

0806. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 9th Sept., 1784.

Until now, clearly, there has been no chance for things to get boring, because I was busy with sending the *clavier*² to Munich: and I will be heartily glad once the story with the serving girls³ is over. [5] I hope for a reply from you tomorrow. Meanwhile I am writing to you in advance today about the burdensome business I dealt with in the meantime. *Lieutenant Hofler's* wife came to me and wanted me to *recommend* her daughter to you as a parlour maid |: probably half chambermaid, half parlour maid |: She can do everything. She learnt *trimming bonnets*, *embroidering clothes* etc. etc. from the Herbersteins'⁴ chambermaid, [10] and hairdressing from Countess Lizow's⁵ valet; – – all according to the latest fashion. If need be, she can also cook. She would also be prepared to lay aside the white bonnet if that should be objectionable, and put on a black parlour maid's bonnet etc. etc. – I answered that I had already sent a letter out to you concerning 2 parlour maids, [15] it might therefore be too late because a decision would probably already be on the way back with the messenger, but I could not give her any news before that because the messenger only comes once a week. She even thought of driving out with her daughter and put her through her paces for you, but I talked her out of it. She told me that her daughter was with Count *Sinzendorf's*⁶ wife: [20] that was, of course, intolerable for anyone. Then she was in *Friburg*,⁷ eating with the ladies and gentlemen as chambermaid, – only her most gracious lady *Baronesse* and she were both subject to the parlour maid, who was Adam's dearest and maid here, and who now gives all the orders in Friburg because she is the beloved of the master of the house, – and according to what they say, [25] there were already a few parlour maids or chambermaids who bore children there. She went on to say that she had heard with astonishment that a certain soldier's daughter was due to go out to you as 3rd maid. She asked me not to lay this cross on my daughter's shoulders, as the servant is not accustomed to work, lazy, can do nothing except knit, and is purely a message girl. – [30] I fobbed madam off as well as I could with the promise of informing you at the first opportunity. Now, I enquired about the name of the soldier's maid, and learned that she is called Franciska Hapfinger. I thought about climbing the Capuzinerberg to *Fr: v Hermes*⁸ to make enquiries: fortunately she came down of her own accord after 8 o'clock in the evening to visit me in her *negligé*, [35] just as I was having my evening meal: and there I learnt that this maid was the daughter of the Minnichberg's Waberl,⁹ who formerly had such a bad reputation; that was already enough for me! Doing more than necessary, I went secretly to the captain of the *grenadiers*¹⁰ and demanded by his

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: Which obviously belonged to his boarding pupils from Munich.

³ BD: Cf. Nos 0804/40; 0805/69 ff.

⁴ BD: Probably Maria Augusta, Gräfin Herberstein, née Schrattenbach (1738-1810), a niece of Archbishop Sigmund Christoph von Schrattenbach.

⁵ "Gräfin Lizow". BD: Countess [Gräfin] Lützwow, a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus and wife of the commandant of the fortress in Salzburg.

⁶ BD: Countess [Gräfin] Sinzensdorf.

⁷ BD: Fribourg in Switzerland.

⁸ BD: Wife of Johann Joseph Hermann Hermes von Fürstenhof (1723-1809), captain in the grenadiers: Anna Helena (+1795). Lived on the Capuzinerberg ["Capuchins' Mountain"] on the edge of Salzburg.

⁹ BD: = Mönchsberg Babette, a woman who lived on the Mönchsberg ["Monk's Mountain"] on the edge of Salzburg.

¹⁰ BD: Johann Joseph Hermann Hermes von Fürstenhof (1723-1809), captain in the grenadiers.

and his wife's honesty that they tell me the truth. They confirmed everything and said that this person must not suited to work at all. [40] She had apparently only been in Austria¹¹ for a very short time, or perhaps in Vienna; but her mother soon had her brought back again in a hired coach: but she asked me to keep it to myself that I had enquired of them, since these people were like Satan in person. Otherwise they owed it to us to speak the truth. [45] My good madam daughter, of course, did not know the girl's mother and let herself be deceived by her persuasive talk and her daughter's strong looks: if I had seen the mother, none of this would have happened, for I know her. The gulden¹² which I gave her is therefore a holy gift of alms, and we must think about another maid. [50] Yet on the other hand I have saved my esteemed son 4 florins. His esteemed brother, the Chief Clerk,¹³ said to the postmaster¹⁴ that my esteemed son will pay the money for the 4 days when he comes into town. I wanted to pay him, but he had no inclination at all to accept it because he wanted to be paid 3 florins a day, – consequently 12 florins. But he had to be satisfied with my payment of 2 florins a day: [55] I therefore paid him 8 florins: – Now my esteemed son can brook the loss of the gulden that the maid received because in the end he has been spared 3 florins and perhaps many vexations.

the 10th Sept.

I have now received the letter and see at the end that you have already made arrangements for a parlour maid. [60] – On the one hand I am glad: this way the troublesome business I had with the maids in the meantime has come to an end; and I will also tell the soldier's daughter that you have made arrangements with someone else, for with her there really is no point, – but if we should after all look around for another one here, I must be told of it soon, but I think you can get someone like that anywhere.

[65] Now I am indeed amazed that the days are almost too short to write a letter every week, and the last one being undated, – and I am hardly able to read the newspaper. I have no objection to your daily plan, other than playing the *clavier* for 3 hours, from 2 to 5 o'clock, and then going for a walk for only 1 hour.

