

0997. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 7th Novb., 1786.

Little Leopold² is well and naughty.

Your goodman will have told you that much, and just now he is shouting, climbing and joking and making noise beside me. [5] – The step your esteemed spouse has taken in the direction of Neumark[t]³ will probably have been something new and unsettling for you. This evening the request will no doubt be taken to the post in the packet from the Privy Chancellery⁴ and leave for Vienna during the night, since it was handed in the correct form yesterday. Whatever may happen now, [10] my esteemed son⁵ has at least a little secondary entertainment in chatting about this matter, now *pro*, now *contra*, now with pleasure, now with displeasure, since of course every matter in this world has its good and bad sides, and there are no exceptions. – If it should happen: – it is without question a predestined development, [15] one that had to be set in inexorable motion by a momentary thought, by a quick, purposeful decision taken within the period of two hours, and which will perhaps facilitate, who knows, the promotion of the esteemed Senior Court Clerk.⁶

Along with this I am sending you mint water⁷ for 6 kreuzers.

You hope to see me in St. Gilgen because the Archbishop⁸ is not here. [20] I have to leave that unanswered.

I admit I am gradually becoming accustomed to the rushing sound in my head. I hope it is due to vapours from the stomach, for weakness of the nerves is much more dangerous and has worse, incurable consequences. Patience is everything! Perhaps we will yet come up with the real cause. This much in haste.

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

Mozart mp⁹

Heinrich¹⁰ commends himself.

[30] Nandl¹¹ and Tresel¹² send hand-kisses.

The new *actress*, *Md.^{me} Bock*,¹³ acts very well; only a pity that she has a certain kind of manly, deep voice which one needs time to get used to.

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After marrying in 1784, she was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, and Leopold referred to her as “Frau Tochter” [madam daughter].

² BD: Nannerl’s son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27 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 About 21 km north-east of Salzburg. BD: During his visit to Salzburg, Berchtold sounded out a possible exchange with the Chief Administrator [Pfleger] of Neumarkt, Johann Nepomuk Maria Zillner von Zillerberg.

Leopold was against the move, but concealed his opinion diplomatically.

⁴ “geheime Kanzley”.

⁵ Leopold’s customary form of address to his son-in-law.

⁶ “H: Oberschreiber”. BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold, a younger brother of Leopold’s son-in-law.

⁷ BD: Probably a distillate of peppermint; cf. No. 0948/68.

⁸ 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.

⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁰ BD: 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.

¹¹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

¹² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹³ BD: An amateur; made her debut as Minna in Lessing’s comedy *Minna von Barnhelm* on 6 November 1786.