

1038. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Leopold² is in good health and spirits, praise God, Salzburg, 9th March,
so far he still has only one upper tooth, 1787
so he now has 3 teeth, 2 below in the middle, [5] and one at the upper right.

You are greatly mistaken when you think that being subordinate to Vanschenz³ will have irked Heinrich.⁴ not at all! He came back from court highly pleased and said he was glad that it had turned out this way, since otherwise the Archbishop⁵ might have had an idea or formed a plan [10] to use this as a means of seducing him into staying on here for some time; – since this was precisely his father’s most eager wish, you can both easily imagine what joy his father will have felt reading this boyish chatter and this childish, mischievous *thinking*, when he had been hoping for assurance that he was secure for a couple more years here, and would in particular have felt a natural, paternal pleasure that his son was *leader*,⁶ [15] and at the same time hoping that he would retain his position by his behaviour. In one year his time is up. Where does he go then? – Home to his father’s dining table and indolence? – In one year’s time he will not only be not better, but worse, since that is how it is always been up till now, and cannot be otherwise, – there is too much opportunity for idleness, [20] and his laziness is indescribable. I feel sorry for the dear, honest, good parents, I let him do what he wants, write to his father about it, and no longer wish to ruin my already weak health and finish myself off completely. Gretl’s⁷ conduct is something quite different, and although she is only 1 year older, she has 10 years more reflection and understanding. [25] She is also praised and valued everywhere, and with her morally good conduct she brings her parents pleasure and not the least consternation.

Now that the stonemason next door has died,⁸ everything is as deserted as if they were all dead; not a door is opened, not a soul is to be seen, and because bread was handed out every Friday, the beggar women now come up to the closed door in procession. – May God have mercy! – Now the poor people could bring them bread! No work! – and no money in the house! – But, unfortunately, one could see it coming a long time ago. Now the parish priests no longer come to *coffee* etc., nor the barber’s apprentice to breakfast etc. In the last *Casino*⁹ the *bass* Sidra sang, and since the Archbishop had long been due to hear Preyman,¹⁰ he said

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: The new violinist at court, cf. No. 1036/6 ff., 76.

⁴ Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts’ home for three years until 1774. Now employed in Salzburg.

⁵ “S: Hochf. 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.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 1020/54 ff.

⁷ BD: Maria Margarethe, Heinrich’s sister; she too had been a boarding pupil with Leopold. Composed, played keyboard and sang.

⁸ BD: Cf. note on No. 1027/24.

⁹ BD: A series of concerts held in the largest room in the town hall.

¹⁰ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold’s efforts he was not offered employment in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Prince [Fürst] Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

he should play in the *Casino*. He played so well that he received general and deafening applause after each piece, and everybody, nobility and others, paid me *compliments* on it, because they knew that Preyman played according to my school and instruction etc. Even Heinrich was struck, since he had only ever heard Preyman, since his arrival, as *second violin* in *quartets*, [40] which we often played, and playing a little *concerto* in the street in a *Finalmusik*¹¹ last summer. That day, but before the *Casino*, Preyman came to me while Heinrich was at court and played to me the *concerto* |: by *Giarnowik*¹² :|, for which I told him, especially in the *adagio*, of certain delicate forms of expression, stolen time¹³ etc., [45] and in the *allegro* certain *piano* passages. Heinrich's tempestuous, wild head does not want to hear anything of this, since he hears, of course, a little of the same thing from Vanschenz and Strinasachi.¹⁴ Enough! He is doing it to himself!

Last Saturday evening, *Mad.^{me} Schlaucka*¹⁵ fell ill all of a sudden, bewildered and speechless, – it was a kind of concussion; [50] after all the remedies applied all through the night, they got her speaking again and recognising those around her. She must be better, because since I heard 2 days ago that there was improvement, there has been no more talk of it.

Herr Wallner¹⁶ at the Parliament of the Estates¹⁷ will not go on much longer either. Herr Steiger¹⁸ was called by the children and they all ran to him weeping and begging that he should use all his powers to persuade Herr Wallner to make his testament and put matters in order, but he was not at all inclined to understand, although shortness of breath is already contracting his chest. – Service in the Parliament of the Estates is wonderfully good service, especially now that a well-behaved, charitable Cathedral Dean, a good, unimportant Bishop in Chiemse[e], – [60] and a sensible Prelate of St. Peter's etc. are there etc., since everything has been arranged well and one has nothing to do with the Archbishop. – Enough! If one thinks about one's children, – as one must do before God and the world – one realises that in the countryside they can neither be educated nor make progress towards their worldly and eternal well-being; and in the end several 1000 florins in savings are hardly enough to buy them a place in a hospice. Herr von Andretter,¹⁹ too, has hardly known what he is doing for a long time now, so with that two good posts will become free.

