

1007. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

Salzb., 1st Decemb.,
1786

Little Leopold² is well!

We could probably have had some pleasant days here, [5] except that the thick fog, due to which one could often see hardly 12 paces, made the weather gloomy. It then changed into smog – rain, and now snow, which is changing to slush as it falls.

The soap boilers must now supply the shops with candles made of tallow, which is supplied to them by the authorities from the storehouse once it has been weighed out as stipulated, [10] and there the candles are weighed and sold, from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until the evening, in the presence of a clerk who notes the name of the purchaser etc., while two bailiffs stand outside the shop to maintain order, since the press of the serving girls is of course indescribable. – and they change constantly from one soap boiler to the next in this manner. [15] This does of course prevent a lot of things, since there were men or women buying them and then selling and sending them outside the town at a higher price. So for now one must be content to get what is necessary for the house until it changes again.

For some days now it has been somewhat quiet regarding the cattle sickness.³ – [20] God grant that it stays so quiet.

When he came into the stall, *Dr. Joseph Barisani*⁴ found the 42 animals that esteemed *Baron Mozl*⁵ had lost almost up to their stomachs in dirt and fluid waste because the cleaning of the stalls had been neglected out of exaggerated economy and the lack of the expensive layer of straw.

[25] The administrator's post in Mittersill⁶ had the misfortune of being turned down twice. Herr von Pichl⁷ had solid reasons, including the fact that he was always very ill during his *practical* experience there and therefore left the place. The esteemed Chief Administrator⁸ of Goldegg, however, although he had admittedly not applied for anything, asked the favour of not being considered. I was told it was a *caprice* because he had another district in mind, [30] and he is waiting for it to be vacated. So Herr Prex⁹ too will have to wait for promotion. – *Brunetti*¹⁰ is still alive, has days fluctuating between vomiting blood and apparent easing; Regimental surgeon Hübner refuses to give up all hope, – the young *Barisani*¹¹ was also called upon during the greatest danger, as far as I know, and has been there several times since then. [35] – I hold no great hopes in the matter, the good man had this terrible coughing

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: Cf. No. 1004/45 ff.

⁴ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

⁵ BD: Georg Anton Franz, Baron [Freiherr] von Motz(e)l (1729-1801): vice-president of the Court Chamber [Hofkammer].

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 1005/4 ff. A possible related move by Leopold's son-in-law had been discussed in recent letters.

⁷ BD: Christoph Sigmund von Pichl, who occupied a number of official positions, including in the administration of Teisendorf and Mattsee.

⁸ "Pfleger".

⁹ BD: Franz Prex, son of a Salzburg physician, cf. notes on Nos. 1004/7; 1005/5.

¹⁰ Cf. No. 1006/25. Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

¹¹ BD: Joseph Barisani, cf. line 21.

the whole summer: coughing, – short of breath, and had to walk slowly, also always sitting up at night; and yet, despite being forbidden to, he drank wine. May God continue to preserve him for his wife¹² and his two children.

[40] Here is the signed *account* from the tailor. He does not have any more of the cloth for the interlining; consequently, since he says so, it is not possible to argue with him about it.

I have handed the box over to the housekeeper Miedl as well as the box with the washing.¹³ As a precaution, I had 3 keys made for it; if the one the Magister has gets lost, there would then still be one to be had from me; [45] you might also have something to be taken into town for me, or I might have something to be taken out to you, – then the messenger¹⁴ could bring the box to me, I could open it, and then send Tresel¹⁵ straight to the Magister with it. This box needed more working steps to finish it properly than one imagines when one only speaks about it. [50] The waxed linen cannot be glued on because the linen cloth is impregnated with oil and consequently no glue holds. So the lock, bands and linen have to be nailed on carefully so as not to split the box. We had the lining fitted by the bookbinder. Everything has therefore been done cleanly, only opening and closing it is difficult at the beginning since no boxes close right away anyway. [55] One must press it in at the front, especially in the right corner, so that the lid closes. The waxed linen goes down over the lid a little, and, on opening, the linen cloth has to be rolled back against the lid so it can be grasped complete with the lid and not torn off. The little lock does not bite in very deeply and works easily, and opens at once. An expensive box!

[60] You can read the news from Munich here yourself. Please return the letter at a convenient opportunity.

Now good night! I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am eternally your sincere father

Mozart mp

[65] Saturday morning.

Thank you for the 2 chickens you sent. So that the box is not left empty, I am sending you a few lemons, a number of sweet bread rolls and a few plain ones so that you see how they are.

Fräulein *Louise Lodron*,¹⁶ Count *Momolo's*¹⁷ sister, [70] the one who was at *General Count Franz Arco's*,¹⁸ is now here at her brother's; she used to play very well, as you know, when I told her when the *General* was here. Now she has apparently been without a *clavier*

¹² BD: The sister-in-law of Michael Haydn.

¹³ BD: “Jungfer” in the sense of housekeeper; she was the sister of Magister Abele, proprietor of the private boarding school attended by Nannerl's stepson Wolfgang. The “box” was mentioned in No. 1006/6 ff.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹⁶ BD: Countess [Komtesse] Louise (* 1763), a daughter of Hereditary Marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. For the two daughters Maria Anna Aloysia (* 1769) and Maria Theresia (* 1771) and his wife, Mozart wrote the concerto for three claviers KV 242. Giuseppina (Josepha, “Pepperl”) was one of Leopold Mozart's pupils.

¹⁷ “gr: Momolo”. BD: Hieronymus Maria (“Momolo”) (1766-1823), married to Maria Caecilia, née Komtesse Orsini-Rosenberg (1766-1841).

¹⁸ BD: Franz, Count [Graf] Arco (1735-1795), son of Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), Salzburg Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister], Imperial and Royal Major General [k. k. Generalmajor]. Around 1780 he owned a palace near Salzburg on the road to Bavaria.

for quite some time, just as there is really no *clavier* in good order in the Lodrons' palace either. I will probably be saddled with the task, and in fact for both, for the Countess¹⁹ wants to learn too.

[75] Heinrich²⁰ commends himself, you need not hurry with the copying as far as he is concerned. As I have noticed, Administrator Sepperl²¹ would like to have the word book for *The Village Representatives*²² back again because he can no longer manage it by heart properly when he plays in it. This is, however, no urgent matter. If Nannerl²³ copied half a page every day as a writing exercise, that would be a good thing to do. [80]

Nandl²⁴ and Tresele²⁵ kiss your hands. Leopold is in fine fettle and kisses both of you, I send greetings to Lenerl.²⁶

It is a fine day today, but slush up to the ankles.

The Archbishop is expected tomorrow!

¹⁹ BD: Momolo's wife. Leopold detects that she and Countess [Komtesse] Louise would like to become his pupils.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ "Verwalter Sepperl". BD: Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] close to Salzburg.

²² BD: The text of the singspiel *Die Dorfdeputierten* ["The Village Representatives"], cf. No. 0868/73.

²³ BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771.

²⁴ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

²⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

²⁶ BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.