



## Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, September 1918

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, September 1918," September 23, 1918. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/llbvrg7>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared July 18, 2025 10:58 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

The Fields for Experiments at the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry,  
23 September 1918

received on 3 October 1918

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter arrives in time for your birthday. It is an important milestone this time and I hope you will be celebrated as much you deserve, although the dire circumstances of war will probably damper it.

Let's dedicate this special day to the memories of the good old days. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the kindness you have shown me. We must live apart from each other and you face so many obstacles when traveling.

#### Image 2

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I long for the hopefully not too distant future when we can freely travel again. Of the four dear employees who worked with me in autumn of 1895, two, Luggin and Roszkowski, have long since passed away. Only you and Rothmund are still alive. Abegg, who returned to my laboratory so often and enjoyed the best health among all of us, was granted only a short period of time on this earth. It is very sad to think of these changes. It was a wonderful time and I enjoy reflecting on it. At the same time, we cannot fail to hope that good times will return.

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Moreover, we should not let the painful struggles of humanity and the fearful worries for the future occupy all of thoughts, so that our energy for work, to which our lives have been dedicated, is hindered. I wholeheartedly wish you much success with your work, which you have amply earned. May your health be preserved so that your ability to work remains unchanged and you can continue to enjoy many professional accomplishments in your life.

We're doing very well, but it's quiet in the laboratory. My son Olof is now my assistant. I am very happy with his hard work and immense interest. I received a letter from v. Autropff and see that he is now working with you, which is convenient. Give him my regards.

### **Image 3**

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My wife also joins me in wishing you a happy 50th birthday. Hello to your wife and children!

Yours truly,  
Svante Arrhenius

P.S: How is Ostwald? I don't hear anything from him except some news through colleagues on occasion.