

0831. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Salzb., 14th Dec., 1784

The barber in the Griesgasse, Münz,² has been buried, he had already been ill for some time. – The young Herr von Moll³ was here: he is going to Neumark for a year as court clerk.⁴ [5] Here are the washed lengths of cloth. The woman says the woollen material washes well, but it must then be pressed, then it turns out beautifully. – Herewith I send the saffron. And now I have indeed kept the salt cone⁵, which I otherwise sell to the baker's wife for 1 florin, until I hear if you must perhaps pay a higher price. Once I have a reply from you both, I can give you it anytime. [10] The very nice felt shoes will also follow this letter. I have already made a note of the 40 kreuzers for them, and the starting earnest of 1 florin.⁶ The cook wishes to come out to you before the time without pay, because she does not like sitting around burdening the Schirkofers⁷ etc. – if it can be done, you can make an agreement with her when you come into town, it is only a talk. [15] I cannot say anything concerning the *opera*⁸ yet. – The messenger⁹ will no doubt come into town again in the coming week. Even if the *opera* is very well-received immediately, they will still have to drop it, for we are in Salzburg, where almost the same people always come. It was given on the 9th. Now there was *theatre* on the 12th, today, the 14th, Die Strich durch die Rechnung.¹⁰ On the 16th probably the *operetta* the *bona figliola*.¹¹ [20] Then there is no *theatre* until the 26th. I therefore do not know if Herr Schmit¹² will possibly decide to give the Abduction¹³ on Monday the 27th or Wednesday the 29th.

The glass-carrier woman has just called.¹⁴ I gave her everything so she can take it with her, am giving only the letter to the messenger. – Now, in the meantime my esteemed son¹⁵ should diligently do only as much preparation work as is possible, [25] these few days will

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: Johann Jakob Münz (Münst), the “Bader” (barber-surgeon) in the Griesgasse (Salzburgwiki: “Sand Street”).

³ BD: Karl Maria Erenbert, Baron [Freiherr] von Moll (1760-1838), son of the Ludwig Gottfried von Moll mentioned in No. 129/23. Michael Haydn wrote an “Abschiedslied” [“Farewell Song”] for him, possibly marking his departure for Neumarkt (north of Salzburg). Nannerl’s husband had also applied for the position. Moll later became government president in Munich.

⁴ Salzburgwiki (2.3.16): A high-level position at court, often occupied by lawyers or noblemen.

⁵ BD: A blunt, 90 cm high cone of salt, presented to court staff at Christmas (from the saltworks in Hallein).

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0804/41. A payment cementing the cook’s employment agreement. The negotiations for a new cook for Nannerl have been outlined in numerous recent letters. 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

⁷ BD: Joseph Gottlieb Schörkhofer was a disponent for the Court Council.

⁸ BD: The 2 performances of *The Abduction* planned for Christmas.

⁹ 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. The “glass-carrier woman” also provided a service on this route.

¹⁰ “Die Strich durch die Rechnung” [“The Crossed-out Bill”]: BD: Comedy in four acts by Johann Friedrich Jünger (1759-1797). First performed in Vienna in 1784.

¹¹ BD: “The Good Daughter”: BD: *La Cecchina ossia la buona figliuola*, comic opera in three acts by Nicola Piccin(n)i (1728-1800), text by Carlo Goldoni. First performance in Rome 1760.

¹² BD: Karl Ludwig Schmidt (c. 1740-1814), the principal actor of the troupe visiting Salzburg in 1784/85. Freemason.

¹³ Mozart’s *Abduction from the Seraglio*.

¹⁴ BD: From letter No. 0808 onwards, the “glasträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] was Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

¹⁵ BD: Leopold’s normal form of address to his son-in-law.

then not matter. The beautiful *opera* by Gluck, the Pilgrim of *Mecca*¹⁶ is also being rehearsed, and will be given immediately after New Year. Last Sunday the shooting¹⁷ was between the treasurer,¹⁸ myself, and Katherl.¹⁹ – Katherl won first prize. I won 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th prizes. [30] N.B. The esteemed Paymaster shot 2 kreuzers per person out of the money-box. One of the biggest bits of news is that Ceccorelli²⁰ has bought the floor of the house that the Raderers' Nannerl²¹ lives in.

I kiss you all and am as always your

Mozart mp²²

ON THE ENVELOPE:

For your information

[35] I have given the glass-carrier woman everything that is mentioned in the letter, in case she comes later than the messenger.

¹⁶ BD: *Les Pèlerins de Mecque*, Cf. No. 0773/52.

¹⁷ 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. The regular meetings were now gradually becoming smaller.

¹⁸ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), Royal Paymaster [Hofzahlmeister], mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.

¹⁹ BD: Katharina Gilowsky, member of the airgun club, frequenter of the family. Daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon. Governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Graf Plaz.

²⁰ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then in Dresden; frequent guest in the Mozarts’ house.

²¹ BD VIII: Maria Anna Rader (†7th January, 1797, aged 63), widow of the administrator of St. Johannes-Spital [St. John’s Hospital].

²² mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.