Herr von Hafner²⁰ had a feverish catarrh once again, and the *medici* predict that finally consumption will follow if he does not change his unruly life, [70] which will hardly happen as long as he is surrounded by parasites who constantly egg him on and, as the devil does with the soul, keep him in their midst and never leave him.

¹¹ BD: Music marking the end of the academic year.

¹² BD: Actually Jarnowick or, in the italianised form, Giovanni Mane Giarnovich (c. 1740-1804), composer of numerous violin concertos.

¹³ BD: Rubato. Cf. Mozart in No. 0355/93 ff.: "The fact that I always remain accurately in tempo causes amazement to them all. The *tempo rubato* in an *adagio*, where the left-hand knows nothing about it, is totally incomprehensible to them. With them, the left-hand adapts."

¹⁴ BD: Brother of the Regina Strinasacchi (1764-1823); engaged as a violinist for two years in Salzburg, cf. No. 1026/14-15. Strangely, there is no mention of him in the Salzburg Hofkalenders for 1788 and 1789.

¹⁵ BD: The wife of the first personal valet, Franz Schlauka.

¹⁶ BD: Jakob Wallner, Secretary to the Salzburg Parliament of the Estates [Landschaft], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat] and captain [Hauptmann].

¹⁷ "auf der Landschaft".

¹⁸ BD: Franz Adam Staiger, works administrator for the Parliament of the Estates.

¹⁹ Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. His daughter was Nannerl's pupil.

²⁰ BD: Sigmund Haffner (1756-1787), ennobled "von Imbachhausen" on 29th July; son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant.

The Jew *Laudon* has already been advised often enough to move away from here; – but because he knew that he had great protection, [75] he did not go. – Now he has been informed by the City Legal *Officer*, on the strength of a *decretum proprium*²¹ by the Archbishop, that he should leave Salzburg as of yesterday. Before 6 o'clock in the evening, as the appointed hour approached, a clerk from the town hall appeared in his apartment at the Hofwürth.²² 2 bailiffs stood some distance away in the street. At 6 o'clock he had to set off, [80] otherwise he would have been led away by the 2 enforcers of the law. *Deo Sint Laudes!*²³ At least he took away 6000 fl profit with him from Salzburg, which he sent away little by little. Do you want to know all the things he has done? You both know a lot of it!

M.^{me} Barisani has emerged from the house in recent days.²⁴ He is having a fine, broad footpath made over the lawn, [85] since it is not possible to go across it in wet weather.

The *Barisanis' Nannerl*²⁵ is due to marry. But she cannot tell me the name of the place herself. It is a country estate or little property which the groom has bought from a *court gentleman* in Munich, and is said to be 4 hours from Passau going towards the forest or Bohemia; and as I heard something about a glass factory and know that there is a glassworks not far from Passau, esteemed master glazier Schmaus²⁶ will probably be able to inform me about it.

The *Gilowsky* affair²⁷ is becoming increasingly dirty. His young lady bride *Josepha von Laudes* has been driven out of the Senior Equerry's²⁸ house, and neither he nor she have shown their faces there again. [95] Due to this occurrence, there was urgent begging for refuge at his father's, and since she often ate there anyway, she is now living there too in that certain little room. The Archbishop has roundly rejected their 2 applications to marry, and while otherwise the Archbishop always joked with old *Gilowsky*²⁹ when he served at table, now he has not only not spoken a single word to him since they applied for permission to marry, [100] but has even sent him a message that he is *relieving* him of all chamber and table duties because of his age. This irks the old man. – How long will it be until *Katherl*³⁰ has disagreements with the bride, since they are always together? – especially if the *Ms.^{lle}* says to her sometime that she regrets having come up here;³¹ in that case one can easily guess *Katherl's* answer, [105] particularly if she starts to *command* and criticise about the house as she did at the Senior Equerry's. It will all come out into the light soon.

²¹ = “a personal decree”.

²² *Hofwirt*, an inn in Salzburg.

²³ BD: "Praises be to God", but presumably also a pun on *Laudon*.

²⁴ BD: *Josepha Barisani*, née *Poschinger* (1761-1830), the wife of the physician *Joseph Barisani* (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, *Dr. Silvester Barisani*. She had recently given birth, cf. No. 1028/18-19.

²⁵ BD: Probably *Anna Maria Barisani* (* 1750), daughter of the personal physician *Dr. Silvester Barisani*.

²⁶ BD: *Franz Schmauss* in *St. Gilgen*.

²⁷ BD: Mentioned for the first time in No. 0995/14-26, where the reckless behaviour of *Franz Xaver Wenzel Gilowsky von Urazowa* (1757-1816) is described, continuing in Nos. 1011/40-52 and 1012/26-28. He actually married *Anna Günther* († 1824), daughter of the surgeon *Joseph Günther*, in November, 1787.

