

1023. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 18<sup>th</sup> January,  
1787

Little Leopold<sup>2</sup> is well.

But my handwriting will be bad, or at least slow, [5] because at the moment I have a little swelling and pain precisely in the right-hand wrist, am consequently writing with a glove on my hand. – Just now, as I was writing this out in advance because the messenger<sup>3</sup> is coming tomorrow, but I have my plague day,<sup>4</sup> I did not go to Weiser's<sup>5</sup> today and therefore have a little time, – just now, at 3 o'clock, the glass-carrier woman<sup>6</sup> came, bringing the little box and the umbrella, [10] and wants to leave again in an hour taking the stockfish, which Tresel<sup>7</sup> has to buy, so as to get it to you tomorrow. – Tresel has already gone out to see if she can still get soaked stockfish, then candles<sup>8</sup> too, since there are now certain days when candles are sold, so I do not know if she will get anything, – and in such a hurry. [15] She will buy 4 lemons since one cannot get them under 3 kreuzers.

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At the first *ball*<sup>9</sup> there were 116 persons, since the Archbishop took *supper* there, distributed 30 *tickets* and allowed the Noble Boys<sup>10</sup> etc. to come in. – I will let Heinrich<sup>11</sup> go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ones, and have arranged for his father to send him his Venetian cloak and pointed *bayoutte* from Munich; [20] I also had a white Atlas *waistcoat* with gold Atlas trimming made into a red frockcoat for him, which his father gave him for New Year.

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*Strinasachi*<sup>12</sup> wanted to return to Munich last Monday with the *ordinari*,<sup>13</sup> asked for a letter which he wanted to collect. – Evening came and he did not call. Unexpectedly, Preyman<sup>14</sup> came and said that *Strina*. is not leaving, [25] but is staying on for 32 florins *per month*, while he had previously always insisted on 500 florins.<sup>15</sup> – Now we know that he has been taken on for 3 years.<sup>16</sup> He can improve greatly in 3 years.

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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> 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: 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.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Leopold's day of intense teaching, cf. Nos. 1020/10 ff., 1028/5.

<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). Today Leopold did not go to teach his daughter.

<sup>6</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>7</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>8</sup> BD: As in recent months, candles continue to be rationed.

<sup>9</sup> BD: The regular balls held in the town hall during Carnival and often attended by the Archbishop.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Sons of the nobility receiving training as pages in Salzburg.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Brother of the Regina Strinasacchi (1764-1823); 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.

<sup>13</sup> BD: With the regular post-coach.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not offered permanent employment in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Fürst Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

<sup>15</sup> BD: The 500 florins represent an annual salary.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Corrected to 2 years in No. 1026/14.

We shall wait and see who leads the theatre orchestra on Sunday, since so far nothing was put on except 2 *quartets* playing in alternation.

[30] Tresel has just come back, so this is what I have packed for you:

3 □<sup>17</sup> stockfish à 9 kreuzers . . . . . –. 27 kr.

4 □ candles, all mixed, as we could get them  
à 14 kr. . . . . –. 56

6 lemons à 2 kr. ½ . . . . . –. 15

[35] 1 fl 38 kr.

The rest from the  
cotton spinner;

I have paid her in

two instalments again . . . . . –. 16 kr.

[40] 1 fl 54 kr.

That is what I am sending you.

Now it is a quarter past 4, – now the glass-carrier woman can come! I have finished. At 5 o'clock I am going to Herr Hefter's,<sup>18</sup> where we will see the amateur *theatricals* for the second time after seeing them two days ago. [45] The main *actrice*: the Weisers' Nannerl;<sup>19</sup> main *acteur*: Herr Zezi,<sup>20</sup> brother of the *Zezi's* Waberl, who delivered an excellent epilogue. Then the rest, one of the Schepfer<sup>21</sup> daughters; Hueber, who is house tutor at the Hefters. The elder Kerschbaumer son,<sup>22</sup> the Hefters' boy, and a merchant's servant. They do it very well indeed, for people who have had no training, and it is a joy to see how young people, [50] including some from the citizenry, are now applying themselves and finding pleasure in a sensible and useful entertainment.

Now may you enjoy good health, I kiss both of you from the heart, greet the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>23</sup>

[55] I will send whatever else occurs to me and which I still have time to put on paper with the messenger.

– There is something I must tell you which will not be pleasant to my esteemed son,<sup>24</sup> since I know how he sometimes really immerses himself too deeply in the spirit of *economy*. But, dear God! 12 florins per year more or less<sup>25</sup> – as long as one is healthy and one's bowels are moving regularly! *Addio!*

[60] Heinrich commends himself.

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

<sup>18</sup> BD: Johann Ignaz Valentin Heffter (1739-1818), Salzburg merchant and later mayor of the town.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Probably Maria Anna, daughter of the Weiser mentioned above.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Joseph Anton Zezi (1768-1798).

<sup>21</sup> BD: A daughter of the merchant Johann Baptist Schöpfer from Klarenbrunn († 1782).

<sup>22</sup> BD: The merchant Kerschbaum had a house on the Marktplatz. Leopold and Wolfgang met one of these sons in Verona on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1771 and Milan in October, 1771. Mozart called him "The Moorish King" in No. 0644/20.

<sup>23</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Raised costs at the school attended by Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang.