

Salzb., 17th Sept., 1784

So far, things have not managed to become boring for me, praise God, for I cannot get away from my official tasks. The information about the hospital clerk's daughter² is correct, [5] she has received her starting earnest. I am glad; it is better for the children, the girl has a better manner than a maid from the country, and the children will be kept cleaner and more orderly. the tenor Herr Hardek³ is here with the famous writer, esteemed Court Councillor von Ekartshausen.⁴ They called on me right away, brought me 3 letters, – from Gretl;⁵ from Hanchen;⁶ [10] and from Prof. Babo,⁷ all of whom write sending their compliments to you both. On the same day as I wrote to you, the *actors*⁸ alighted at the theatre in the afternoon. The next day we had grand music at *Barisani's*,⁹ where I *performed* the new, *excellent symphony*¹⁰ by your brother; – there the esteemed *principal*,¹¹ who is acquainted with the *Barisanis' Joseph*,¹² was presented to me, [15] and he was quite beside himself for joy when he heard my name. He is called Herr Schmit, and is the one who played *Pettrillo* in Vienna in the Abduction from the Seraglio, consequently knows your brother very well, and consequently it can be hoped that they will perform your brother's *opera* well because he himself played in it in Vienna, and afterwards they performed the same piece more than 12 times in Prague: [20] the good *actor* and singer Herr Brandl¹³ is also taking part. – Tomorrow morning, the 19th, they will perform the first *opera*, the Italian in London¹⁴ |: *l'Italiano in Londra* |: the 2 female singers¹⁵ are innocent young girls of 13 and perhaps 14 or 15 years of age. They are said to sing cleanly. – I will hear if that is true. Herewith follows the dress from the tailor, I hope that it has turned out right.

[25] Nannerl¹⁶ is of course still here, – I do not believe she has a place: when I asked her if she will or can be there when my daughter comes into town, since I would otherwise have to look for someone because of the hairdressing, she said to me she can certainly be there. How

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: Cf. No. 0808/20 ff. The search for a suitable house-maid for Nannerl.

³ BD: Franz Christian Hartig (*1750), tenor, pupil of Anton Raaff. In 1778 took care of Leopold's wife in Mannheim; moved to Munich with the court music in the same year.

⁴ “H: Hofrath von Ekartshausen”. BD: Karl von Eckartshausen (1752-1803), confidential archivist and court counsellor [Hofrat] in Munich, author of dramas.

⁵ BD: When Leopold and Nannerl returned from Munich on 14th March, 1781, they took with them Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”) joined him in February, 1782.

⁶ BD: Maria Johanna Brochard (*1775), daughter of a theatrical couple, from 1783 the third boarder learning in Leopold Mozarts' home in Salzburg; she has just returned home.

⁷ BD: Josef Marius Babo (1756-1822), book sensor and confidential secretary, dramatic poet. In 1799 became chairman of the theatre commission established by Elector Maximilian IV Joseph of Bavaria.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0808/25.

⁹ BD: Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

¹⁰ BD: The “Linz” Symphony KV 425.

¹¹ BD: Karl Ludwig Schmidt (c. 1740-1814), the principal actor of the troupe mentioned above. Freemason.

¹² BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

¹³ BD: Christian Brandl, who sang Masetto in Berlin in 1790.

¹⁴ BD: By Domenico Cimarosa (1749-1801), first performance Rome, 1779.

¹⁵ BD: Daughters of the theatre superintendant Franz Kallmes, a Freemason. Josepha was noted for virtuosity; Franziska sang Konstanze in the Salzburg performance of *The Abduction*; cf. Nos. 0825/28 and 0907/71-72.

¹⁶ BD: Leopold's serving girl. Not identical with the “Nanndl” referred to from No. 0887 on.

will she get a place? – it seems to me she perhaps imagines I will keep her, [30] that you will always be teaching the other one some cooking and sewing. I have bought myself an ell of fine barchent, and now both are sewing and making me 18 bow-ties. Now I would like to know how it works out with the maids when some start at Michaelmas and the others leave; and both of you are going to Salzburg at just that time, and indeed staying here for around a week, [35] when, after all, such changes in the servants would require your presence. – then I would also remind you to let me know in good time how these 2 women will get out to you with their *baggage*, for the Graz messenger¹⁷ does not leave until Saturday, 2nd October.

