

0939. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

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

Leopoldl<sup>2</sup> is well!

Salzb., 9<sup>th</sup> March  
1786

We arrived before 6 o'clock in the evening on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>, and found Leopoldl in good health. [5] On Sunday, at half past 11, we had an *audience* with the Archbishop, who was very friendly and gracious. In the evening, Heinrich<sup>3</sup> played in the music for the first time. He always plays with *Brunetti*. On Monday he played a *quartetto*, and on Tuesday a *concerto*, with all the applause you could imagine. Since the Archbishop had the idea of having something in Lent as well, since the balls worked out so splendidly, [10] his thoughts turned to the *Casino Gathering*,<sup>4</sup> held during his absence<sup>5</sup> *anno* 1781, and he sent a message to the city council that events of this kind should be arranged for 5 Wednesdays in Lent: so yesterday was the first Gathering. Since *Brunetti* knew that Heinrich was coming, [15] he was already on the *lista*.<sup>6</sup> For *accompanying*, Heinrich and each of the firsts receive 2 florins, the rest 1 florin. Those who play a *concerto* receive one ducat.<sup>7</sup> So Heinrich has already played a violin *concerto* to the pleasure of all, yesterday, in such a way that one did not hear a single unclean note during the whole *concerto* and everyone was amazed. [20] Since the violinist<sup>8</sup> from Venice is expected in the next 10 or 12 days, the Italians were constantly saying, oh povero Veneziano! comme sarà avilito se sente sonar questo giovane!<sup>9</sup> On the coming Wednesday – but at court the day before – he will play a *clavier concerto*.

Everyone who *subscribes* pays a ducat and can take his whole *family* with him; otherwise the *entrée*<sup>10</sup> is 24 kreuzers – or, I now hear, 36 kreuzers.<sup>11</sup>

[25] There are over 70 *subscribers*. It was astonishingly full because many merchants from elsewhere were also there. In the hall there were card tables for the *nobility* and city councillors,<sup>12</sup> and in the long room the merchants played, and in the first room adjoining they had *Pharo*,<sup>13</sup> – and where there used to be *Faro*, there were *court gentlemen* playing cards again. Every kind of refreshment and sweetmeat was available. In short! It was very fine!

[30] On the last Sunday in Carnival<sup>14</sup> there were 460 persons and, everyone constantly tells me, beautiful and exceptional *maskers*. – On Tuesday there was a *ball* at court.

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<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: Nannerl’s son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather’s death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold’s home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”, see line 38 below) joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Subscription concerts held in the ballroom [casino] of the city hall “for 5 Wednesdays”.

<sup>5</sup> BD: In Vienna. It was during this time that Mozart left his service.

<sup>6</sup> Presumably the list of musicians taking part.

<sup>7</sup> BD: 1 ducat = 4½ florins.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Latouche, cf. No. 0909/51.

<sup>9</sup> = “Oh, poor Venetian, how you will be humiliated if you hear this young man playing!”

<sup>10</sup> = “admission”.

<sup>11</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>12</sup> “Rathsleute”.

<sup>13</sup> BD: *Pharo*, *Faro*, a game of chance.

<sup>14</sup> BD: The chronicle kept by Felix Adauctus Haslberger records “4 o'clock in the afternoon theatre and 6 o'clock ball in the City Hall with masquerade, present were the Archbishop and 400 persons. As masks one saw the

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I must give you the very sad news that the esteemed titled Royal High Steward<sup>15</sup> has died in *Roveredo*.<sup>16</sup> A *courier* came last night.

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For the last two days I have been expecting Herr Le Brun and spouse<sup>17</sup> to tell [35] me they intended to leave on Monday or Tuesday to go to Naples via Salzb. Perhaps they will come today. She will probably sing.

