

Salzb., 7<sup>th</sup> Decemb., 1785Little Leopold<sup>2</sup> is well, praise God!

Yesterday I went to the *play*, for which they do not in fact have the right people. I only wanted to see the piece because I had never seen it before, [5] and it is known as a good piece. Now the Abduction has suddenly been announced for Friday, and indeed with your brother's music. There was no-one who did not say that it will be performed miserably, and that it is impossible for these people to perform it after Schmid's<sup>3</sup> performance without making themselves ridiculous. – [10] We shall see, – and I will write to you about it.

On Sunday a *violoncellist*<sup>4</sup> – and a *female violinist*<sup>5</sup> played at court, and today there will be a *concert* at the town hall. I too will sacrifice my 24 kreuzers,<sup>6</sup> – and then inform you about it. They tell me she plays a *beautiful Adagio*: otherwise her tempo is apparently very inaccurate.

[15] I don't know, have I already written saying that the 2 Freysauf's<sup>7</sup> in the Judengasse<sup>8</sup> are left high and dry? – – they do not have a single person left in their office. Herr Atzwanger,<sup>9</sup> who was always so attentive to the so-called beautiful Freysauf woman, has demands of 9000 florins, for which, however, the entire wealth of the Freysaufs was pledged in writing when he advanced it; – [20] Then, as I know for certain, Herr Weiser<sup>10</sup> has demands of 200 florins, – the Robinis<sup>11</sup> of 4000 florins, and a foreign merchant a respectable sum, and not one of them has hopes of getting even a kreuzer; I do not know who else might still have demands. Now both of them are trying for positions at court, or to enter service otherwise. They have without doubt already put aside a significant amount of money, [25] as the *bankrupt* tend to do: now some of our fine economical merchants recognise this themselves. How does it look as far as the conscience is concerned? – Gluttony, drunkenness, gambling, keeping parasitic persons etc. etc. and then cheat other, honest people, defraud them etc. etc. – what will the archbishop say? – – Hardly had I written this, but the *aviso*<sup>12</sup> note arrived about the *concert*. [30] I was glad. Went there, and had a truly pleasant evening from 6 to 9 o'clock. The Archbishop invited people to the town hall, and the air-gun *company*<sup>13</sup> paid out something from its *cashbox*, so everything that lives and breathes in the way of gracious dames and daughters came to the *concert*. I am sorry that you did not hear this not very big, pleasing, roughly 23-

<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: Karl Ludwig Schmidt (c. 1740-1814), the principal actor of a previous visiting troupe. See No. 0809/14. mentioned above. Freemason.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Johann Konrad Schlick (1759-1825), violoncellist in Gotha.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Regina Strinasacchi (1764-1823), wife of Schlick.

<sup>6</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The brothers Anton and Franz Freysauf, merchants in Salzburg.

<sup>8</sup> = "Jews' Lane".

<sup>9</sup> BD: Salzburg city councillor, tax collector general, representative in the parliament of the states.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and commercial 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).

<sup>11</sup> BD: The family of Georg Sigismund/Siegmund Robinig von Rottenfeld (1760-1823), son of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

<sup>12</sup> "notification".

<sup>13</sup> BD: The shooting of airguns at humorously decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for all food and drinks consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5. The Mozarts were all active members.

year-old, not ugly, very adept woman. [35] She does not play a single note without feeling, even in the *symphony* she plays everything with *expression*, and no-one can play an *Adagio* with more feeling and more touchingly than she does; her whole heart and soul are with the melody she is playing; and her tone, and also the strength of the tone, are just as beautiful. [40] Quite generally, I find that a woman who has talent plays with more expression than a man. *N.B.* She is the same *Strinasachi* at whose *concert* in Vienna your brother not only played a *concerto*,<sup>14</sup> but also *composed* a *Duetto* with *cembalo e violino*<sup>15</sup> for her for precisely this *concert*, and in fact the same one that *Torricello*<sup>16</sup> has engraved and is your husband's *favourite*. [45] In the meantime, when I was in Vienna, she was back home again in Mantua,<sup>17</sup> – Herr *Schlick* is an outstanding violoncellist, who also *composes*, in service in *Saxony-Gotha*. He made her his wife a few months ago, and now they are travelling home via Regensburg.<sup>18</sup> He will be about 30 years old, a large, pleasing, noble man. Now you can both easily imagine what happened. – [50] they heard my name, and then we became acquainted immediately; we spoke about *Baron Grimm*,<sup>19</sup> – about *Benda*, *Wieland*, *Schweitzer*<sup>20</sup> etc. etc.

### The evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

After the meal today, the esteemed administrator of Strobl<sup>21</sup> came and brought me the wild game, for which I thank you both most heartily. I took him up to see Leopoldl, [55] who now has a suppurating ear, as I had, and nevertheless was very friendly towards him, he will tell you the rest himself. I could not write a letter for him nor give him anything to take, because Preyman<sup>22</sup> was of course waiting with 2 others to rehearse the 6 *quartets*,<sup>23</sup> since I cannot always get the people. I will certainly speak to the Hubers' Nannerl.<sup>24</sup>

### [60] 10 o'clock in the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>:

Today I was in the theatre from 8 in the morning until 12 o'clock and the only rehearsal<sup>25</sup> there has been, then went to the Capellhaus.<sup>26</sup> After the meal I immediately went to the theatre to arrange the *orchestra* area completely differently, – then at home looked through the *violoncello part*, [65] where there were many errors, and *Ferrari*<sup>27</sup> came to look

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Probably KV 453.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Mozart wrote KV 454 for her; they performed it together in her concert on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1784.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Christoph Torricella, publisher.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Her birthplace.