To my dear esteemed son my thanks for the soup chicken,¹⁸ I will ingest it to his health; [40] more precisely, I will make merry with it all alone on Sunday evening.

Our good Nannerl¹⁹ should not let herself be deterred in learning the *clavier*, and she should not think that I am expecting a great deal from her. Beginning anything is always difficult. When she has overcome the first stage, it will soon go more easily. [45] Just be patient! I am satisfied with a little.

Herr Lang was Martin Lang.²⁰ *Bologna*²¹ will set off in the first days of the coming week, as he says. Previously he told everyone that he was only waiting for the coaches which would bring the merchants here²² so that he can travel cheaply to Munich; now, with the coaches having been here yesterday and today, he lets them go [50] and said to me today that if one more came on Sunday, he would have it wait until Tuesday. But I replied to him that none will wait for him, unless he paid their board. In a word! Everyone is speaking about how he is making a fool of himself, – *Ram, Danzi* and *Lang*²³ had already passed on a message to him from Count *Seau*²⁴ saying that he should come, [55] for he had only taken leave for a fortnight. In the *concert* at *Barisani's* he sang 3 *arias*, or rather 3 *rondos* and nothing but farewell texts, nothing but *Cara addio! io moriro Senza di te*²⁵ etc etc. the Schittenhofens²⁶ and the Senior Equerry²⁷ were there. Regerl²⁸ pulled faces as if she had eaten crab-apples, and everyone watched and laughed together; *Brunetti*,²⁹ *de Simoni*³⁰ etc. [60] mocked and laughed loudly over it in Italian. In a word! He cannot get away from Salzburg, and is causing people to speak badly of the girl.³¹

¹⁷ BD: Messenger/carrier travelling from Salzburg to Graz and passing through St. Gilgen. He arrived in Salzburg every Thursday, left on Saturday. Cf. No. 0803/16, 17.

¹⁸ BD: “Hasenhändl”: Unclear. Perhaps intended: “Haselhändl” = “Haselhuhn” = hazel hen or “Hafenhändl” = “Hefenhuhn, Suppenhuhn” = soup chicken.

¹⁹ BD: Nannerl’s step daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), at this time 13 years old. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl’s daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young.

²⁰ BD: Martin Lang, hunting horn player, known to Mozart from Mannheim; moved to Munich with the Mannheim court.

²¹ BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84.

²² BD: For the annual *Rupertidult* [Rupert’s Fair].

²³ BD: Three musicians from Munich known to Wolfgang Mozart from Mannheim.

²⁴ “Gr: Seeau”. BD: In charge of the court music in Munich.

²⁵ Farewell, my dear! I will die without you.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ “Oberbereiter”. BD: Senior Equerry [Oberbereiter] Gottlieb von Weyrother from Salzburg.

²⁸ BD: Regina, daughter of Senior Equerry [Oberbereiter] Gottlieb von Weyrother from his first marriage.

²⁹ BD: Antonio Brunetti, violinist in the Salzburg court music.

³⁰ BD: Peter (de) Simoni (†1811), oboist in the court music, also in the theatre.

³¹ BD: The “Regerl” mentioned above. A relationship developed with Bologna, cf. No. 0975/71.

Hanchen writes that 2 linen sheets and a pillowcase were left here: that will certainly be the case, [65] since Tresel³² has in the meantime packed away the bed along with the sheets that were on it. I must simply look; it will no doubt be marked? Where might it be? – –

I send kisses to all the children,³³ and am glad that they are well-behaved; it will give me the greatest pleasure if they are pious, attentive and obedient, and also learn something. [70] Now a million compliments from all friends, both gentlemen and ladies, I kiss both of you with my whole heart and am your sincere father,

Mozart

What Herr *Bullinger*³⁴ writes madam daughter can read here for yourself. I have already replied to him, and sent him a whole diary on everything that has happened in the last 4 weeks. [75]

³² BD: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household in Salzburg.

³³ BD: Nannerl's stepchildren.

³⁴ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, now based in Munich.