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the 10<sup>th</sup> March

Yesterday I received a letter from Marchand.<sup>18</sup> He tells me that Gredl<sup>19</sup> received from Count Seeau<sup>20</sup> a present of golden bracelets, – pendants for neck and ears in blue *enamel* and *ornamented* with fine pearls, and which are beautiful indeed. – Furthermore that Herr *Le brun* and spouse will not leave until next week because both were somewhat indisposed. But I understand the matter better, – they will arrange to be here on Election Day,<sup>21</sup> just like last time. It seems to me they will *perform*, for the Archbishop already knows that they are coming, [45] and does not seem to find it at all objectionable. Today I even heard from Countess *Lizow*,<sup>22</sup> – asking if they had arrived yet? – – So on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, grand music at court, and on Wednesday music in the *casino*<sup>23</sup> at the city hall.

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The messenger<sup>24</sup> brought me the capon, for which I thank you, the *Robinis' Louise*<sup>25</sup> is not yet dead, but wretched in the highest degree. Count Leopold *Firmian* von Passau,<sup>26</sup> [50] the *heir*, arrived this morning, after a *courier* passed through here two nights ago on the way to Passau bringing him the news: so the Countess<sup>27</sup> did not learn about it until today.

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Capuchin and Franciscan convents, who distributed rosaries, scapulars, little images and Lukaszettel [pages of printed holy images to be eaten in the event of sickness] to great annoyance.

<sup>15</sup> “t: H: Obersthofmeister”. BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

<sup>16</sup> BD: His estate was near Rovereto in modern northern Italy.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), likewise employed in the court music.

<sup>18</sup> BD: The Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, father of the Heinrich mentioned above.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”) Marchand, daughter of Theobald Marchand. She was for some time a boarding pupil of Leopold’s.

<sup>20</sup> “Gr: Seeau”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau (†1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, (†1768) was Senior Master of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Anniversary of the Archbishop’s election.

<sup>22</sup> “Gräfin”. BD: Countess [Gräfin] Lützwow, a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus and wife of Johann Gottfried, Count [Graf] Lützwow, commandant of the fortress in Salzburg, vice-president of the Council of War [Kriegsrat].

<sup>23</sup> Cf. line 11.

<sup>24</sup> BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a carter who came to Salzburg once a week. The “glass-carrier woman” also provided a service on this route.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

<sup>26</sup> “Gr:”. BD: Eldest son of the deceased Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian mentioned above.

<sup>27</sup> “Gräfin”. BD: Maximiliane, widow of the deceased.

The lamb's meat and the bottles were delivered safely, and the glass-carrier woman<sup>28</sup> likewise handed over the *plays*<sup>29</sup> and box safely this evening. [55] With the silk each colour will be spun separately.

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I hope that you will both get 18 f for the bodice, for who is to buy it? Whom does it fit? Where are, indeed, is there a little, short-bodied, squashed person who can wear it, and N.B. is in a position to pay you for just such an bodice, or who would suit wearing such a bodice? – N.B. a stiff bodice, [60] which is moreover completely out of fashion. Even the *Loretto* Christ-child tailor<sup>30</sup> cannot use it, since the material is all pierced through from the darting etc:

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Concerning the clerical Egedacher,<sup>31</sup> I know nothing that I did not already know before I travelled to Munich, they will send him elsewhere: first of all, so that he can no longer interfere in his mother's and sister's affairs, due to which eternal quarrels spring up, [65] and 2<sup>do</sup> so that he is under supervision in his ecclesiastical office, and cannot in any way impede the organ builder<sup>32</sup> by tuning and incompetent work etc. or end up in a dispute with him.

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The organ builder will not travel home any time soon, he really has a lot of work to do. – Travelling out to you is not out of the question because of the Election Day, [70] rather it depends on the weather, for it is after all no fun to let oneself be thrown around in an open cart for 6 hours in this cold and wind. Accordingly, I cannot set a time. We will certainly come as soon as possible, quite certainly.

