

1040. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

[Salzburg,] 13th March,
1787

Little Leopold² is well!

He kisses your hands for the socks, they are just right for him, not too long, not too short etc. etc. [5] – Take note! Anything you intend the glass-carrier woman³ to bring out to you must certainly be lying out ready to be taken or be obtainable within an hour at the most.

If you want to have the large salt-stick,⁴ you must send in a large, strong white bag or a large, strong cloth for it. – [10] Everyone is complaining that it has a tendency to fall apart, but we have received quite a good stick.

Now I kiss you both and am as always your

Mzt mp⁵

I would never send the dress with the glass-carrier woman. [15] The messenger must assume the responsibility for this and can protect it better, his carrying-frame is thoroughly well covered. God knows what kinds of yeast, smeary contraptions and twaddle the glass-carrier woman packs next to each other wherever she puts it down, stops etc. etc.

Tomorrow the music will not be in the town hall, but in the theatre, where the *orchestra* once again appears in a large and broad array as in *opera*. [20] One of the reasons was because the gentlemen and ladies of the lesser nobility, who also play cards in the room, chattered so much at their games during the singing and during the *concerto* by Preymal⁶ that the Archbishop⁷ had to look behind him twice and say sh, sh, sh. The first rehearsal⁸ was yesterday; at this moment there is a rehearsal at 9 o'clock in the morning, and in the afternoon will be a rehearsal. [25] But unfortunately! not much will come of it apart from noise with *violins* and *instruments* in the manner we had already imagined. *Ceccarelli*⁹ is *Perseus* and has a couple of miserable *arias*, so nothing for a principal character to sing, since it seems to have been written for a chapel choir-boy. One does not understand a single word sung by Haydn's wife.¹⁰ In theatre music Haydn has no *genius*.

[30] Weegscheider's¹¹ little shirt follows the pattern of the *Lizow*¹² children's shirts, – only the neck ruffs could now be a little broader.

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

⁴ BD: State employees could receive salt in the form of long-drawn-out cones as part of their emoluments.

⁵ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁶ 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.

⁷ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Leopold's employer.

⁸ BD: For *Andromeda e Perseo* by Michael Haydn (1737-1806), court organist in Salzburg.

⁹ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

¹⁰ BD: Maria Magdalena Haydn, née Lipp.

¹¹ BD: Either the apprentice city wait Johann Nepomuk Wegschneider, later to become court trumpeter in 1791, or the merchant Wegschneider.

¹² BD: Johann Gottfried, [Graf] Lützwow, commandant of the fortress in Salzburg, vice-president of the Council of War. Mozart wrote the clavier concerto KV 246 for his wife, a pupil of Leopold's, in 1776. Cf. No. 0319/37, 39.