

1010. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen

Little Leopoldl² is in good health and spirits!

Salzb., 8th Decemb.,
1786.

[5] Since the moon shines into his room when it rises at the moment, he constantly asks to be taken to the window and shouts: Man, man.

The most amazing thing is that he never pisses in his bed at night, and when he is in my room at the front of the house, he says ah, ah, and holds on until Nandl³ carries him over into his room.

[10] The messenger⁴ brought the letter, but not the bream mentioned in the letter. Only so that you know, for I am not allowed to take any fasting fare as long as I am taking the herb soup, the *doctores* have expressly forbidden it. Midday and evening I eat nothing except rice or barley mash soup and half a chicken, or a little lamb or veal with endives. [15] My condition is also improving noticeably, little by little, and this is the reason that I did not come out to you, for I have to go on using these prescribed remedies until my health, with God's help, is more robust. Nor would there be anything more beneficial to you than the whole endive, not cut up small, but the whole green herb boiled in meat stock, like any other green food. [20] I find it very good and healthy; it is my staple diet. – I have been forbidden all sour things. The old *Dr. Barisani*⁵ also eats endives daily as an excellent way of cleaning the blood to ward off any podagra attacks.

Nothing can be done with the tailor regarding the patch material for the nightgown. [25] He answered that he has given the little he had left to someone else; – he has no more: and so Cheerio!

If one buys something like that where something has to be repaired later, one must always buy a separate ell⁶ for oneself immediately afterwards, because one will certainly not manage to get the same material again, [30] and one cannot throw away the whole nightgown or put another Harlequin patch on it because of the repair; the way I did it, at least, even with material and kerchiefs, was to buy perhaps another third or quarter of the cloth for myself without letting the tailor know.

There can be no thought of any improvement for *Brunetti*;⁷ it will end in either consumption or gangrene; [35] last night he was extremely feverish and *delirious*.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

⁶ 1 ell [Munich] = 83.3 cm. (R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig 2/1896.)

⁷ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10. His illness has been described in recent letters.

The messenger was hardly gone last week when I heard the news that the Archbishop⁸ would be away for a further fortnight, and that is how it turned out. Not a soul knows why. -- [40] Now the talk is of supposedly 2 or 3 orchestral violinists, 1 violone player, a bass singer,⁹ and 2 trumpeters whom he has taken on and who will arrive here with the next *diligence*¹⁰ on the 13th. We shall see. – The fact that a *bass* has been taken on is revealed by the enclosed, very illegible letter from your brother, from which you will also gather that my answer has put him completely at his ease,¹¹ and that he is giving 4 *Advent concerts* in the *Casino*.¹²

[45] I could never quite take to the idea of sending the washing to and fro,¹³ but I did not want to speak against it and had arrive at a reasoned judgement that my esteemed son¹⁴ will come to a general *agreement* with the messenger, which will be of no great substance, for otherwise the washing can be done here for what the messenger is paid if payment is made according to weight. [50] – For repairs, perhaps? – – Oho! Once again, it is housekeeper Miedl who takes care of that. – – But that the empty box is said to be heavy: – even a sick cow, of which we now have no more outside the town – thanks be to God!, has to laugh at that! I cursed the box because it cost me trouble and kind words to get it finished, [55] on top of that it was expensive because it passed through 4 persons' hands. Of course I will write out the relevant *account*. In the meantime, it provides something to talk about.

Last Sunday, I spoke to Countess *Lodron*,¹⁵ the esteemed Cathedral Dean¹⁶ joined in. – 2 days later she lost her child and had a *stillbirth*. Her condition is now improved. She is a beautiful, dear *lady*, in her figure she has something of the Imperial princesses. [60]

In his letter to me on my name-day,¹⁷ Herr Egedacher¹⁸ had already mentioned the *sonatas* which you still have; I kept forgetting to tell you about it, so they must be the first thing that you write out, there is no hurry with Heinrich's¹⁹ things, for from Munich he has just received *sonatas* by *Clementi* again which are quite horrifyingly difficult, and he has enough to do practising them.
Heinrich commends himself.

The arrangements with the candles²⁰ have now had to be changed in such a way that 2 huts have been set up next to the butchers' stalls, where two soap boilers sell at the same time [70] so that people can obtain something faster and do not have to stand there half a day to

⁸ BD: Currently in Vienna: 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.

⁹ BD: Matthias Joseph Šidra; Cf. No. 1012/4.

¹⁰ BD: *Diligence* = large coach used for the regular post services.

¹¹ BD: Cf. No. 1006/35; but also No. 1002/8 ff.

¹² BD: Presumably the assembly rooms in the Trattnerhof in Vienna. But there is no documentary evidence that these concerts ever took place.

¹³ BD: Arrangements for Wolfgang, Nannerl's stepson, now a boarding pupil in Salzburg.

¹⁴ Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

¹⁵ "Gräfin". BD: The wife of "Momolo", Count [Graf] Lodron; cf. No. 1007/74. Seeking lessons from Leopold.

¹⁶ "H: Domdechant". BD: Sigmund Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Cathedral Dean [Domdechant] in Salzburg, nephew of Mozart's supporter Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786).

¹⁷ BD: 15th November.

¹⁸ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the "old man", as the deceased court organ builder was often called. He left Salzburg in March, 1786.

¹⁹ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand; had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774. Now a noted performer.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 1007/8 ff. on the shortage of candles.

join in and push and battle their way through for 1 or 2 lb^{21} of candles. It was the same pattern, only worse, in front of the scales for dripping, where a lb was sold for 15 kreuzers, and a young girl was so nearly crushed to death that they had to carry her home. – [75] If you would like to send me a little stick of dripping, I would be grateful, – I also got some from the scales. Simply write saying what it costs.

The other day I forgot to say in my letter that we could have made the straw bag²² ourselves, since, as you know, I once bought a piece of that coarse linen, or had it spun. We will certainly find straw; [80] although it is quite certain that straw is not so easy to find and moreover very expensive. I do not want bed or dung straw. – Now keep well, I kiss both you from the heart send greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp²³

[85] I will take care of the cotton yarn. Leopoldl kisses you both. Nandl and Tresel²⁴ kiss your hands, I send greetings to Lenerl.²⁵

Today the esteemed Supervisor of Buildings for the Parliament of the Estates,²⁶ Herr Steiger, is travelling to Vienna and Hungary because of grain, perhaps also because of 4-legged oxen.²⁷

²¹ = lb. = 1 pound weight \approx 0.5 kg.

²² BD: A small bed for Leopoldl; cf. No. 1002/48ff.

²³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁴ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²⁵ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

²⁶ “H: Landschaft Bauverwalter”. BD: Franz Adam Staiger, cf. No. 0975/23.

²⁷ BD: In contrast to 2-legged oxen, a familiar term for fools; cf. No. 0981/32.