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I am sending the *Abderitten*<sup>33</sup> with the glass-carrier woman or with the messenger. [75] Herr Marchand lent it to me for both of you, – all the Marchands, Brochards,<sup>34</sup> etc. Langs,<sup>35</sup> in short, all acquaintances in Munich, commend themselves. I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>36</sup>

Heinrich commends himself obediently to both of you.

[80] The salt-carrier woman<sup>37</sup> will probably bring rice, barley and peas out to you tomorrow on a sleigh.

I would certainly wish to be rid of the stick of salt<sup>38</sup> sometime.

The glass-carrier woman will also take 2 boxes with her with the spun silks in it, which, as you will see from the enclosed note, [85] did not weigh more than 13½ loths.<sup>39</sup> I

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<sup>28</sup> BD: From letter No. 0808 (September, 1784) onwards, the “*glasträgerin*” [“glass-carrying woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Probably those sent out to St. Gilgen by Leopold at the beginning of February (cf. No. 0929/150).

<sup>30</sup> BD: the tailor<sup>ess</sup> responsible for clothing the copies of the 10 cm ivory Christ-child figure in the Loreto Church in Salzburg revered since 1651. The Mozart family had often asked for Masses to be read “at the Holy Child at Loreto”.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the deceased court organ builder was often called.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), organ builder, worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to “old” Egedacher; he had previously learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Novel (1774) by Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1813), recently promised to Nannerl.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Maria Johanna Brochard (\*1775), daughter of a theatrical couple, was from 1783-1784 the third boarder learning in Leopold Mozarts' home in Salzburg. Related to the Marchands.

<sup>35</sup> BD: Martin Lang, hunting horn player, known to Mozart from Mannheim; moved to Munich with the Mannheim court.

<sup>36</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>37</sup> BD: Probably in error instead of “glass-carrier woman”.

<sup>38</sup> Presumably some of the salt which was part of the remuneration for those involved in salt working in the region, long promised to Nannerl.

have not yet paid the wages for the spinstress, 34 kreuzers. – Then you will find the *silhouette* of *Bologna*,<sup>40</sup> who commends himself to you. Then my expenses were:

	for 20 $\text{lb}^{41}$ rice à 9 kreuzers . . . . .	3 florins
	10 $\text{lb}$ barley à 7 kr. . . . .	1 10 kr.
[90]	A little piece of ribbon, 38 ells, I believe	1 –6
	Herbs . . . . .	– 40
	The bucket . . . . .	– –6
	12 $\text{Massl}^{42}$ peas à 12 kr. . . . .	2 24
		—
		8 26
[95]	Silk spinning . . .	– 34
		—
		9 fl –

the 11<sup>th</sup> this morning.

Leopoldl is in good health and spirits, Heinrich is at this moment carrying him on his arm and laughing with him.

[100] The jewellery:<sup>43</sup> I have left it in the hands of Herr Marchand in case an opportunity should present itself to find a purchaser. As he is sure to visit us this summer, he can bring it back. Jews and dealers, who want to make a real profit on it again, will hardly buy it. Why the Viennese Jew wanted to give so much for it in the heat of the moment became clear to me a few hours later from his behaviour at the auction. [105] All of this in due time in person. –

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<sup>39</sup> 1 Lot[h] = 17.6 g / 17.5 g in Austria / Bavaria.

<sup>40</sup> BD: Michelangelo Bologna, castrato, active in the court music in Salzburg 1782-84. Began a love affair with Regina (“Regerl”) Weyrother, left for Munich in September, 1784. This is probably the silhouette portrait he made of Leopold in Munich, cf. No. 0721/14.

<sup>41</sup>  $\text{lb}$  = lb = pound  $\approx$  0.5 kg.

<sup>42</sup> R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig <sup>2</sup>/1896: 1 Massel in Bavaria: 2.32 litres dry measure. The amount here would therefore be approx. 28 litres.

<sup>43</sup> BD: The jewellery mentioned in No. 0804/41 ff., which Berchtold had entrusted to his father-in-law in August, 1784, and asked him to sell for at least 1200 florins.