

0975. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Little Leopold² is well!

Salzb., 11th Aug.
1786.

I am writing this after one of the most extraordinary thunderstorms I have ever experienced. [5] At quarter to 4, I left Weiser's³ because it began to thunder and heavy rain could be expected. I had hardly been at home for a minute when there was a sudden flash of lightning, followed by the most terrifying crash of thunder, just as a shot follows the flame one sees in the touch-pan, only one would have thought that it had struck above one's head, [10] – then instantly flash and thunder again, – then most promptly flash and thunder again, – flash and thunder once more – – and this so often that initially, for astonishment and alarm, no-one could have come up with the idea of counting them and the only thing one did was to make oneself ready for an impending catastrophe at any moment. It went on as fast and as regularly as when they let off the gun salutes on the Mönchberg:⁴ [15] finally it rained astonishingly and in less than half of quarter of an hour everything had passed off safely. – Now I have just heard that it struck a field next to Feyerl's⁵ place, not far from the workhouse,⁶ burnt down a haystack and tore a big hole on the ground where everything has a violet colour, – and then it also struck the earth at Azwanger's⁷ place. [20] Some maintain they counted 18 strikes, others over 20.

I thank you for the chamois meat; and Herr von *D'Yppold*⁸ commends himself to both of you, and thanks you for arranging everything with the panes of glass,⁹ which reached him safely. – The letter was sent to me by Herr Steiger,¹⁰ works administrator for the Parliament of the Estates.

So that I don't forget, I must tell you some news immediately, [25] news you would probably have given me if you had been aware of it: namely that the esteemed paymaster¹¹ will marry the Erlach girl in Gmundten¹² if the Archbishop gives permission. I had indeed heard that he had travelled to Vöckelbruk¹³ some time ago, but he never said a word about it any time I spoke to him. Herr Joseph *Barisani*¹⁴ told me about it today: [30] more precisely,

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: Franz Xaver Andreas Athanasius Weiser (1739-1817), city councillor and business 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).

⁴ Hill overlooking Salzburg from the west.

⁵ BD: Feyerl was the royal baker [Mundbäcker].

⁶ BD: For prisoners.

⁷ BD: Raimund Felix Atzwanger, Salzburg city councillor, tax collector general, representative in the parliament of the estates.

⁸ BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the "de" (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0971/17; for framing engravings.

¹⁰ BD: Franz Adam Staiger.

¹¹ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family.

¹² BD: Gmunden, Ebensee, 70 km east of Salzburg.

¹³ BD: Vöcklabruck, 50 km east of Salzburg on the way to Linz.

¹⁴ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

that Herr von Luidl¹⁵ said at the *Barisanis* that the esteemed paymaster had already received the immediate consent of her parents during his visit, that a letter had already gone to His High Princely Grace¹⁶ on this matter. The Archbishop will probably put off the *resolution* until he arrives, and that will be the reason why the esteemed paymaster is still keeping it *in petto*.¹⁷ As soon as I see him I will speak to him about it. [35] *Barisani* also told me that my esteemed son¹⁸ had advised the paymaster to do this, for Herr von Luidl was able to tell them everything, and furthermore with all the details.

Catharin¹⁹ could truly drive one to the d–v–l. You would not believe how often I have sent reminders, but the shoes have never appeared. [40] Now he has promised to deliver them next week for sure, after no assistants did any work for him either during the abolished religious holidays.

Along with his compliments to both of you, esteemed *Dr. Barisani* asked me to pass on to you his recommendation of plenty of exercise.

I think that if you could travel to the *auction* with your worthy husband it would be very beneficial for your health. [45] The shoes will surely be no hindrance, for you can put on the boots or other simple shoes for the journey, – and once you arrive, black leather shoes look dirty anyway, and one can put on clean coloured shoes there; but if one wants to be the *galante dame en negligé*,²⁰ boots or laced shoes are the right thing. [50]

Since I know and hear nothing at all about the glass-carrier woman²¹ and yet there are various things that have to come out to you piece by piece, since together it would be too much for the woman, and then again it is safer with the messenger,²² I am sending the hat well protected in hatbox. – Then the little hat. The umbrella. [55] I hope to obtain the herbs²³ tomorrow, for on Thursday they were not available.

The Archbishop will come to Lauffen²⁴ on the 28th or 27th and stay there a few days, probably so as not to take the people of Salzburg by surprise too suddenly so that the *cannons* can be fired²⁵ etc. etc. etc. [60] *A play* is already being rehearsed by the two daughters of the junior equestrianist,²⁶ Heinrich's²⁷ hairdresser,²⁸ Herr Kratzer²⁹ and others, directed by Hübner,³⁰ the newspaper writer.

