

0858. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ SALZBURG

*À Madame / Madame Marie Anne / de Sonnenbourg née de Mozart² /
à / Salzburg To be delivered to the Tanzmeister= / =haus.³*

Vienna, 2nd April, 1785

I am writing to you today only so as not to leave you without a letter from me, [5] and to tell you that you can still write to me one more time, for I might leave here in a fortnight at the earliest if the weather is good; but if you have nothing special to write about, it is better if you write to Munich c/o Herr Marchand,⁴ although we will probably also stop in Lintz⁵ for a while. [10] I therefore do not know if it might be better if you do not answer this letter at all; every week, you will receive a letter from me, in which I will then tell you when and how I am travelling. It may well be that the Kletzls⁶ have in the meantime gone down to Donaudorf, in which case I would have to visit them, since the post-stage is in Kimmelbach. [15] Should I be able to travel from Lintz to Gmunten⁷ in order to make a detour, I would first have to work out the route and inform you; but this would involve me in too much expense, not only for the detour, but also the stay in Gmunten. The alternation of heavy snowfall succeeded by a cold, bright day and snow again is continuing still: Easter Day was bright and beautiful, [20] but as cold as the coldest Christmas Day. *Madame Lang* |: *Boudé* :|⁸ played *Sophie* in *Diderot's* Hausvatter⁹ outstandingly and received general acclamation, – tomorrow she will play the good-humoured daughter in the 3 Töchter.¹⁰ I saw *M.^{me} Lang*¹¹ |: *Weber* :| in *Azor und Zemire*,¹² and in the Pillgrimschaft von Mekka,¹³ both times she sang and acted outstandingly. [25] All of us ate at Herr Lang's,¹⁴ where Herr *Lang* of Munich¹⁵ also lives, and tomorrow they are coming to eat with us. On Easter Monday we dined with a *banker*. On

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: The formula “née de Mozart” corresponds to an old Austrian custom.

³ “The dancing-master’s house”: BD: The name of the house on the Hannibalplatz where the Mozart family had lived since 1773 and where Leopold now finds himself alone after Nannerl’s marriage.

⁴ BD: Theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children had been boarding pupils with Leopold.

⁵ BD: Leopold was travelling back from Vienna to Munich with his former pupil Heinrich Marchand; they reached Linz on 26th April, 1785.

⁶ BD: Christoph Joseph, Count [Graf] Kletzl von Altenach und Donaudorf.

⁷ BD: Gmunden, Ebensee. There the Mozarts knew Joseph Bartholomäus von Riethaller, Esquire [Edler von Riethaller], chief salt supervisor [Salzoberamtman].

⁸ BD VIII, p. 123: Marianne Boudet (1756-1835), actress, engaged at the court theatre in Munich from 1777; married the horn player Martin Lang, an acquaintance of the Mozart family, in 1782.

⁹ BD: = “Father at home”: Diderot’s *Le père de famille* (1758) was translated into German by G.E. Lessing; the play had been in the programme at the Burgtheater since 1776. Lange was not very well received as “St. Albin” in Munich in 1784 (cf. No. 0824/16-17).

¹⁰ BD: *Die Drei Töchter* [The Three Daughters], comedy by Heinrich Christian Spiess (1755-1799).

¹¹ BD: Aloisia Lange, née Weber, an outstanding soprano whom Mozart met in Mannheim. His first love, who, as he admitted on 25th Dec., 1780 (No. 0596/27), was “not yet a matter of indifference” to him. From August, 1782, Mozart’s sister-in-law.

¹² BD: *Zémire et Azor*, by André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry (1714-1813). Nilson’s engraving shows Aloisia Lange as *Zémire*.

¹³ BD: *Les Pèlerins de Mecque* by Gluck.

¹⁴ BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780; six children; they separated around 1795.

¹⁵ BD: Martin Lang, hunting horn player, known to Mozart from Mannheim; moved to Munich with the Mannheim court.

Monday at esteemed *Dr. Rhab's*.¹⁶ On Tuesday at Herr Adamberger's,¹⁷ on Wednesday at Herr Lang's.¹⁸ On Thursday at Herr von Ployer's,¹⁹ our *agent*, where a young Herr Heimm²⁰ also ate, whom the Archbishop sent for 4 years practical experience in minting coins, and is travelling to Salzburg next week; his father was, if I am not mistaken, regional judge²¹ in the mountains. On Wednesday next week there will be an appearance by the songstress *Coltellini*,²² who has just arrived. Now I must close because the *frottier* or room floor polisher is dancing around the room, and I do not know of any warm corner in the whole apartment where I could write. [35] It is already almost 6 o'clock and we are driving to the *banker's* where we ate on Easter Day in order to play the *quartets*²³ there. Everyone, everyone commends themselves to my esteemed son,²⁴ and joins with me in kissing both of you and the children, being eternally your sincere father,

Mozart mp²⁵

[40] Little *Carl*,²⁶ half-a-year old, is healthy, friendly and in fine fettle. My greetings to Lennerl.²⁷

Herr Haydn²⁸ has written to me, I had to reply to him straight away today and write a pretty long letter.

¹⁶ BD: Dr. Ignaz Raab (1743-1811), a highly respected teacher of law and advocate for well-placed members of society. A subscriber to Mozart's concerts in 1784. At a later date Schubert was a frequent guest of his daughter in the house.

¹⁷ BD: Josef Valentin Adamberger, sang in Germany, Italy and then in Vienna, where he was well paid. Sung in many of Mozart's works. Freemason.

¹⁸ BD: Joseph Lange.

¹⁹ BD: Gottfried Ignaz (*von* from 1780 on) Ployer, a high official. His daughter was Barbara Ployer, for whom Mozart composed the concertos KV 449 and 453, playing with her in numerous private concerts.

²⁰ BD: Joseph Bernhard Haim (1758-1825), he became a mining official in 1785 and master of the mint in Salzburg in 1787; he married Maria Anna Mayr von Mayrn in 1790 (cf. note on No. 0523/4 etc.).

²¹ "Landrichter".

²² BD: Cölestine (Celesta) Coltellini (1764-1817), member of the Italian opera in Vienna 1785-1788 at a salary of 1000 ducats as well as free lodgings. In 1792 she married the merchant banker Johann Georg Meurikofer (Jean-Georges Meuricoffre), whom the Mozarts had met in Lyon in 1766 and again in Naples in 1770. Her father was Marco Coltellini, the "theatre poet" who wrote the libretto for *La finta semplice* KV 51 (46a) in 1768.

²³ BD: The six new quartets dedicated to Joseph Haydn. Cf. No. 0847/45.

²⁴ BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

²⁵ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁶ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858.

²⁷ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

²⁸ BD: Michael Haydn, organist in Salzburg, brother of Joseph Haydn.