

1034. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

To the Praiseworthy Administrative Court of the High Prince of Salzburg in
Hüttenstein, St. Gilgen²

Salzb., 24th Feb.
1787.

Yesterday evening, the 23rd,³ it was already gone 6 o'clock when we arrived back safely, since the road, especially leaving Munich,⁴ was so broken and bad that we did not reach Obing⁵ until 9 o'clock. [5] Here⁶ I found no rooms heated except the children's room, since no fire had been lit in my heating oven for the whole time we were away; Tresel⁷ should at least have warmed the rooms on Thursday⁸ and yesterday as a precaution, since both servants knew that we could not stay away longer because there were so many conditions attached to our leave, [10] and the Archbishop⁹ sent a message here on the Saturday afternoon¹⁰ asking us to include the new *violinist*¹¹ in the music in the evening because he had the wonderful idea that on Sunday I would let myself be tortured and broken the whole night through in the post-coach to Munich.

The new violinist has probably already been taken on because he played at the Divine Office in the *cathedral* on Sunday,¹² [15] as Herr von *D'Yppold* told Nandl.¹³ I have forgotten his name because it is a strange name.¹⁴ We shall have to wait and see where it goes from here.

All the Marchands,¹⁵ Brochards,¹⁶ Langs,¹⁷ *Tavernier*,¹⁸ Frau von Durst,¹⁹ *Dufraisne*²⁰ etc. etc. commend themselves, [20] and they all believe and hope that they will see you both in Munich. I have been at neither a *ball* nor a *concert*. I saw the *opera* twice because it was also

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 Address from DME: *An das Löbl: Hochfürstl: Salzburgerische Pfliegericht Hüttenstein St: Gilgen*

³ Friday.

⁴ BD: Leopold had left for Munich with Heinrich Marchand (cf. line 25) on 10th February to hear the opera; cf. recent letters on obtaining permission..

⁵ BD: A post-stage near Wasserburg am Inn.

⁶ BD: In the apartment in the Tanzmeisterhaus ("Dancing-master's house") in Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁸ BD: Thursday, 22nd February, 1787.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Presumably on the 10th February, but Leopold had already left for Munich, cf. No. 1033/4.

¹¹ BD: Vanschenz, engaged for one year. Cf. No. 1032/6 and line 14.

¹² BD: 18th February, 1787.

¹³ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

¹⁴ BD: Probably Vanschenz, later music director with Schikaneder's troupe in Regensburg.

¹⁵ BD: 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.

¹⁶ BD: Georg Paul Brochard, actor, brother of Theobald Marchand's wife, father of Maria Johanna Brochard (*1775), who was from 1783 the third boarder learning in the Mozarts' home in Salzburg.

¹⁷ BD: Martin Lang, hunting horn player, known to Mozart from Mannheim; moved to Munich with the Mannheim court.

¹⁸ BD: Probably the couple with whom the "Bäsele", Mozart's cousin from Augsburg, stayed in Munich. It was they who informed Leopold about the story of the "Bäsele"]

¹⁹ BD: It was with Frau von Durst that Nannerl stayed in Munich in January, 1775, for the première of *Idomeneo*.

²⁰ BD: Court Councillor [Hofrat] Franz Dufraisne, who was also involved in organising Nannerl's accommodation on her trip to Munich.

given on Shrove Monday. I likewise went to the German Theatre only twice. Once to hear the Barber of Seville with the excellent music by *Paesiello*,²¹ – and on Shrove Sunday, when The Political Tin-Caster²² was performed. [25] Heinrich,²³ who commends himself, only went to a *ball* once during that week, and since Gredl²⁴ wanted to save herself for the *opera*, she did not go until the Monday after the *opera*, along with her father and mother, Heinrich stayed at home. On Tuesday, when it only lasts until 12 o'clock, they all went at 8 o'clock. But Gredl was already back home with her parents at half past 10 because she had a headache. [30] I was still up and reading in *Baron Trenck's*²⁵ excellent account of his life, published by himself.

You always want me to write saying I am in perfect health. You do not consider the difference between an old and a young man. I do not have time to write much, [45] suffice it to say there can be no more talk of perfect health in an old man, since there is always something wrong, and an old man wanes, just as youth waxes. In short! One must patch oneself up as long as one can patch. At the moment there is good reason to place firm hopes on the gradual approach of better and warmer weather. By the way, you will find I am very lean, as is quite natural, [40] which is however in the main of no consequence. Now *addio!* Be free of cares! I kiss both of you from the heart, greet the children and am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp²⁶

Leopold²⁷ is *charming!*

I found him fresh and healthy, and since there was no light in the room when I came, he grabbed me all over my face because he recognised my voice. [45]

²¹ BD: Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816). In Munich the opera was in a German translation. He met Mozart in Naples in 1770.

²² BD: *Der politische Kannengiesser*, comedy in one act after Ludwig Holberg by George August Detharding (Frankfurt, 1754)

²³ 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.

²⁴ "Gretl" or "Gredl": Maria Margarethe, Heinrich's brother. Like Heinrich, she too had been a boarding pupil with Leopold. She composed, played keyboard and sang. Currently singing in Munich.

²⁵ "B: Trenck". BD: Friedrich, Baron [Freiherr] von der Trenck (1726-1794), an officer under Frederick the Great, accused of having a love affair with the king's sister Amalie, imprisoned in the fortress at Glatz in 1745, probably because of suspicions of treason. After escaping in 1746, he lived as an adventurer until he was executed on the orders of Robespierre in 1794. The story of his life appeared in three volumes in 1787.

²⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁷ 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.