiphany.³¹ He plays beautifully and cleanly, but as quiet as a nun. His sister's playing is infinitely better. He has moreover a very weak sense of tempo; yet since he is only 23 years old, I hear he will be taken on in the hope that, as with *Brunetti*³² and others, he can be rounded off and improved here. I will keep you informed about the rest as it happens and also of other circumstances which I do not have time to write down so quickly here at the moment.

Herr Preyman³³ has hopes that he may perhaps be taken on too, at least we are all trying to bring it about.

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 BD: Josepha (1753-1824), singer and wife of Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

²⁰ BD: Planning seems to have started in 1785, possibly instigated by Attwood, Storace and O'Kelly. (Cf. No. 1036/84 ff.) The plan included leaving his two children with Leopold, cf. No. 1002/11 ff. Mozart took English lessons during this time from the teacher Johann Georg Kronauer.

²¹ 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.

²² BD: Vicar, a parish priest. Probably a relative of the physician Dr. Johann Prex mentioned several times in the letters. He had obviously called on Nannerl in St. Gilgen and told the "lies" referred to by Leopold.

²³ BD: The "Portuguese" Laudon; expelled from Salzburg in March, 1787. (Cf. No. 1038/73 ff.)

²⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1017/11.

²⁵ "Hofmarchal".

²⁶ "H: Domdechant". BD: Sigmund Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Cathedral Dean [Domdechant] in Salzburg, nephew of Mozart's supporter Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786).

²⁷ Of Chiemsee, Gurk and Lavant; all were cathedral canons in Salzburg.

²⁸ "des Fürsten". BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] 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.

²⁹ = "the Prince".

³⁰ BD: Regina Strinasacchi (1764-1823). Mozart wrote KV 454 for her; they performed together in her concert on the 29th April, 1784. Her brother was engaged as a violinist for two years in Salzburg, cf. No. 1026/14-15. Strangely, there is no mention of him in the Salzburg Hofkalenders for 1788 and 1789.

³¹ "Holy 3 Kings' Day": 6th January.

³² BD: Violinist in the court music, recently deceased.

³³ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not offered employment in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Fürst Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

Herr Marchand³⁴ sent me the printed article on the *concert* given by a musical Hans North³⁵ in the theatre in Munich. [50] Heinrich³⁶ has copied it out so that the two of you can keep it in eternal remembrance. The theatre was crushingly full to the point of bursting, and the audience had been made fools of, since, despite the printed leaflet and all their powers of imagination, no-one knew what was going on. The people laughed, – and some cursed over their money!

I am now writing this before going to bed. – [55] Since the *melodrama Ariadne auf Naxos*³⁷ was so badly performed by the *orchestra*, the Archbishop gave Felder³⁸ permission for Heinrich to *lead the orchestra* for *Medea*.³⁹ – And it really did work: the music in the proper true tempo and fire, then with every forte and the finest piano outstandingly together.

Today, to my consternation, I heard the name of Amand's widow⁴⁰ mentioned in my presence for the first time, [60] and spoke about her for the first time when a court councillor said to me confidentially, in the theatre, that he is quite amazed that my esteemed son-in-law⁴¹ allowed Amand's widow to travel into town, since the drift of the Court Council's instructions was to keep a watchful eye on her and not to allow her to leave Strobl without previously notifying the *commission* or |: whatever it is :| the Court Council. I got the impression that they would penalise her, for, as I gathered, she immediately sent for Frau Zezi,⁴² saying that they should bring her boy and a daughter out to her, – she wanted to go over to Count Wolfegg's,⁴³ – ask him for *protection* and God knows what kind of circuitous matters and buffoonery. [70] I hope that you will get her out of the snare, for she is recognised to be truly foolish on the basis of her shameless actions and speech, and they will do everything, I hear, to save the children from being led astray.

Now take care of your health, it is past 11 o'clock, I must undress and go to bed, I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere
father Mozart mp⁴⁴

Heinrich and Herr von D'ypold⁴⁵ commend themselves. Leopoldl is healthy and bright, and can stand up himself if he has something to hold onto. I assure you both, you would laugh if you saw him; [80] if he does not want to go to bed at night, I tell him that I am going to lie in his bed, and set off; – then he rushes and pushes me away, and then, when he is lying down, he laughs for joy that he has got the better of me.

It has been astonishingly cold here, especially today, my hands have not been warm all day. Nandl⁴⁶ and Tresel⁴⁷ kiss your hands, [85] and I send greetings to Lenerl.⁴⁸

³⁴ BD: The Munich theatre director mentioned above.

³⁵ BD VI, p. 329 suggests correcting to "Hans Narr" ["Hans the Fool"], the name Leporello gives himself in the introduction to the first act of *Don Giovanni* in the translation supposedly by Mozart himself.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ BD: The duodrama by Georg Benda, text by Johann Christian Brandes.

³⁸ BD: Theatre director Franz Xaver Felder, cf. No. 0980/19.

³⁹ BD: *Jason und Medea*, melodrama in 1 act by Friedrich Wilhelm Gotter with music by Georg Benda.

⁴⁰ "Amandin". BD: Maria Franziska von Amann, née Polis von Moulin, widow of Franz Anton von Amann, who died on 18th January, 1785, followed by his son on 28th March, 1785, leaving five children. She became pregnant in Strobl in 1786 by the "kindhearted" Petrazani, cf. Nos. 0968/54; 1011/102 ff.

⁴¹ BD: Nannerl's husband, Johann Baptist von Berchtold, administrator in St. Gilgen.

⁴² BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

⁴³ "Gr: Wolfegg". BD: Anton Willibald, Graf von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Waldsee (1729-1821), hereditary Imperial Seneschal [Reichs Rechtserbttruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg in 1762, Knight of the Order of St George, allegedly provincial director of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge "Apollo" under the name Prunelius.

⁴⁴ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁴⁵ 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.

⁴⁶ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

The hunchbacked, bow-necked, wretched Countess Thun, the spinster,⁴⁹ has died.

⁴⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴⁸ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

⁴⁹ “gr: Thun Freu.”. BD: Probably Josepha, Comtesse [Komtesse] Thun, born in 1747.