



## Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, October 1911

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, October 1911," October 6, 1911. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/onopd8m>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared July 15, 2025 07:20 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

The Fields for Experiments at the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry,  
6 October 1911

Dear Friend,

Forgive me for not writing for a long time. I haven't told you about my life this past spring. Last February, I traveled by night train to Copenhagen to visit Madsen. On 2. March, I arrived in Berlin where I visited Mrs. van't Hoff and paid my respects to our dear and departed old friend and scholar. I couldn't attend the funeral because I had to give a lecture in Paris on the following Monday. I held two extra lectures at the Society of Physics and Physical Chemistry. I had to work hard but it went better than I could've hoped.

#### Image 2

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On 13. March, I traveled by steamer from Cherbourg to New York, where I was greeted by Loeb on the quay. After a few days in Washington and New York, I went to New Haven at the end of March where I gave the Silliman Lectures. I was finished with them after two weeks. Over the Easter holiday, I stayed in New York again, where I visited the exemplary Rockefeller Institute. Loeb was conducting extremely interesting experiments on the antagonistic effects of salt. The other gentlemen, Flesher, