

1036. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

*A Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg*²

[Salzburg,] 1st March, 1787

Leopold³ is well, as both of you will have heard from the Deputy Administrator,⁴ who safely delivered to me the letter with 5 florins 40 kreuzers and the music.⁵ I gave them 2 books by Muratori⁶ to take with them, and hurriedly enclosed the programme for the music in the *Casino*.⁷ [5] I hope the books were clean when they delivered them to you. – Since this *Vanschenz*⁸ played the *quartets* especially *expressively*, both in the test in my home and afterwards at court, we all believed we would hear a quite excellent *concerto* from him yesterday, all the more so because he was letting himself be heard in public for the first time and the *concerto* was by a composer unknown to all of us, [10] but we all found ourselves much deceived. He played appallingly out of tune, did all kinds of clumsy things etc. In short! No-one made moved a limb to *applaud* him; on the contrary, they all wrinkled their noses and were dissatisfied. The whole place was bursting full! –

The *ball* on the Wednesday before Shrove Sunday was the best attended, [15] as more than 470 and sundry people were there. On Shrove Sunday there were 320 and more, and on Monday also some 300 etc.

The *Faro*⁹ bank lost so much that they are no longer inclined to offer a *Faro* bank in the *Casino* as they did last year. I hope to God this rascality, in which young people are egged on to play, will come to an end on its own. [20]

Two days ago, on Tuesday evening, His High Princely Grace¹⁰ became 50 ducats¹¹ lighter. On Monday evening, at half past 6, I received from the Vienna Theatre singer *M.^{dme} Storaci*¹² a *note* saying that she had arrived at the Trinkstube.¹³ I found that she had her mother¹⁴ with her, who is English, [25] the daughter herself was born in England, and then the

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.

³ 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.

⁴ “Amtmann”. BD: Of St. Gilgen, where Leopold had met them.

⁵ BD: Not identified.

⁶ BD: Lodovico Antonio Muratori (1672-1750), a librarian in Modena who wrote a number of books in favour of a Catholic faith freed of many of the established practices and rituals. Similar ideas of an “enlightened Catholicism” were propagated by Archbishop Hieronymus, especially in a pastoral letter of 1782.

⁷ Music in the largest room in the town hall. BD: For Wednesday, 28 February, 1787.

⁸ BD: The “new violinist” mentioned in No. 1034/10, 14.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 1026/35. Faro was a card game of chance which originated in France, here part of the ball entertainments.

¹⁰ “S: Hochf: Gnaden”. BD: 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.

¹¹ BD: = 225 florins.

¹² BD: Anna Selina (known as Nancy) Storace (1756-1817), singer. In Vienna 1783-1787. In Vienna she married the English violinist John Abraham Fisher (1762-1796), but he abused her and was banished from Vienna by the Emperor. KV 505 was written for her, and she was the first Susanne in *Figaro*. At her farewell concert in Vienna in 1788, where she was possibly accompanied by Mozart, she had takings of more than 4000 florins.

¹³ BD: The “Drinking Room”, an elegant city inn in Salzburg.

¹⁴ BD: Name unknown. Her father was an Italian double-bass player.

Vienna theatre tenor *Ochelly*,¹⁵ who is also an English native, – and another Englishman whom I do not know and will no doubt be a *cicisbeo*¹⁶ of the mother or daughter. And her brother, *Maestro Storacci*,¹⁷ and a little Englishman, *Attwood*, who was sent to Vienna 2 years ago expressly to study with your brother. [30] *Storaci* had a letter from Countess Gundacker *Colloredo*,¹⁸ so she had to be heard and rewarded generously because she is returning to the theatre in Vienna¹⁹ again after an annual stay in *London*. On Tuesday I galloped around in town with them from 10 o'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in order to show them one thing or another. It was not until 2 o'clock that we had our midday meal. [35] In the evening she sang 3 *arias*. And at 12 o'clock at night they set off for Munich. They had 2 coaches, each with 4 post-horses, a servant rode ahead as *courier* to order the 8 horses. What baggage! – This journey will no doubt cost money! They all spoke English more than Italian. The neatest thing is that my son sent a letter to his *pupil Attwood* and with my house as the address [40] – he had gone out and *Storaci's* mother received it, – she was so stupid as to lay it somewhere in a trunk or perhaps even to lose it. *Basta!*²⁰ The letter could not be found.²¹ – I will write to your brother about it tomorrow.

