

Salzb., 14th [January], 1785

I am writing this after my evening meal. The *theatre* was fairly full, the first play² was not at all bad, but it was not in today's style, because the ghost held a morally edifying, good, reproving sermon [5] which to some seemed *N.B.* unsuitable for the stage etc. – The second play, *The Knight of Fortune*,³ is not to my taste, – it is an unnatural piece of childishness. – Regarding Egedacher⁴ you should not hold on to any hopes, for the old man cannot go out, at least he is no longer capable of tuning at court: as a result, the clergyman⁵ must tune the *keyboards* both at court and in the theatre, and in the whole town, [10] and cannot get away; nor has any word so far from Vienna or from the Empire⁶ about a journeyman. This is indeed something pitiful! Be patient! What can one do about it? – – The way our arrangements are here in Salzburg, one could go crazy. – The messenger⁷ brought me the fish, – he came about quarter of an hour after the glass-carrier woman had left me, [15] otherwise they would have encountered each other: I gave a little present to each of them so both were very satisfied. I thank you for it and we will certainly settle the accounts: I have enough here for today and tomorrow, and for both fast-days next week. I gave the glass-carrier woman the items from the *silk-washerwoman*; [20] I paid her 48 kreuzers for everything. – According to what I have heard, the esteemed Salt Supervisor in Gmunten⁸ has invited you to a *ball* or *concert* in Carnival. – The *city wait Antonerl* came to me on Wednesday; just imagine, the fool went from Ischl⁹ to Salzburg, on Monday afternoon towards 3 o'clock went past the administration offices in St. Gilgen to Brunn,¹⁰ where he stayed overnight, [25] and did not have the courage to go in and show his face to you both; he stood for a long time in the Kirchenweg¹¹ and looked at the big, high corridor window next to the kitchen. While he was in Gmunden, the Salt Supervisor gave a *concert* where he was also present, and the Freule¹² played a *concerto*, – as he put it, not bad for something got up in a hurry, – but all by memory. Sometime I will travel to Gmunden with both of you. – [30] Next week the glass-carrier woman will bring me *my glasses*, that pleases me greatly, and then I hope to hear when you are thinking of coming into town, for since I am leaving on the 28th, I have only one messenger-day, namely the 21st, when I can write to you. Enough! You will find as much *wood* for heating etc. and *wine* as you need. Good night! [35] I kiss you both from the heart.

Mzt mp¹³

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: Not identified.

³ BD: *Der Glücksritter oder Die Liebe steht ihren Günstlingen bei*, comedy after George Farquhar (1678-1707), German version by J.F. Schlosser, first performance Vienna 1783.

⁴ BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher (†14th June, 1785), the Royal Organ Builder and therefore also responsible for tuning and maintenance of the keyboard instruments; usually referred to in the letters as “old Egedacher”.

⁵ BD: Rochus Egedacher, son of the “old man”, cathedral priest.

⁶ “aus dem Reich”. The “Reich” refers to the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, the numerous member states covered an area corresponding very roughly to modern Germany.

⁷ 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.

⁸ “H: Salzamtman”. BD: Joseph Bartholomäus Esquire [Edler] of Riethaller, senior salt supervisor [Salzoberamtmann] in Gmunden, Ebensee.

⁹ BD: Bad Ischl, about 52 km north of Salzburg.

¹⁰ BD: Brunnleiten [“Well Rise”], a road on the north of St. Gilgen.

¹¹ = “Church Way”.

¹² = “Little lady”: BD: Probably the daughter of Riethaller.

¹³ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.