

Salzb., 17th Aug.,
1786

I must confess that it was very noticeable to me indeed that the esteemed paymaster² did not say a single word to me about his marriage, [5] when I now know that the town has been aware of it to some extent for 3 weeks now, but no-one spoke to me about it because they knew that my esteemed son³ had pointed him in that direction and that I must therefore have known about it better and sooner anyway. Only now, on Sunday the 13th, did we meet in Holy Trinity Church;⁴ we conversed together as usual, [10] and he would perhaps have continued his silence on the matter if I had not taken the first step and said to him that he had acted very wisely in keeping quiet about it until the Prince⁵ gave his permission, but I was sorry to say that this precaution was useless, since Herr von Luidl⁶ had told the *Barisanis*⁷ about the matter from the very beginning, and that it only depended on the Prince's answer. – [15] Now he says to me that the permission has already been given. I disclosed to him how I thought it had all started, – and that is just how it was: he spoke about the matter with Haslberger's esteemed brother,⁸ who was here at that time because of his wedding; the latter described the character of the Erlachs' daughters⁹ to him etc. etc. and encouraged his hopes. He later wrote 2 letters to the father, [20] but was left without an answer since afterwards, during the downpours when I was staying with you and when the Vienna post-coach to Tyrol could not go on further but had to return to Vienna, he decided to drive to Vöcklbruck¹⁰ to present himself personally in Gmundten.¹¹ He was given a very friendly reception and arranged everything within half an hour. But which one does he take? – – [25] not the elder and prettier one, – No! but *Babette*. As mentioned, he must have already composed his provisional thoughts in the light of Haselberger's advance description, so he too, as he told me, saw it the same way: – namely that the latter would be more suitable for him as a widower and for his children because she may be less given to smart ideas [30] and may perhaps also be less inclined towards unnecessary, superfluous *galanterie*¹² or vanity. – I think I have gathered that my esteemed son will know these girls better. – Meanwhile, he asked me to convey his compliments to you both and sends thanks to my esteemed son for his good advice until he can present his thanks to him personally when he comes here.

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

³ BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

⁴ "DreyfältigkeitsKürche". BD: a Salzburg church frequently mentioned in the correspondence.

⁵ "Fürst". BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] 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. Here he is in particular the employer of the paymaster.

⁶ BD: Rochus Sebastian, Ritter von Luidl, Actual Privy Councillor [wirklicher geheimer Rat], Court Chamber Director [Hofkammerdirektor], member of the Parliament of the Estates in all Austrian territories [Landmann in allen österreichischen Landen].

⁷ BD: Family of Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family. Cf. No. 0270/28.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0918/95, 111-113. BD VIII p. 128: Possibly the spice merchant Joseph Stephan Has[e]lberger on the Rathausplatz.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0975/26.

¹⁰ BD: Vöcklbruck, 50 km east of Salzburg on the way to Linz.

¹¹ BD: Gmunden, Ebensee, 70 km east of Salzburg.

¹² = fancy and fashionable goods.

[35] The 18th Aug.

Although the water level was always high, we have nevertheless had pretty high water twice since the time I stayed with you, with the Salza[ch] forcing its way into the town, but yesterday evening it was noticeable that it might bring us something again, and indeed it was not in vain that they took all necessary precautions everywhere and especially on the bridge throughout the night; [40] this morning the Salza[ch] was everywhere in the town and has risen throughout the day due to the most astonishing downpours of rain, such that the guards here can no longer stay in the guardroom,¹³ but have taken quarters on the ground floor of the Ball House.¹⁴ We hope, since it has no longer been raining towards evening today, [45] that the water level will fall. So this is the third flood since the time I spent in St. Gilgen, the fourth in all including the big one, but also the biggest among the other three; and rain, – and always rain, the previous days cold, but now more wet and warm and with a certain smell.

The messenger¹⁵ brought me the fish, for which I thank you both.

[50] The *pianoforte* for the regional governor in Linz¹⁶ is finished and very fine and good indeed. But it will be left here for a while to distend, and before that Heinrich¹⁷ will play a *concerto* on it when the Archbishop arrives. There are furthermore badly *proportioned* strings on 5 notes in the *discant* because he did not have any more of the right ones and is still waiting for them. [55] As soon as he gets the strings he has sent for he will send you the entire set. Now 2 others are being made, for Count Wolfegg¹⁸ and Marchand.¹⁹ I have sold 2 *clavichords* for him, one for Weiser and one for the Hagenauer children.

I am also sending the shoes. The costs for you. . .	1 florin	18 kr
[60] and for my esteemed son.	1 fl	36 kr
For cleaning the little hat I paid.	– ”	18 kr
for the little box for the ladies’ hat	– ”	20 kr
		<hr/>
	[.....]	²⁰

one can at least always keep a couple of hats in it, or take it along when travelling.

[65] Heinrich asks me to pass on his most obedient compliments to both of you, sends you herewith the 2nd part²¹ – and requests the 4th part. You need only remove the envelope and pack the 4th part into it.

N.B.: I have not sent it because there was no room.

¹³ BD: At Mirabell garden.

¹⁴ “Ballhaus”. BD: The old name for the theatre.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0931/9-10; 0975/81 ff. Linz on the Danube, 108 km north-east of Salzburg on the way to Vienna.

¹⁷ Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand; had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts’ home for three years until 1774.

¹⁸ “Gr: Wolfegg”. BD: Anton Willibald, Count [Graf] von Waldburg zu Wolfegg und Waldsee (1729-1821), hereditary seneschal [Rechtserbttruchsess], 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.

¹⁹ = Heinrich Marchand.

²⁰ BD: Addition not completed. 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

²¹ BD: Translation of Richardson’s *Sir Charles Grandison*, cf. Nos. 0813/14; 0969/46, 0971/69.

*Bologna*²² commends himself, – he would have left yesterday, [70] but they foresaw the rising water, and today the Waging²³ *ordinari*²⁴ really could not ride back, and the post-boy with the horse is still here; the Salzburg postmen who should have come back did not appear either etc. etc. He will leave on Monday in the coming week.

Herr von *D'Yppold*²⁵ commends himself, he sent me the present enclosure.

[75] Little Leopoldl²⁶ is in good health and spirits, kisses both of you and his siblings, I ask you to pass on thanks to Nannerl²⁷ for the letter she wrote so neatly.

Fräulein von Robinig²⁸ has left for Villach with her brother in order, as I hear, to be present at her brother's wedding. She commends herself and asks me to inform you that she will certainly be here again at the arranged time to take Nannerl to her Confirmation. [80]

the 19th Aug.

Herr Fellacher, choir director in Lauffen,²⁹ commends himself to you, he called on us 12 days ago now, and Heinrich had to play for him. He asked me to send the fans out to Lennerl³⁰ at a suitable opportunity, [85] but I always forgot it in my haste.

Today is the finest of days, the water is subsiding. Leopoldl is shouting and is in high spirits. Nandl³¹ and Tresel³² send hand-kisses and commend themselves, I kiss you both from the heart, send greetings to the children and am

as always your sincere
father Mozart mp³³

[90] I will send the book on another occasion, but send the 4th part into town soon.

²² 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. Cf. Nos. 0968/54; 0975/71.

²³ BD: Waging, west of Laufen on the way to Wasserburg.

²⁴ BD: This messenger, who travelled between Salzburg and Waging, always arrived on Thursday and left on Friday.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young.

²⁸ BD: Maria Elisabeth (1749-1792), known as Lisel, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

²⁹ BD: Laufen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop's autumn residence.

³⁰ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

³¹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³² BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

³³ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.