Today, the 2nd March.

[45] Concerning your brother, I have learnt that he is back in Vienna again, for I received no answer after writing to him in Prague; that he earned 1000 fl in Prague |: as they said |:; that his most recent boy, Leopoldl,²² had died; and that he, as I noticed, wants to travel to England, but that his *pupil* should arrange something secure for him in *London* beforehand, [50] namely a *contract* to write an *opera*, or a *subscription concert* etc. etc. *M:^{dme} Storaci* and the whole company will also have told him grand stories on this subject, and it was no doubt also these people and his *pupil* who wakened in him the idea of going to England with them in the first place. But after I had written a fatherly²³ letter to him saying that he cannot earn anything on this journey in summer [55] and would also reach England at the wrong time, – that he would have to have at least 2000 fl in his pockets in order to undertake this journey, and finally that, without already having something secure as an *engagement* in *London*, he was risking, at the beginning at least, suffering certain penury despite all his skill; – he will correspondingly have lost heart, [60] since the singer's brother will of course write an *opera* this time.²⁴

Now for a *charming anecdote!* Heinrich,²⁵ who was always running around visiting in Munich, once came home and said to me in front of everybody: *Bologna*²⁶ has told me

¹⁵ Michael Kelly (O'Kelly) (1762-1826), came to Vienna at the beginning of 1783 and soon employed at the Hoftheater. Mozart gave him the roles of Basilio and Don Curzio in the première of *Figaro*.

¹⁶ BD: "Cicisbeo", a *cavaliere servente*, an accompanying gentleman, in some cases a lover.

¹⁷ BD: Brother of the singer Nancy Storace, composer.

¹⁸ "Gräfin". BD: Maria Anna Regina Ludmilla, née Imperial Countess [Reichsgräfin] Mansfeld, wife of Franz de Paula Gundacker I, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1731-1807), eldest brother of the Archbishop, Imperial Court Counsellor [Reichshofrat] and (from 1788) Prince [Fürst] Imperial Vice-Chancellor [Reichsvizekanzler].

¹⁹ BD: Nancy Storace never returned to Vienna.

²⁰ = "Enough!"

²¹ BD: Letter No. 1035, lost. O'Kelly's *Reminiscences* tell a different story, namely that Mozart's letter was addressed to O'Kelly, not Attwood, and he delivered it personally to Leopold.

²² BD: Johann Thomas Leopold Mozart (18th October, 1786 - 15th November, 1786) died of "choking fever".

²³ BD: "Fatherly" is euphemistic: see No. 1020/23-25.

²⁴ BD: After returning to England, he wrote the opera *La cameriera astuta*, first performed in 1788; in 1791 his pasticcio opera *The Siege of Belgrade* was staged.

²⁵ 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. Now employed in Salzburg.

²⁶ BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84. Began a love affair with Regina ("Regerl") Weyrother, left for Munich in September, 1784.

something new: he asked me if I knew that *Amand's* widow was pregnant by *Petrazani*;²⁷ someone had apparently written telling him. [65] I answered that it reflects badly on *Bologna's* honour if he spreads such lies about his bosom friend. At that everyone fell silent! – How do you like that? – – –

Along with this I am sending 1 lb²⁸ of *chocolate* no. 8 à 2 fl 30 kr, for the almond paste I paid 10 kr. Everything else is ready, and then I will label it and hand it over when you send someone. [70]

I kiss you both from the heart, greet the children and am eternally your sincere

father Mozart mp²⁹

Today I went for a walk in fine weather for the first time. [75]

Vanschenz has been taken on for only one year at 300 fl.

Heinrich commends himself.

Nandl³⁰ and Tresel³¹ kiss your hands, and I greet Lenerl.³²

²⁷ BD: Cf. note on No. 1020/59.

²⁸ = lb. = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

²⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³⁰ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³¹ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

³² BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.