

0984. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de / Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen
Little Leopold² is in good health and spirits!

Salzb., 6th Sept.,
1786.

[5] Since I suspect that the messenger³ may already come into town today because of the Nativity of Mary,⁴ I am writing a few lines because I have a little time at the moment, but effectively saying that I can think of little to write about. In the few days since I wrote via Lenerl,⁵ there has been no further news except: That yesterday evening we buried the bald-headed, old, honest, pious priest Herr Heiss of the priests' house,⁶ [10] who usually read the half past 10 Mass. – That they are now expecting the Archbishop⁷ any day, I hear, because he has as usual not yet given any clear indication, and always makes his arrival uncertain with his perhaps, yet he will probably arrive before the end of this week. – That the takings for the amateurs' play for the poor⁸ amounted to 208 florins, [15] in which however the deductions for costs incurred were somewhat greater than usual because 2 large *chandeliers* were lit onstage, and all the *gallery* lighting was with wax. But the reason that the takings were so high, when the full theatre otherwise only brings in 180 florins, is that Baroness Lösch von Stein,⁹ the Governor of Burghausen¹⁰ with his wife and others besides happened to be here, [20] as was the esteemed Prelate of Ranzhofen; because it was for the poor, they probably gave something more: the prelate gave 3 ducats,¹¹ as I know for sure from the *cashier*. – I must furthermore inform you that these amateurs received such applause that they will play again on the coming Sunday, but instead of Luise von Walheim they will perform another piece in one act, [25] namely the Hot Air Balloon,¹² an entertaining piece which they are learning in the course of this week.

Yes, in God's name, it always rains properly every day, and the same again today, with a heavy downpour now between 11 and 12 noon, and everything is flattened as if it had been under uninterrupted rain. – [30] thus we do at least have the best hopes of good autumn weather.

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: 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.

⁴ BD: 8th September.

⁵ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

⁶ BD: Accommodation next to the Dreifaltigkeitskirche ["Holy Trinity Church"].

⁷ BD: Cf. Nos. 0982/17; 0983/35. Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] 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. He had just been in Brühl working on a political alliance, afterwards visiting in Aschaffenburg.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0983/18 ff.

⁹ "Baron Löschin von Stein". BD: Wife of Maximilian Joseph, Baron [Freiherr], later Count [Graf] von Loesch-Helgertshausen zu Stein, chamberlain of the Bavarian Palatinate and Knight of St. George.

¹⁰ "der Vizedom...". BD: Karl, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Berchem, 1784-1799 Bavarian governor in Burghausen.

¹¹ BD: 13½ florins.

¹² BD: "Luftballon": presumably the play in three acts with this title by Schikaneder which was performed in Kempten and Augsburg in the same year.

Friday the 8th

Today, praise God, we had the most beautiful day. At half past 2, the messenger came with the letter and book. I was in the garden at Mirabell¹³ until after 6 o'clock with Heinrich,¹⁴ the Schittenhofens¹⁵ and Weinrothers,¹⁶ [35] and there was a press of people there, and gradually the whole nobility came to wait for the Archbishop because at half past 11 in the morning a *courier* came with news that he was sure to arrive this evening.¹⁷ It is now half past 7, but he still has not arrived yet; I would certainly hear it, since he is alighting at Mirabell and must consequently drive past Holy Trinity Church.¹⁸ But he is coming from I don't know where, [40] some place still some hours beyond Altenötting¹⁹ towards Landshut, I hear. Now he is staying in Mirabell until he has checked whether all the building work in the Residenz²⁰ has dried out.

What you tell me about the Paymaster²¹ is the same as I heard from the esteemed *Auditor's* wife.²² I would be very surprised at the Paymaster if he had presented Herr von Erlach²³ with lies, [45] since he is otherwise a very truthful, sincere man, at least as far as we know him. *Qualbert Dowraba's* wife²⁴ really does have a chambermaid currently staying in the house and working for her, and whom he has already engaged for his future wife.

I gather from the messenger, if I am not mistaken, that the cattle market in St. Gilgen will be on the 27th. [50] – Now, knowing that my esteemed son²⁵ has to be present there, I am confident that this will not present a hindrance to Nannerl's²⁶ coming into town for the Confirmation, because Fräulein von *Robini*[g]²⁷ told me herself that for this reason she did not want to stay in Villach²⁸ and Gratz²⁹ very long, but will arrange things so as to be quite sure of being here. [55] You would therefore give a very poor impression of yourselves if Fräulein von *Robini*[g] hurried back home for nothing. – My unauthoritative advice would be that my

¹³ The Archbishop's palace on the left bank of the Salzach.

¹⁴ Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774.

¹⁵ BD: The family of Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen, who made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

¹⁶ BD: Senior Equerry [Oberbereiter] Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables. Widower since 23rd October, 1777.

