

0905. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 28th Nov., 1785

Since the glass-carrier woman² did not come yesterday and I received a letter from Marchand³ today, I am sitting down again straight away to let you know that Gretl⁴ is to sing in the *Carnival opera*⁵ and will take the part *M.^{dme} Lisel Wendling*⁶ should have sung a year ago [5] before leaving it to *August Wendling*.⁷ Now, since these *arias* are trifling, simple *arias*, Gretl has the freedom to insert 2 other *arias*. The *opera* is the one from last year by *Prati*. Then there will also be an *opera buffa* as well: *La Fiera di Venezia* by *Salieri*, which I find painful [10] because, as far as the music is concerned, it is full of the most hackneyed, tritest ideas, old-fashioned, forced and very lacking in harmony: only the *finales* remain bearable: the subject matter of the piece is as usual an a piece of Italian childishness of arch-stupidity, contrary to all common sense. Here, too, Gredl will sing.

[15] The story with *Dal Prato*,⁸ or really the process, has now come to an end. *Cannabich* and *Lang* together have to pay him costs of 245 florins: – and *dal Prato* has a *decree* of lifelong employment from the Elector. So these blows were fortunate for him, for he is of limited ability!

The old and famous *castrato Guadagni*,⁹ who now lives in *Padua* from his own means, [20] was in Munich because of a demand for debt settlement. He was persuaded by the old *castrato Georgetti*¹⁰ to hear the Marchand children. When he arrived, he said that he had things to do in an hour at the latest. *Georgetti*, *Panzachi*¹¹ and old *Ferrandini*¹² were with him. He was so struck that he stayed there 3 hours, and said he would immediately tell the *impresario* [25] that he would take Gretl for the *opera* at the next *Anthony Mass*,¹³ and would then write an *aria obligata* with *violino* and *violoncello*, and such an *aria concertante* by 3 siblings¹⁴ would cause a *furore* among Italians. I will send the letter with the next messenger for you to read.

[30] I am sending you another pound of *chocolate*, send the other one back to me via the messenger or, given a good opportunity, via the class-carrier woman, there is no hurry, for I

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: From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the “gläserträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

³ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children (Heinrich, Margarethe or “Gretl”) had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

⁴ Marchand's daughter.

⁵ BD: *Armina abbandonata* by Alessio Prati.

⁶ BD: Lisel = Elisabeth Augusta (I) Wendling, wife of violinist Franz Anton Wendling.

⁷ BD: Elisabeth Augusta Wendling (II), daughter of the flautist Johann Baptist Wendling and his wife Dorothea (I).

⁸ BD: An assault on the singer. Cf. No. 0871/31 ff.

⁹ BD: Gaetano Guadagni (* 1725), male contralto, sang *Orfeo* in the Vienna première of Gluck's opera in 1762 and was later a court singer in Munich.

¹⁰ BD: Silvio Georgetti, leading soprano in the Munich opera, previously in Mannheim. BD VIII: Also mentioned in No. 0485/33.

¹¹ BD: Domenico de' Panzacchi (1733-1805), tenor in Munich between 1762 and 1779.

¹² BD: Giovanni Ferrandini (1710-1791), was only 10 when he entered the service of the Bavarian Elector.

¹³ “Antonio Messe”. BD: 13th August.

¹⁴ BD: The three children of Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, Heinrich, Margarethe and Daniel, also composed. The first two had been boarding pupils with Leopold.

keep it. There is no more cotton yarn to be had for 2½ kreuzers in the whole town, otherwise the cheapest is 3 kreuzers. It amounts to 16 loth.¹⁵

[35] I was not in the *theatre* the whole of last week, and yesterday's play was useless. – Herr Waizhofer¹⁶ has said goodbye to the idea of giving the balls, – he will also in future do his *operas* without *clavier*: he says it is not at all necessary.

It is true about *Baron Rheling*,¹⁷ but not as Director of the Chamber;¹⁸ [40] instead, he will sit on Herr Luidl's¹⁹ nose as *vice-president* of the Court Chamber,²⁰ and it is also quite certain with Herr von Kurz.²¹ *Baron Mozl*²² has apparently asked for *Lofer*²³ again because he has his estates in that area. I hear that he really has *resigned*.

