

0987. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Little Leopoldl² is well, and =

Salzb., 15th Sept.,
1786.

[5] = yesterday morning Nandl³ came running to me with a wailing cry of joy: congratulations! congratulations! – – and once again, congratulations! – What was it? – – Leopoldl now has a tooth! – – and today I hear he already has 2. I did not see the point of it, – and although I now understand it, I act as if I were stupid! [10] It is like in the riding school, when the trainer receives a present when his pupil wins his spurs.

So I expect you all⁴ next week, and everything will be ready by Tuesday.

The latest news is that we have not had any more music at court since the 10th, when we had the first music. As Heinrich⁵ went to the *fortepiano* to play the *concerto*, [15] the Archbishop⁶ said to him, I saw his⁷ sister on the Isar bridge while travelling through Munich.

It seems certain that the Archbishop will also make a journey to Vienna.⁸ He has given orders that his travelling coach should be checked over and everything put in good order. It is said that the Elector⁹ of Cologne is also going there. [20] They are also claiming that the Elector wants to make the *Nuntius* into an archbishop in Bavaria etc: – in short! soon everything that the ecclesiastical Electors have agreed among themselves for the Empire will break out, all meant to set limits to the power of the Pope in the Roman Empire¹⁰ and maintain their episcopal rights.

Marchand¹¹ wrote to me today saying that his wife and daughter were just crossing the Isar bridge [25] when a travelling coach had to come to a halt, Gredl recognised the Archbishop and greeted him in the most courteous manner; he returned this greeting of hers in the most friendly way. Marchand doubts whether he really recognised her. On Monday I will dispel his doubts.

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: Nannerl’s son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th 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.

³ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

⁴ BD: Leopold is expecting his daughter, her husband and her step-daughter Nannerl for the latter’s confirmation, cf. No. 0984/51 ff.

⁵ BD: 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 until 1774. His sister joined him for the last two years and likewise became a noted performer.

⁶ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁷ BD: Actually speaking to Heinrich – the royal prerogative of conducting conversation in the third person.

⁸ BD: 3rd November to 21st December, 1786.

⁹ “Churfürst”.

¹⁰ “Röm. 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.

¹¹ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children (Heinrich and Margarethe) had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart’s home.

The Marchands cannot come before Michaelmas.¹²

[30] I have just this minute heard that the Archbishop will only travel to Vienna if the matter cannot be dealt with by correspondence, for he is shying away from new costs, and in that he is quite right.

What you have to bring with you from the music you have are the *clavier parts* for the *concertos*,¹³ of which I already have the other parts here. [35] This means, needless to say, the new ones¹⁴ by your brother. And also the new ones which you have complete with all instruments, which the Marchands have not yet heard, especially the one in *D minor*.¹⁵ – I have just looked through the box and discover that you generally have only the *clavier parts* for the new *concertos*, since the other parts are here. We do not need the older *concertos* by your brother, [40] you can bring some of the variations written¹⁶ by your brother, they do not take up any of your space, and your esteemed spouse's *favorite sonatas¹⁷ or trio etc. etc. or quatro¹⁸ etc.*

Heinrich has been *practising* the *violin* astonishingly since then, so I am curious myself what all the gentlemen will say when he plays a *violin concerto* at court for the first time again. [45]

Now I kiss you both from the heart, send greetings to the children and, waiting expectantly to see you both soon, am your sincere father

Mozart mp¹⁹

the morning of the 16th.

[50] I keep forgetting to write asking you for the *word-book* for *Figaro*.²⁰ Bring it into town with you, – I must have it.

Heinrich, who commends himself, has already read the 5th part²¹ all the way to the end. The best thing would be if you would bring the other parts into town with you, for Heinrich gets through it quickly, then Schnedizeny²² can read it when the occasion presents itself. [55] If he now passes on the 6th part, he can get it out to you via the messenger.²³ Leopoldl kisses you both. Nandl and Trese²⁴ commend themselves.

²⁵[If you do not finish reading the 2nd part, just keep the book, it does not matter, I have already spoken to Count Königl.²⁶

¹² BD: 29th September.

¹³ BD: KV 466, 467, 482.

¹⁴ BD: KV 488, 491.

¹⁵ BD: KV 466.

¹⁶ BD: Copies of a number of variations were on sale in Vienna, e.g. KV 455, 359 (374a) and 360 (374b) supplied by Johann Traeg.

¹⁷ BD: KV 333 (315c), 284 (205b) and 454; cf. No. 0907/42 ff.

¹⁸ = quartet.

¹⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0968/74.a

²¹ BD: Translation of Richardson's *Sir Charles Grandison*, cf. Nos. 0813/14; 0969/46.

²² BD: Franz Karl von Schnedizeni (c. 1751-1803), state official and brewery owner. His grandfather was a witness at the wedding of Mozart's grandfather, Wolfgang Nikolaus Pertl.

²³ 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.

²⁴ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²⁵ Text from "If you do not...", placed here in BD III, actually belongs at the end of No. 0984 (see DME). The present No. 0984 has been corrected accordingly.

²⁶ "Graf Königl". BD: probably a Salzburg relation of Count [Graf] Leopold Königl, whom Leopold Mozart visited in Innsbruck in 1769. He had apparently lent Leopold the "Travel Journal", cf. 0982/87.

[60] Tomorrow, in the first music performance at court, Marchand²⁷ will play a *concerto* on the *fortepiano*.

Meanwhile here are some strings from me for the *clavichord* as a stop-gap until you come into town.

Nandl and Tresel commend themselves and kiss your hands.]

²⁷ BD: = Heinrich.