

0990. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

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

Little Leopold² is well!

Salzb., 12th Octob., 1786

Today was the *Confirmation* of the Prince of Chiemsee;³ [5] since he cannot stand for very long, the unnecessary *orations* were omitted and they settled for only the essentials, with the result that everything was over in almost half an hour. Today I heard in a letter from Herr Marchand⁴ that they arrived home safely on Sunday evening in the most beautiful weather. They all commend themselves, [10] and will always have the greatest pleasure in recalling the most agreeable hours that they spent in your company here; they only wished that we could always be together etc. – Herr Marchand has greatly [delighted]⁵ all his friends in Munich with the *medals*.

Before speaking to the esteemed *Magister*,⁶ [15] I made some enquiries as to what kind of young people he otherwise had, and I discovered that he educates not only boys from families of rank, but also the sons of the Chief Administrator of Werffen,⁷ – the sons of the Chief Administrator of Mittersill,⁸ and of yet another esteemed Chief Administrator whom I have forgotten. I was also told something about his having given up the rooms and no longer having any more boys boarding. [20] I then wanted to be sure about this, – but I discovered that the only change he has made is that he no longer accepts so many boys, but only 4, and that I must arrange any new uptake soon, since he has already taken on 3. I quickly went to see him, and I must confess that I was very touched to see such particular cleanliness. [25] The boys' room is next to his room with an open door. Each boy has a separate bed and standing desk. The room is large and long. In the esteemed *Magister's* room there is a large and very beautiful altar where morning and evening prayer, the daily Rosary, and the short *Officium B. V.*⁹ are prayed out aloud by everyone. There is clear order regarding times for getting up and going to bed and everything else, [30] and I find it exceptionally pleasing that he has only 4 boys and can therefore more easily keep an eye on each one. It is well known that he is a very pious man, and despite that, I did not find him as pedantic as I expected, but a man entirely inclined towards the education of young people and who has already had such different types of children in his care. [35]

His sister is a friendly old person, entirely in the manner of the old cook Salome: and there is another woman of the same kind in the kitchen. He asked me if the boy can read and write, otherwise he could not take him, and whether he can write using the Latin alphabet as well. I said to him: Yes! [40] All the better, he replied. Do not worry, anyone who can write in

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 “des Fürsten von Chiemsee”. BD: Franz Xaver, Baron [Freiherr], later Prince [Fürst], Breuner (* 1723), received the rank of Prince so that he could retain his rank as Bishop of Lavant after being appointed Bishop in Chiemsee, a post he held 1786-1797.

⁴ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

⁵ BD: Word missing in the original.

⁶ The holder of an academic degree, such as Master of Arts. BD: Probably the Abele mentioned in line 86, in whose house Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang was to be educated as a boarder.

⁷ “die Pflegers Söhne von Werffen”: Werfen, 40 km south of Salzburg.

⁸ A town about 80 km south-west of Salzburg.

⁹ “Officium Beatae Virginis” = “Office of the Blessed Virgin”.

the Latin alphabet as well can gradually be taught *nomina*¹⁰ and be kept *occupied*, I have often had boys like that etc. etc. who have even gone on to win *prizes* afterwards etc. In short! I find the whole establishment outstanding; the expensive *colleges* are tatty in comparison. [45] Now for the prices!

For meals, room, wood, light, breakfast soup, evening cold table: per week 2 florins 15 kreuzers. – The cost of lessons is 6 kreuzers per week. – Then if he needs the tutor, the latter receives 1 f 30 kr. per month. –

He can make arrangements himself for the washing to be done here, or, [50] as some have done, have it taken home every week by the messenger¹¹ and brought back into town again.

