

0803. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN²

À Madame / Madame Marie Anne Berthold / de Sonnenbourg: / à / St. Gilgen

Salzb., 30th Aug.,
1784

[5] Our journey home³ cannot be described quickly in detail. Suffice it to say that the coach sunk down on one side 4 times because the lengthwise suspension belts slackened, and chains had to be pulled through underneath with the help of the farmers. We then groped our way forward on foot through mud and over stones; in short! we got home at 10 o'clock, – then the baggage was unloaded, [10] an evening meal provided, since we were certainly hungry. At the end, I asked the maids if the innkeeper would enquire the next morning; they said he would be leaving on a journey at 4 o'clock in the morning as soon as the gate was opened. What then was to be done? I could no longer speak to him or pay; in the morning I sent a message to the brewer at the Stein,⁴ and heard that the innkeeper had already paid for all his services. I therefore request madam daughter to deign to pay Kessler⁵ for everything; I will then send whatever it is by the messenger.⁶ I send you herewith the 2 small woollen dresses; the messenger will bring the rest. Today I will go up to the castle⁷ myself regarding the woman cook.⁸ This evening I face a *burdensome business* since Count von Haslang⁹ from Munich [20] and Count von Öls¹⁰ from Mainz are calling on us. Yesterday the new violinist *Msr. Norman performed*. We were therefore at court. He is neither as handsome nor as dashing nor as brilliantly dressed as they said, – even less is he such a great violinist. In a word, – it was once again true Italian hot air. Menzl¹¹ is more to the liking of all of us, including everyone at court. [25] He already wanted to visit me on Saturday, but has not yet found us at home. He had many compliments to pass on to me from my acquaintances in *Parma*.¹² I kiss my dear esteemed son¹³ and you with my whole heart, and to both of you I am your

sincere old father,

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: This letter opens the correspondence between father and daughter which was to continue until his death in 1787. It covers the most intimate matters in the same detail as subjects taken from world politics. In these letters, too, Leopold shows himself to possess anything but a narrow-minded, limited, servile nature. Leopold forwarded to Nannerl most of the letters he received from Wolfgang and seldom referred to Wolfgang in his letters to Nannerl.

³ BD: Returning after attending Nannerl’s wedding in St. Gilgen with his three boarding pupils (cf. note on No. 0765/46, 116, 159).

⁴ BD: The inn “Zum Stein”, today Hotel Stein in Salzburg.

⁵ BD: Kessler was probably the driver of a coach which Leopold had hired. But perhaps the postmaster mentioned in No. 0806/51.

⁶ BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a wagon driver who came to Salzburg once a week.

⁷ BD: The fortress overlooking Salzburg.

⁸ BD: Leopold was helping Nannerl to obtain domestic staff.

⁹ “Graf von Haslang”. BD: Franz Sigismund, Count [Graf] Haslang (1737-1804), from Schloss Tüssling near Altötting.

¹⁰ “Graf von Öls”. BD: Count [Graf] von Eltz, a relative of the deceased Elector of Mainz, Philipp Karl.

¹¹ BD: Zeno Franz Menzel (1756-1823), was in Salzburg May-September 1784, but did not succeed Hafeneder, instead becoming a violinist in the court music in Vienna in 1787.

¹² BD: Leopold was there with Wolfgang in March, 1770. His acquaintances in the town are noted in No. 0166/43 ff.

¹³ BD: See footnote 4.

[30]

Everyone sends you kisses!

Hasn't *Pimpes*¹⁵ canine soul appeared to you? –

Mozart mp¹⁴

¹⁴ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.

¹⁵ BD: *Pimpes*, the Mozarts' dog (cf. No. 0291/37), apparently now deceased.