<sup>18</sup> = Regensburg.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Graf Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader and then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of a minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Georg Benda (1722-1795), composer; Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1795), author; Anton Schweitzer (1735-1787), composer.

<sup>21</sup> BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold, younger brother of Leopold's son-in-law. He was in charge of a warehouse for iron goods in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not employed in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Fürst Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Dedicated to Haydn; had just reached Salzburg, cf. No. 0906/10.

<sup>24</sup> BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

<sup>25</sup> BD: For *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

<sup>26</sup> Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Antonio Ferrari, cellist and violinist at the cathedral.

through it, for he was playing the *violoncello*, and Kassl<sup>28</sup> the flutes. Then I went to the *opera*, and can assure you that, contrary to all the audience's expectations, it was performed very well; yes, in certain pieces, one or other of them, even better than with Schmid. E.g. Poyssel plays *Osmín* more naturally than *Brandl*, – [70] does not have such a beautiful bass voice, but a deeper, strong one, accordingly could sing everything in the low register as it is written, an excellent actor! – the Peyerl woman's singing is much less forced and not so learnéd and anxious as with the great Kalmes;<sup>29</sup> she has a beautiful voice, a light throat, a high range, good *intonation*, and sang the *aria* with the *obbligato* instruments, Martern aller Arten etc., complete, [75] including the subsequently *composed cadenza* with all instruments, even trumpets and timpani, while the same was omitted by Schmid and was only half sung. The tenor Mayer, as *Bellmonte*, sang and acted incomparably, to the astonishment of myself and everyone, and *moderated* his voice in every way. In short! Costumes and presentation were good, and it was well received. [80] When the *Sultan* came in the ship, – 2 ships actually came, in the first were the *guards* and servants, and then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and more magnificent ship the woman and only the *Sultan* with them etc. etc.

This afternoon the woman came with the letter, and the messenger with the smoked fish too. I thank you once again – [85] and I am writing to you about the pillules to tell you that it was an error on the apothecary's part, he made them too big. Take 5 in the morning and 5 in the evening and the same 2 days in a row. Then miss them out for one or 2 days, depending what seems good to you, – then take it for a 2 days in a row again, then the 40 pills are gone. These are Becker's pills without *aloe* for cleansing the uterus. Good night!

[90] the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>

A lot to reply to, and what I might still have to write about must be saved for another time. The son of the landlord of the Traube<sup>30</sup> has died. His younger son has a good salary with a *broker* or a *banker* in Vienna, and will probably not take over the inn when the time comes; – [95] I thought that you would want the written sheets and the marbles too.<sup>31</sup> But since a few marble numbers are missing, I must first have these made up and will send them soon. Along with this I am sending you some saffron. And if the woman<sup>32</sup> calls I will give her the shoes, the little bag and the serviettes.

Little Leopoldl has a slight rash on the right side of his face, [100] and his ear is swollen, and acid is oozing out of it in quantities; but he is quite cheerful at the same time, it is a biting and sharp substance and it is good if it comes out; children always go through such sagas when they are growing, otherwise he is as good-humoured as ever as long as it is not smarting or painful.

[105] I still have not had a letter from Schmid.<sup>33</sup> Since it is quite obvious that the cold and damp is harmful to the *fortepiano*, one must simply keep it nearer to the heat. What I understand under your statement that it is rattling is nothing other than that the hammers are not falling back. There, of course, it is Herr Schmid who must help you and create more space between the jacks, [110] which is however very tricky and can easily lead to disaster. It is nothing more than that the freely moving jacks are swollen and, since it is not permissible for

<sup>28</sup> BD: Joseph Thomas Cassel, violinist and double-bass player in the court music.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Franziska Kallmes, one of the two singing daughters of the theatre director Franz Kallmes. Franz was a Freemason.

<sup>30</sup> BD: "Zur Traube" ["The Grape"], still extant in the Linzergasse.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Materials for a children's Lotto game.

<sup>32</sup> 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>33</sup> BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to "old" Egedacher; he had previously learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg.

them to have much space anyway, their movement is hindered by the least swelling and the hammer therefore cannot not fall back. Herr Egedacher is still in Radstatt.<sup>34</sup>

[115] Now I kiss you both from the heart, – send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>35</sup>

Nandl<sup>36</sup> and Tresel<sup>37</sup> commend themselves.

I know that I have spent this much:

[120]	Powder . . . . .	–. 20 kr
	Pills . . . . .	–. 44 kr
	Cotton yarn . . . . .	–. 48 kr
	Barley gruel. . . . .	–. 6
	Camomile . . . . .	–. 6
[125]	Shoes . . . . .	1. 18
		_____
		3 fl 22 kr
	Saffron. . . . .	–. 10 kr
	Herbs . . . . .	–. 15 kr
	<i>chocolate</i> . . . . .	1 f 15 kr
		_____
[130]		4 f 2 kr <sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0901/23-25 concerning his organ-building work.

<sup>35</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>36</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

<sup>37</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Actually 5 florins 2 kreuzers.