

0868. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / de Sonnenbourg née de Mozart² /
à / St. Gilgen.³*

Salzb., 27th May,
1785

I cannot deny that time passes very slowly for me, and will really start passing even more slowly when the *plays*⁴ end in the coming week: [5] for I was among a lot of people everywhere for 4 ~~weeks~~ months,⁵ and at home I had the pleasure of having both of you; but now I have only the pleasant conversation of Tresel,⁶ where I *absolutely* have to play the Dumb Prince,⁷ unless I find at some point that I need to take a laxative, in which case I can at least save the 45 kreuzers for a little laxative potion. – And where am I to go? [10] – Do I, then, have anyone with whom I can exchange a sensible word? – I don't know, am I too learned for some people, or are some people too stupid for me? In short! – I find social intercourse here a long and gloomy distance away from what I had in Vienna, Lintz and Munich. Yesterday, the Corpus Christi procession was lucky enough to end in time, it was only during the last gunshots at court that it started to rain a little. [15] Esteemed Count *Arco*⁸ sent someone with an *umbrella* to escort me to court. At 2 in the afternoon came a thunderstorm, which returned again at 4 o'clock and at 7, and each time, and also in between, it rained all the time as in a cloudburst so that all the streets were filled with water. No bells rang except those giving the signals. [20] This evening something may well brew up again. You already know about the daily meetings of the *commission*⁹ to draw up regulations about beggars: now that all the women have been investigated, on one occasion 17 persons, then 5, and finally 3 at once were conducted to the house of correction. Today 2 stood there in the shrew's fiddle,¹⁰ some have been given a hiding and taken away. [25] Now those who receive something from the town hall have to be heard. Tresel has in fact just gone to the town hall. When I arrived at the theatre after you had left, I was assailed by everyone asking me if it is true that the esteemed Regional Administrator¹¹ has adopted the sensible idea of arranging for you to have your confinement here, which is what *Frau von Hermes* on the Capucinerberg¹² had apparently already told everyone. [30] The people were the esteemed *Consistorial Adviser*¹³ *Racher*, – the Schidenhofens¹⁴ – Court Counsellor *Hermes*' family¹⁵ – the Cathedral

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: The formula “née de Mozart” corresponds to an old Austrian custom.

³ Address in DME. “The dancing-master’s house”: BD: The name of the house on the Hannibalplatz where the Mozart family had lived since 1773 and where Leopold now finds himself alone after Nannerl’s marriage.

⁴ BD: From the end of Lent to the end of May, the troupe Romanus Waizhofer performed in Salzburg.

⁵ BD: Leopold had travelled to Munich and Vienna at the beginning of February and was away for a total of 14 weeks.

⁶ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁷ BD: The same phrase as was used in No. 0820/34, presumably referring to a character in a play.

⁸ “H: Gr: Arco”. BD: Georg Anton Felix Graf Arco (1705-1792), occupied a series of the highest positions in the state.

⁹ Cf. Lorenz Hübner, *Beschreibung des Erzstiftes und Reichsfürstenthumes Salzburg...*, Oberer, 1796, p. 952: In 1785 a commission was set up to count all the poor people in the town and the prison.

¹⁰ BD: A wooden instrument of punishment with holes for the neck and the hands, mostly made for two persons.

¹¹ “Pfleger”.

¹² BD: Johann Joseph Hermann Hermes von Fürstenhof (1723-1809), captain in the grenadiers; his wife = Anna Helena (+1795). Lived on the Capuzinerberg [“Capuchins’ Mountain”] on the edge of Salzburg.

¹³ “Consistorial”.

Chapter *Legal Officer* and family¹⁶ – *Consistorial Adviser* Mölk¹⁷ – *Joseph von Barisani*¹⁸ etc. etc. You can easily imagine what they all said, it would take too long to write it all down here. That was the reason why Count Arco's Saler¹⁹ called on me in person straightaway yesterday at half past 1, [35] and hurried home again because the gathering thunderstorm was approaching. Since I should have gone to the wife of the Stablemaster-in-chief, Countess von Khünburg²⁰ immediately on my arrival here at the *behest* of her esteemed brother,²¹ but she lay ill with fever, I finally called on her at half past 11 this morning. She was quite exceptionally courteous, [40] and immediately asked me if it was true, then, that you had gone back out to St. Gilgen again, – I answered, Yes! – on Monday! – She was surprised and said word had of course gone round at court that your confinement would take place here, and everyone had found it very sensible and *à propos*²² etc. etc., with everything that people naturally say at this point. – [45] I answered that this was also what my esteemed son-in-law had decided, – only your calculation was for a date not before the end *Junii* or the beginning *Julii*. Ah, that is different! said she; Yet one must not leave it all to the last moment so that one is not taken by surprise etc. Then there followed yet another long discourse etc.

