

1025. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is in good health and spirits!

Salzb., 19th January,
1787

Since today was my plague day,³ it is only now, at quarter past 10 after the evening meal, that I have been able to start writing. The sad news that I have to pass on to my esteemed son⁴ is that the esteemed Magister⁵ cannot possibly continue to subsist because of the increased prices of all foodstuffs across the whole range, and has to request 15 kreuzers per week more from all the boys, but only until the price of victuals falls a little again, since, as is well-known, [10] not only bread, but absolutely everything – everything is at a high price and furthermore difficult to obtain. – Yes, we have to wait and see whether beef may not reach 7 kr. tomorrow. We have now had such a long very cold time, mist and penetrating winds, that the windows often did not become free of ice the whole day, consequently one might become poor from buying wood.

Here I enclose the *sonnet* written in honour of my son.⁶ I would ask you to return it sometime. – I have already written to him in Prague and *addressed* the letter to Herr Duscheck.⁷

The *play* today was veracious – and good!

[20] Heinrich⁸ commends himself to both of you as does the *Marchand* family and Herr *Becke*⁹ of Munich, who has written to me and invited me there, in the name of Count *Taufkürchen*,¹⁰ – of Countess von Seeau,¹¹ and a host of friends. – Only my health is not yet as I wish. – I cherish hopes that the warmer weather will be more to my benefit. [25] The *opera*¹² will hardly go on *stage* before the 29th. – Perhaps on the 22nd too. – I kiss both of you from the heart, greet the children, and am as ever your sincere father

Mozart mp¹³

Herr Sfer of Munich has died.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: Cf. No. 1023/7; Leopold’s intensive day of teaching.

⁴ Leopold’s customary form of address for his son-in-law. BD: But here the details are a little different from those in No. 1023/56 ff.

⁵ BD: Magister Abele, in charge of the school attended by Nannerl’s stepson Wolfgang.

⁶ BD: A copy written by Leopold of the encomium dedicated to Wolfgang Anton Daniel Breicha. s

⁷ BD: Franz Xaver Duscek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

⁸ 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.

⁹ BD: Johann Baptist Becké, flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there.

¹⁰ “Graf”. BD: Probably Hans Wolf, Baron [Freiherr] von Tauffkirchen, Electoral Bavarian Chamberlain [kurbayrischer Kämmerer], Court Counsellor [Hofrat] and chief administrator [Pfleger] in Schärding.

¹¹ “Gräfin” BD: Wife of the supervisor of music and spectacles in Munich, Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau (cf. note on No. 0300/11).

¹² BD: *Castore e Polluce* by (Abbé) Georg Joseph Vogler. It had already been performed on 12th January, 1787.

¹³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁴ BD: Mozart had made his acquaintance in Munich in September, 1777 (cf. No. 0333/12).

[30] The esteemed *engineer* First Lieutenant *Gilowsky*¹⁵ is here, commends himself, and hopes to see you both here. Little Leopoldl sends you both a million kisses. Nandl¹⁶ and Tresel¹⁷ kiss your hands, and I greet Lenerl.¹⁸

¹⁵ “Oberlieut.”. BD: Johann Nepomuk Gilowsky von Urazowa, son of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court surgeon, and brother of the “Katherl” frequently mentioned in the letters.

¹⁶ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

¹⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹⁸ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.