The esteemed *Magister* promised to wait a week for the answer, and not to accept anyone in the meantime or to make any promises until I bring him an answer next messenger-day. [55] I hope my esteemed son¹² will not let this fine opportunity slip through his hands, for sometimes there are no vacancies for 2 or 3 years because he now keeps only 4 boys. The apartment is just above Herr von *Robini[g]*'s¹³ rooms; one can see what good order this man maintains from the fact that he and his boarders have been living for so astonishingly many years over the *Robini[g]*'s heads [60] without causing them any annoyance or inconvenience. Once *Wolfg.*¹⁴ has been there for a year, it will look quite different with him.

Today I was at one of the most beautiful *plays* I have ever seen: The Testament.¹⁵ – the playbill is at the bottom of the little box, as are the buttons, price 9 kr.

[65] Then in a little bag 7 lemons, which I got for 17 kr.

I am not surprised that the cabbage and kohlrabi went bad, since it was bought such a long time ago and had to lie around so long until someone took it out to you; I told you that in advance.

I gave the ear pendant back to *Nandl*,¹⁶ she commends herself and thanks you for your enquiry about her leg. [70] She will have her blood let on Monday.

Leopoldl is in fine fettle, praise God. He kisses you both and says *appa!*

Heinrich¹⁷ commends himself. There is nothing new that I know of; I must close, my eyes and head are hurting, because it will soon be 11 o'clock, and I am sleepy. Tomorrow the messenger will already collect the things at 7 o'clock. So I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am your sincere father

Mozart¹⁸ mp¹⁹

¹⁰ BD: Latin nouns.

¹¹ 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.

¹² Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

¹³ BD: The family of Georg Sigismund/Siegmund *Robinig* von Rottenfeld (1760-1823), son of the factory owner Georg Joseph *Robinig* von Rottenfeld (1710-1760).

¹⁴ Wolfgang von *Berchtold*. Cf. note on line 14.

¹⁵ BD: *Das Testament oder Die Kinderzucht*, play in 5 acts by Friedrich Ludwig *Schröder*, first performed in Vienna on 3rd November, 1781.

¹⁶ BD: Maria Anna *Pietschner* (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ BD: Near the signature there is an entry in Leopold's hand: “1 f 11” [“1 florin 11 kreuzers”?].

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

I do not know who was *commissioned* with seeing that the cook's shoes were attended to: I believe it was Tresel²⁰ or Nandl; it cost 45 kr.

[80] When Lennerl²¹ was here, I promised her a little prayer book, but in the commotion that has prevailed until now I have not have time to think about it; I send her my greetings and tell her that I have not forgotten it and she will certainly get one because she promised to pray diligently for me with it.

[85] Nandl and Tresel commend themselves.

A few days ago, Herr *Abele*²² sent a student to me whom he recommended as a *praeceptor*, he is no longer young, comes from Seekirchen,²³ – he is called Pfingstl, and presented all his *certificates* and *attestations*, from the *rudiments*²⁴ to *theology*, to myself, Professor *Schallhammer*²⁵ and the *reverend Rector*,²⁶ [90] which all spoke strongly for him. – I must find out more about him. Herr *Preyman*²⁷ knows him and affirmed that he would have had the *titulum mensae*²⁸ in Seekirchen if they still consecrated people with this entitlement: and since this person then failed to register for an admission *examination* for the priests' seminary, they raised this as an objection in the second *examination* and no longer accepted him. [95] I will ask you about in more detail. I must assume that he has some musical abilities, because he was a choirboy in *St. Zeno's* for many years, also scratched the violin and rattled away on the *clavier* a little.

²⁰ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²¹ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

²² BD: Probably the "Magister".

²³ BD: Seekirchen on the Wallersee, about 11 km north-east of Salzburg.

²⁴ BD: The first year at grammar school.

²⁵ BD: Dr. jur. Johann Anton Georg von Schallhammer (1734-1794), from 1767 permanent teacher at Salzburg University, court councillor [Hofrat].

²⁶ BD: Father Konstantin Langhaider, Rector of the Benedictine University in Salzburg.

²⁷ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not offered permanent employment in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Prince [Fürst] Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

²⁸ BD: Title of probationer for a salaried position.