²⁸ “Oberbereitter”. BD: Senior Equerry [Oberbereiter] *Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler]* (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables.

²⁹ BD: *Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky* (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court surgeon. Father of “*Katherl*”. In No. 0705 called the “*Barber of Salzburg*”.

³⁰ BD: *Katharina Gilowsky* (1750-1802), daughter of *Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky*, member of the airgun club frequenter of the *Mozart* family home in earlier years. Sometime governess to the children of *Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz*.

³¹ BD: Presumably from *Vienna*.

I received the 2 fl 40 kreuzers for *chocolate* and almond paste. I am sending you *chocolate* once again with this. I had to laugh heartily that otherwise there was nothing in your letter regarding the *chocolate*, [110] since I had only sent one ½ lb³² to the two of you, and in haste at night left the other lying here. The expensive *chocolate* is a lb by Munich weight, and not customary *chocolate* weight, is consequently heavier, so along with this comes the second ½ lb.

Wolfgangerl³³ brought a little bundle which I am supposed to send out to you because you wrote to him saying he should send out anything that was torn; [115] I therefore could not know or wait to see if or when you would send someone here. I delivered an astonishing sermon to him regarding his underclothes etc. and also regarding his lies and the ill-considered utterances I learned of, in which, among other things, he boasted that he had made a complete *fool* of his second Mamma and told stories composed entirely of lies. On one occasion there he had opened the little box³⁴ on his own initiative, [120] in which there was a letter with money etc. to the *tutor*; I must first of all hear the story properly. I have not yet been able to resolve to creep up the wretchedly high 3 flights of stairs to the Magister, for high stairs are now troublesome for me.

In the next *Casino*, there will be a sung piece in 2 acts,³⁵ and no *concerto* at all. [125] It is by our Haydn.³⁶ In the fourth one, Heinrich is playing a *violin concerto*, and in the 5th Strinasachi³⁷ is playing a *violin concerto*, and Heinrich on the new fortepiano, which the organ builder will have ready by then. Now I kiss you both from the heart, greet the children and am, as long as I may live, your sincere father

Mozart

[130] Heinrich commends himself, – Nandl³⁸ and Tresel³⁹ kiss your hands, and I greet Lenerl.⁴⁰

10 o'clock on Sunday.

Since Kessler⁴¹ will already be leaving again at 12 o'clock, and since the people whom he brought into town are buying a lot here, he does not know if and what he can take with him. [135] At half past 11 he will be eating at the brewery on the Stain,⁴² and Tresel will bring something to him in the stable as he requests. She has 8 lb of hair powder and 6 lb of starch firmly secured in a bag. If he can take it, fine; [if]⁴³ not, she will put the 8 lb of hair powder into a smaller bag and give it to him to take. It would then be good if you sent the little bag into town again at the next suitable opportunity. [140] – The powder and starch had already

³² = lb = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

³³ BD: Nannerl's stepson, currently a boarding pupil with Magister Abele, proprietor of a private school in Salzburg.

³⁴ A box with lock used regularly for sending items between St. Gilgen and the school.

³⁵ BD: *Andromeda e Perseo* by Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763.

³⁶ BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763.

³⁷ BD: Brother of the virtuoso Regina Strinasacchi, but Leopold obviously did not trust him to replace Heinrich.

³⁸ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

³⁹ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴⁰ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

⁴¹ BD: A carter from St. Gilgen.

⁴² BD: Now the Hotel Stein, one of the oldest inns in Salzburg.

⁴³ BD: Paper torn: "if" supplied.

been purchased yesterday anyway, a lb costs 12 kr⁴⁴ everywhere. I hope you will have received the letter from the Graz messenger.⁴⁵ I received the money correctly with the last letter, and everything else that you asked for will be purchased between today and tomorrow. The 20 lb of rice, I believe, have already been bought, [145] at least Tresel paid 2 fl 52 kr at 8 ½ kr. per lb.

The⁴⁶ new violinist is called Fannschentz,⁴⁷ he is the son of a city wait from Enns in Upper Austria – will be some 20 years old. He is now leading the orchestra etc., is staying in Count Starhemberg's⁴⁸ house, his brother, with rights of *primogeniture*, brought him up etc. and made him learn etc. *Addio!* I kiss you both from the heart and am your sincere father
[150] Mozart mp⁴⁹

⁴⁴ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

⁴⁵ BD: A messenger travelling regularly between Salzburg and Graz via St. Gilgen.

⁴⁶ BD: Paper torn: "The" supplied.

⁴⁷ BD: Vanschencz, cf. above; Nos. 1032/6; 1036/6 ff, 76.

⁴⁸ "Graf". BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1748-1819), one of the twin brothers Count [Graf] Starhemberg.

⁴⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.