They say Count Herberstein²⁴ will come to Salzburg |: on his own initiative :| [45] because the King in Prussia²⁵ will not release the income from his estates in Silesia as long as he lives on Imperial land. May he spend it all in Salzburg. –

The morning of the 29th. The glass-carrier woman has just brought me the *lamb*, for which I thank you both. I will speak to *Dr. Barisani*; in the meantime the messenger will no doubt be keeping me fully informed about how it is progressing? [50] Do you perhaps have hot flushes, anxieties etc. along with it, which require blood-letting? etc. etc. Concerning grassroots and camomile etc.: it is at any rate a tea which, if I am not mistaken, is usually taken under such circumstances to hasten and ease progress. It would of course be desirable if no-one knew the story about the *Amanns' Antonia*:²⁶ – but I must either laugh or be sad about this wish, [55] since learning about this was a *present* on my name-day²⁷ here in my *hermitage*, where I do not bother myself about anything in the world, so it will no doubt not pass by so secretly. I have even more to tell both of you. The actor *Teller*²⁸ is said to be the hero who had the pleasure of keeping her locked in with him for all of 3 days. Is that a father? – are they parents who know their daughter is missing for 3 days [60] and convince themselves she will be staying with that chum of hers, the *Clessin*²⁹ girl etc., which admittedly may have happened often. How many parents will end up sitting with the devil, parents for whom engendering children is only done out of lust, but who take little trouble over the upbringing, especially when one should have 100 eyes and ears during this time in order to intercept girls on their

¹⁵ BD: Lot, loth = 1/30 pound (“lb”) or 16 ⅔ g; approximately half an ounce.

¹⁶ BD: Romanus Waizhofer's theatre ensemble was in Salzburg. He had also spoken of taking responsibility for the Carnival balls (cf. No. 0895/105 ff.).

¹⁷ BD: Johann Nepomuk, Baron [Freiherr] von Rehlingen, who was in fact the one who become general tax inspector [Generaleinnehmer].

¹⁸ “Kammerdirektor”. BD: Johann Nepomuk, Baron [Freiherr] von Rehlingen, who was in fact the one who become tax inspector-general [Generaleinnehmer].

¹⁹ BD: Rochus Sebastian Rochus von Luidl, Actual Privy Councillor [wirklicher Geheimrat], Court Chamber Director [Generaleinnehmer], member of the Parliament of the Estates in all Austrian territories. Cf. No. 0892/82.

²⁰ “HofCammer”.

²¹ BD: Felix Anton Patrizius Kurz von Goldenstein (1728-1786), Senior Administrator [Pfleger] of Werfen.

²² BD: Georg Anton Franz, Baron [Freiherr] von Motz(e)l (1729-1801): he remained vice-president of the Court Chamber [Hofkammer] and was thus Herr Luidl's superior.

²³ BD: South-west of Salzburg.

²⁴ “Graf”. BD: Probably Johann Anton, Count [Graf] Herberstein (1742-1805), Imperial and Royal Chamberlain, legal adviser in Styria and representative of Salzburg in Graz. Elder brother of Johann Gundacker, Count [Graf] Herberstein.

²⁵ “der könig in Preussen”. BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

²⁶ BD: Maria Theresia Antonia von Amann (1764-1802), daughter of Royal Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] Franz Joseph von Amann (1736-1804). Cf. No. 0904/43.

²⁷ BD: 15th November.

²⁸ BD: Gottfried Ephraim Teller (* 1754), tenor, made his debut in 1773.

²⁹ BD: Presumably the daughter of Johann Dominikus Clessin von Königsklee, captain and master of the bodyguard.

way [65] and protect them from seduction. Little Leopold³⁰ is in the best of health, praise God. Here are the Collections for Pleasure.³¹ This is no doubt what you mean. I can only send you one year's collection, I did not have any more large wrapping paper. – and you two always want music? in the end I will have emptied the whole box. I kiss my esteemed son and yourself from the heart, [70] send my greetings to the children, and am your sincere father

Mozart mp³²

I have still not been able |: as usual :| to get the shoes from Katharin.³³ The silk-spinner has so much work that she cannot deliver them before the feast-days. Nandl³⁴ and Tresel³⁵ commend themselves. [75] Frau *Zezi*³⁶ commends herself, she was most indignant that the esteemed Senior Court Clerk³⁷ von Deissendorf³⁸ spoke to her here twice and never came out to me, even if it were only to see the child. You know me, how I think, – thanks be to God, because of so much experience I very quickly see, without reflecting on it very long – where the problem is! and choose to overlook it.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ BD: Christian Gottlieb Stephanie the Elder (1734-1798) published the *Neue Sammlung zum Vergnügen und Unterricht* from 1766. In 1768, two of Mozart's songs appeared in this collection: *Daphne, deine Rosenwangen* KV 52 (46c) and *An die Freude* KV 53 (43b).

³² mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

³³ BD: Johann Kathrein, a Salzburg shoemaker. Cf. shoes planned for Leopoldl in No. 0897/44.

³⁴ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

³⁶ BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

³⁷ "Oberschreiber". BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1749-1809), one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law. As Senior Court Clerk [Oberschreiber] second in rank to the district administrator. Cf. No. 0806/50.

³⁸ BD: Teisendorf (today in Bavaria).