While I write, it has just turned 4 o'clock and I was still thinking of going for a little walk after this and before the *theatre*, [50] but the approaching thunderstorm came over the Münchberg,²³ driven by a strong wind, and flew over the town with a terrible downpour of rain. Yesterday and now, my bedroom and all the rooms on this side have been graced with the water, and the hallway and the servant's room, at the front looking towards *Mirabell*,²⁴ with nothing, [55] where the rain otherwise, of course, usually beats most heavily. – Now, at 5 o'clock, Tresel has come back from the town hall, she went there at 2 o'clock, and had to wait until it was her turn to be summoned. They were soon finished with her, for they had the written attestation which I made out for her back then and the certificate of baptism lying in front of them, and said that they would wish that they had everything in such good order from everyone, [60] then the *commission* would not spend so much time on long investigations and quizzing people. She could not praise the esteemed Municipal *Legal Officer*²⁵ enough, what good things he said in her favour against the others. Now I believe I have told you all the astonishing news. I kiss my esteemed son,²⁶ yourself, and the children and am eternally your sincere father, [65]

¹⁴ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) and his sister Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen (1760-1831). He made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0761/3; 0143/29.

¹⁵ BD: Court councillor [Hofrat] Hermes, who did not live on the Capuzinerberg.

¹⁶ “Capitl Syndicus”. BD: Johann Baptist Anton Daubrawa von Daubrawiack (1731-1810), court councillor, legal adviser to the Cathedral chapter, helped the Mozarts as a “messenger” between Salzburg in Vienna more than once.

¹⁷ “Consistorial”. BD: Albert von Mölk (1749-1799), Consistorial Advisor from 1779 onwards. Brother of Franz Felix Anton.

¹⁸ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

¹⁹ BD: Not the Rosalie Joly frequently mentioned in other letters, but a servant of Graf Arco's.

²⁰ “Oberststallmeisterin Gräfin v Khünburg”. BD: Friederike Maria Anna, Countess [Gräfin] Kuenburg, née Komtesse Waldstein (1742-1802), wife of Leopold Joseph Maria, Graf Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain, Privy Councillor, from 1764 Master-in-Chief of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

²¹ BD: Georg Christian, Graf Waldstein, a subscriber to Mozart's concerts in 1784, cf. No. 0780/44.

²² “*To the purpose*”.

²³ BD: The Mönchsberg [“Monk's Mountain”] on the edge of Salzburg

²⁴ The Archbishop's palace in Salzburg.

²⁵ “H: Statt Syndicus”.

²⁶ BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

Mozart mp²⁷

From your letter I see that you arrived back there safe and sound. Herr Pertl²⁸ will no doubt contact us about the box.

The Philosophers²⁹ was performed very well indeed. And the 2nd play is very touching indeed. [70] Not only I, but Court Counsellor von *Gilowsky*,³⁰ who sat next to me, was also moved to tears. He was next to me up in the *gallery* because had a lot he wanted to discuss with me. On Sunday, the penultimate evening, the Village Representatives³¹ will be performed. I will now send someone to the Royal Baker and enquire about our esteemed cousin Pertl. 2 pairs of ladies shoes also have to be sent out to you. [75] – Perhaps the little dress for Fräulein Nannerl³² will come today too.

On Saturday morning.

²⁷ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁸ BD: Joseph Max Kajetan Pertl (†1788), a relative of Mozart's mother (Anna Maria, née Pertl), a court clerk in St. Gilgen and thus subordinate to Mozart's brother-in-law Berchtold.

²⁹ BD: Giovanni Paisiello's *I Filosifi immaginari* or *Gli Astrologhi immaginari*.

³⁰ "Hofrath v Gilowsky". BD: Joseph Anton Ernst von Gilowsky, 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".

³¹ BD: *Die Dorfdeputierten*, singspiel by Johann Lukas Schubaur (1783), text after Goldoni by Heermann.

³² = Little Madame Nannerl. BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), at this time 13 years old. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young. Leopold now addresses his daughter as "Frau Tochter" ["Madame Daughter"] in correspondence.