¹⁵ BD: Rochus Sebastian von Luidl, Knight [Ritter], Actual Privy Councillor [wirklicher geheimer Rat], Court Chamber Director [Hofkammerkirektor], member of the Parliament of the Estates in all Austrian territories [Landmann in allen österreichischen Landen].

¹⁶ “S:° Hfst: 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.

¹⁷ = “keep in the breast”, keep secret.

¹⁸ Leopold's customary form of address to his son.

¹⁹ BD: The shoemaker Kathrein in Salzburg.

²⁰ = *Lady in casual dress in the galante style*.

²¹ 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.

²² 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.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0976/42.

²⁴ BD: Laufen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop's autumn residence.

²⁵ BD: Ironic.

²⁶ “Unterbereuter”. BD: Jakob Lindert; Nannerl mentions the arrival of Lindert and his beautiful daughters in No. 547/26 ff.

²⁷ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand; had once had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years; now a performer.

²⁸ BD: Ludwig Hannibal, cf. No. 0983/20.

I probably forgot to say that the esteemed court counsellor *Gilowsky*³¹ became so ill at the half past 11 Mass in the cathedral on Sunday a week ago that they had to take him into the sacristy, where he immediately took confession; the 2 *Barisanis* and 2 *Gilowskys*,³² [65] father and son, were sent for. They opened a vein, – a festering abscess burst. They *transported* him to *Gilowsky* the barber.³³ Since then I have called on him twice. He is somewhat better, is constantly being giving *vesicant* plasters, but his overall condition is not good.

The portraits³⁴ were done by a student here, and one costs no more than 30 kreuzers³⁵ with everything. [70]

*Bologna*³⁶ is leaving for Munich on the coming Wednesday, *Heinrich*³⁷ commends himself to both of you, as does the former. – *Bologna* has well and truly blotted his copybook at the Scheetenhofens,³⁸ they took all precautions, as did *Fräulein Regerl*³⁹ herself, to make sure he did not either see or speak to her. [75] But he has also played a childish prank like a little boy, which I will tell you about in detail another time.

The daughter of the post *secretary* Genzler⁴⁰ has died after a protracted illness.

The *sonatas* left by Egedacher,⁴¹ which I found here, have all been sent to him already by messenger. [80]

The organ-builder⁴² has finished the *pianoforte* for the esteemed territorial governor⁴³ in Lintz. It is very good, – it will be left standing for a while so that it distends and settles; and if the Archbishop comes, Heinrich can play a *concerto* on it before it is sent off. Now he is going to make 2 for Herr Marchand⁴⁴ and Count Wolfegg.⁴⁵ [85] As soon as he gets the strings, I will send them to you.

²⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0983/23.

³⁰ BD: Lorenz Hübner (1753-1807), for a short time a Jesuit, then a grammar school teacher; called to Salzburg to take over and improve the *Salzburger Staatszeitung* [Salzburg State Newspaper].

³¹ “Hofrath”. BD: Joseph Anton Ernst von Gilowsky (1739-1789), court councillor [Hofrat], engineer, founder member of the Masonic lodge “Zur Fürsicht”, a frequent traveller to Munich for matters relating to salt. Cousin of “Katherl”.

³² BD: Wenzel Andreas and Franz Wenzel Gilowsky von Urazowa.

³³ BD: Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court surgeon. Father of “Katherl”. In No. 0705 called the “Barber of Salzburg”.

³⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0969/81.

³⁵ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ BD: Heinrich Marchand, see above.

³⁸ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

³⁹ BD: Cf. also No. 0809/58.

⁴⁰ “PostSecretaire”. BD: The post secretary was Franz Oktavian Genzler († 1782).

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), organ builder, 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.

⁴³ “H: LandsHauptmann”. BD: Cf. No. 0931/9-10. Christoph Wilhelm, Count [Graf] Thürheim (1731-1809), last governor of Lower Austria (until 1783) and then first president of the territorial government.

⁴⁴ 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.

Now I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp⁴⁶

the morning of the 12th

[90] I was still not asleep at 1 o'clock at night, since the writing put me out for sleeping. Very early this morning, Tresel⁴⁷ came running into my room with the letter from the glass-carrier woman, I was so stupefied I could hardly recover. I must give the messenger⁴⁸ everything that he had already heard yesterday that he had to take out. If he does not deliver the herbs,⁴⁹ [95] the glass-carrier woman will do it. Tresel is just buying the soap⁵⁰ and sugar now.

Leopoldl is well, he sends kisses to all of you.

⁴⁵ "Gr: Wolfegg". BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Waldsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbtuchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg in 1762, Knight of the Order of St George, allegedly provincial director of the Salzburg Illuminati lodge "Apollo" under the name Prunelius.

⁴⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁴⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0971/66, 69, 94; No. 0976/4.

⁵⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0976/4.