[70] The weather here was uninterruptedly fine the whole time: and I would now unfaithfully be there with you both if I had not received the *order* from the Archbishop to draw up a table of the entire court music personnel¹⁵ and their salaries etc., where I must still await further developments. I *congratulate* my esteemed son heartily on having his blood let.¹⁶ [75]

¹¹ The archbishopric of Salzburg was at that time not part of Austria.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0804/41.

¹³ "Oberschr[eiber]:" BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law and also a witness at Nannerl's wedding. A regional administrative official.

¹⁴ BD: Probably the "Kessler" mentioned in No. 0803/15.

¹⁵ BD: Consisting at that time of

Luigi Gatti, music director since 1783;

Leopold Mozart, deputy music director since 1763;

Johann Michael Haydn, concertmaster;

Francesco Ceccarelli, castrato;

Michelangelo Bologna, castrato;

10 further sopranos and 4 altos (boys' voices from the Kapellhaus);

7 tenors;

Joseph Nikolaus Meissner, bass;

3 organists (including Michael Haydn as first organist);

1 violinists, 2 violoncellists, 1 violettist (viola player), 4 violonists (violone/bass);

2 bassoonists, 3 oboists;

2 horn players, 3 trombonists;

Johann Joseph Egedacher, organ builder;

Ferdinand Mayr, lute and violin maker;

2 court and 1 cathedral calcants (organ bellows operators).

¹⁶ BD: Usually carried out in spring.

It really was time to you to pay a *visit* to Strobl¹⁷ at last: how on earth could you put it off so long in such outstandingly fine weather – and St. Wolfgang?¹⁸ – I am almost prepared to bet that I will visit St. Wolfgang before my daughter does: – Oh you sit-arounds, and perhaps soon sit-around-the-heating! – I am always outside the gates by 5 o'clock at the latest, until after the bells for prayer, [80] and on Mary's birthday¹⁹ I went to Mülln at 2 o'clock, from there to the administrator,²⁰ then to Maxlan²¹ and at 7 o'clock home through the New Gate.²² In the meantime the airgun club²³ met once, namely on the 5th, and on the 12th, the day after tomorrow, there will be another meeting. It will continue this way first of all until *Michaelmas*.²⁴ – but how things will go for me then I do not know. At the moment I am well served: [85] but *Veronica*²⁵ really is going to Lofer,²⁶ but she is staying here to cook until you travel back again, and only then will she go home, because she is not at all in a hurry to go home. – I am sending the machine and all that belongs to it.²⁷ Then an apron which the city clerk's Tresel²⁸ brought; and the old singed corset. But there is still an old green one there. [90] *M:^{me} Zezi* has brought the jewellery²⁹ back again: everyone likes it, – only the bride would wish to have heaven knows what kind of glitter-flitter hanging down at the front rather than the teardrop. She has now gone to the market in Bozen³⁰ and presumably hopes to find glitter-flitter jewellery there. The wedding should already have taken place there by now, but she made a personal request [95] that the wedding should be held in Salzburg and not before *October, November* or around New Year; she simply does not seem to be taken at all with her bridegroom's glitter-flitter. In the meantime I have put the jewellery in safe keeping, it may yet happen, as esteemed aunt *Zezi* says, that another idea may occur to her after her return. Now stay healthy and happy, [100] I am my dear, esteemed son's and dear daughter's eternally sincere

father Mozart

The Schiedenhofens are still in Triebenbach.³¹ The Hagenauers, *Joly Salerl, Msr. D'Ipold*, the airgun *company*, *Grenadier* Captain *Herme's*³² family on the Capuzinerberg etc. etc. all commend themselves, especially Herr *Marchand*³³ in his last letter. [105] *Bologna*³⁴ in particular, he would travel out to you if I could go with him, – but he is afraid of travelling and will no longer manage it in time now, because he can travel to Munich with the empty

¹⁷ BD: Where the younger brother of Leopold's son-in-law lived.

¹⁸ BD: Small town on the north side of St. Wolfgang's Lake; in No. 0295/33 ff., Leopold considered going there with Wolfgang on a pilgrimage to the saint he was named after.

¹⁹ BD: 8th September according to the Catholic calendar.

²⁰ BD: Johann Paul Wöl[f]f, cf. note on No. 0748/12.

²¹ BD: Mülln, Maxlan: suburbs of Salzburg.

²² BD: The recently opened *Neutor*, involving tunnelling through the castle rock in Salzburg.

²³ BD: The shooting of airguns at humorously decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for all food and drinks consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

²⁴ BD: 29th September, the date for changing accommodation and servants.

²⁵ BD: Leopold's cook.

²⁶ About 36 km south-west of Salzburg.

²⁷ BD: Mentioned in No. 0805/95. Possibly a sewing machine.

²⁸ BD: Therese, daughter of the city clerk, Wolfgang Ebner.

²⁹ BD: Mentioned in Nos. 0804/41 ff. and 0805/68 ff.

³⁰ BD: Bolzano, where fairs frequently took place then.

³¹ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Married Anna Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

³² BD: Various Salzburg friends of the family. See list in index.

³³ BD: The father of two of Leopold's former boarding pupils.

³⁴ BD: Castrato in the Salzburg court music.

coaches which bring the merchants,³⁵ and they will already arrive towards the end of the coming week.

[110] Concerning the little *chest* in the room I had in St. Gilgen, I lost the key on the journey home, unless I left it lying there, perhaps on the little desk.

I kiss the children, and hope Fräulein Nannerl will learn industriously, and the same for Wolfg.³⁶ *addio!*

³⁵ BD: To the annual “Rupertidult” [Rupert’s] fair.

³⁶ BD: Nannerl, Wolfgang: two of Nannerl’s stepchildren, both receiving keyboard lessons from her.