



Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, June 11, 1938

Bredig, Georg. "Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, June 11, 1938," June 11, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 7, Folder 13. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/17vj328>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Karlsruhe (Baden), June 11, 1938

Mx #65

Enclosed: 1 postal slip, 1 copy of a letter to Badger, 1 announcement for a lecture by Badger

Dear Max,

I hope that when this letter Mx # 65 arrives, you will have also received my letter Mx #65 dated July 3rd and 4th in time for your birthday. In the meantime, your letter (to all of us together) dated May 30th arrived here on June 8th, just in time for Badger. We thank you very much for this. We are happy to hear that you can take your little car for a drive. Hopefully, the heat and the noise won't bother you too much. Of course, the most important thing is your work and I'm certain that your diligence and your skills will yield success. Just make sure that you learn as much as possible in terms of methodology and technical knowledge. Moreover, in the right hands, no work is one-sided and useless if you think it

through carefully. You always learn something from it. There is probably enough opportunity there for that. Time management, in which you avoid overexertion, haste, reluctance, and monotony of the work, is also key. Meanwhile, I met with Professor W.L. Badger, whom I contacted through a friendly colleague, even if our meeting only lasted 10 minutes because Mr. Badger was very busy. I had foreseen this and therefore gave him an old carbon copy of your older curriculum vitae written in English with a list of publications and a copy of Haber's certificate, which I still have here, for further reference. On your CV, I highlighted some important things with red pencil, e.g. your work as a "manager" of the X-Ray department at Bavarian Nitrogen Works. He said he would like to take an interest in your case and would be returning to Ann Arbor on July 10th. When he asked your age, I said that you were 36 years old. He said that that was a bit old, because employers like to hire younger people, especially since younger employees need a few years to learn things in each new company. I replied that you already had a lot of experience working in industry. So that his intercession does not come too late, I wrote him a letter the next day, a copy of which I am enclosing and requesting that you return. I also asked Professor Badger to give you his advice, even if it's negative. I told him that the Dean, Professor White, as well as Professor Thomassen, with whom you work with in the laboratory, and Professor Fajans can tell him information about you. Mentioning Dean White's name was perhaps a small mistake on my part. Unfortunately, I learned afterwards from a local colleague who knows the conditions in the U.S.A, that Badger and White don't get along well. However, overall, I got the impression the Badger wants to act in good faith.

I wrote to the attorney, Mr. Bo., on May 27th about the journals and asked him to complete the necessary steps. However, to date, I have received no news from him. It was Pentecost in the meantime. I hope Tausz has enough space for you. It still must be checked if the whole thing makes sense and is possible at all. It would be nice if it could be done before I move.

As far as your inquiry regarding the blocked mark rate is concerned, I can only tell you the following information from the perspective of an expert: "At the moment, it is not possible to use the blocked mark abroad because the foreign exchange offices do not give permission for non-Aryan emigrants to exchange them. On the other hand, domestically, this is possible at approximately 10%."

I am surprised that you were still with Lore's mother on May 29th. We are expecting her back in a few days if it's still possible. Marianne will be very happy to invite Liselotte to her place. I would be delighted to have this opportunity to meet her. Martha N. had to give up her job in England. Her father also sold his business, which is very common now. This means, of course, his son will become unemployed.

Image 2

(page 2)

Are the Klein's relatives of Fajans? Recently, Aunt Sophie asked for Fajans' address for a supposed cousin of Fajans, whose son will go the U.S.A. Since I didn't know if that would be okay with Fajans, I refused to provide the address on the grounds that a relative could also find out the address from Mr. Fajans' family. Was I wrong? Did you receive the printed matter, Eucken III (2)?

Aunt Ida will leave in a few days and I hope to receive a visit from Aunt Vally in 1-2 weeks. They are still doing relatively well. They both send you their warmest regards.

Your friend Mr. Mueller paid me a quick visit the other day. He asked me for your address and will write to you himself. He has 3 lovely children.

If required, I hope you have included much better pictures of yourself in your applications than the ones I have. These probably don't look very favorable, and for this reason alone, I would like you to have better ones made. You really don't need pictures that are so distorted like your previous pictures. The photographer just must be aware of the right moment. Your last picture with the wide, staring eyes is wrong and bad. You may have to choose one from several shots. I also hope to receive better pictures of you!

V

Viktor and Marianne and their nice boys are doing well. Walter is now in Frankfurt at the "Philanthropinum" Secondary School. He likes it there very much. The two smaller boys are happy with their lives. Things will be more serious later, as is the case with any of us. However, for now, their carefree childlike cheerfulness is a refreshment to all of us.

All of us (including Mrs. Cotiaux) send you our best regards.

Love,

Your old Father

Many years ago, Mr. Philip F. Ripley studied under me in Heidelberg (ca. 1907, see the Berlin German Chemical Society, 40, 4015 (1907)). Your mother was friends with his lovely wife. He was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston with Arthur A. Noyest. He then went to Andover, Massachusetts, presumably to a textile mill. Despite our request, we never heard from the lovely young couple. If you can perhaps learn something about him without any inconvenience, I would appreciate it. Maybe he has already passed away.