¹⁷ BD: This did in fact happen, with the Archbishop alighting at Mirabell.

¹⁸ "hl.Dreyfaltigkeit"

¹⁹ BD: Altötting.

²⁰ The Archbishop's residence next to the cathedral.

²¹ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family.

²² "Fr: Controlorin". BD: Wife of Ernst Maximilian Köllenberger, auditor [Kontrolleur] on the staff of the Royal Chief Marshal [Obersthofmarschall], subject to the High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister] Karl, Count [Graf] Arco.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0975/26; the paymaster's prospective father-in-law.

²⁴ BD: Maria Josepha de Lucca (1742-1811) was the second wife of Johann Gualbert Daubrawa von Daubrawiack (1715-1789), paymaster to the Court Chamber [Hofkammer].

²⁵ Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

²⁶ BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young.

²⁷ BD: Maria Elisabeth (1749-1792), known as Lisel, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760); confirmation sponsor of the Nannerl just mentioned. She had just travelled to her brother's wedding in Villach, cf. No. 977/77 ff.

²⁸ Villach: the second town of the province of Carinthia. About 190 km south of Salzburg.

²⁹ Graz: the main city in Styria in southern Austria, about 270 km from Salzburg.

esteemed son should send his wife into town with Nannerl the day before the Confirmation; and he would then come to Salzburg the day after the cattle market to collect these same persons *N.B.* after a rest. The carriage cannot of course bring 3 persons into town at the same time. [60] It is therefore all the same. But if my esteemed son wishes to have Nannerl at home again right away, she can if necessary drive out with the carriage again after the Confirmation, and if she does not want to travel alone, I will accompany her, and collect my esteemed son. At the end of the month Herr Marchand³⁰ is coming with his daughter³¹ and *Daniel*, his younger son, who plays *violoncello* incomparably, [65] and in the meantime another new *fortepiano* will be ready and will be set up in our large room because it belongs to *Marchand*. So there will be nothing but music going on, since there will be no less than 5 of us constantly together for music at home, and then 3, 4, or 5 who come to us in the afternoon every day, as is happening now. [70] Only yesterday and the day before we played *sextets* with 2 *violini soli*, *viola*, *violoncello* and 2 horns. Gretl will without doubt sing at court and her brother Daniel will let them hear something on the violoncello. His playing touches the heart. Now the Archbishop has arrived, slightly after 8 o'clock.

I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

[75]

Mozart mp³²

Today, the 9th, the most beautiful day. Little Leopoldl is well. During this time, Heinrich has been *practising* thoroughly in order not to shame himself when his father and siblings arrive. He commends himself and looks forward to your arrival. Two days ago, he played night music to the Senior Equerry's daughter, Regerl³³ with a sextet [80] and played incomparably. The rest when we meet!

I have a yet better idea. If my esteemed son drives into town after the cattle market, Nannerl can drive back out with the empty carriage. I would only wish that my esteemed son might be here when the Marchands come, [85] since Herr Marchand says in every letter that he hopes he can rely on seeing you both here and they are all looking forward to that. But it seems to me that there is an economy involved. For all 3 of you cannot travel in one carriage. Now, if you travel in with 2 carriages and out again with 2 carriages again, that makes 4 round trips. But if the 2 women come in alone for the Confirmation, [90] that makes 1. If you follow, 1 again, and Nannerl takes the return leg. Then my esteemed son goes home with his wife, 1 again. Thus only 3 round trips. *Amen!* How one has to rack one's brains in order to have the pleasure of bringing together people who wish to see each other. What then do we have after our deaths? – [95] Should we not be using every moment to grant ourselves social pleasures, when we suffer enough torment from other, evil-minded people? – –

³⁴[Tomorrow, in the first music performance at court, Marchand³⁵ will play a *concerto* on the *fortepiano*.

[100] Meanwhile here are some strings from me for the *clavichord* as a stop-gap until you come into town.

If you do not finish reading the 2nd part, just keep the book, it does not matter, I have already spoken to Count Königl.³⁶

Nandl and Tresel commend themselves and kiss your hands.]

³⁰ 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.

³¹ BD: Maria Margarethe ("Gretl", "Gredl"), daughter of Theobald Marchand; had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for two years from February, 1782.

³² mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³³ "der Oberbereuter Regerl". BD: Regina, daughter of Gottlieb von Weyrother from his first marriage.

³⁴ In BD III the final lines from "Tomorrow..." [line 97] are printed as part of No. 0987. See DME for changes.

³⁵ BD: = Heinrich.

³⁶ "Graf Königl". BD: probably a Salzburg relation of Count [Graf] Leopold Königl, whom Leopold Mozart visited in Innsbruck in 1769. He had apparently lent Leopold the "Travel Journal", cf. 0982/87.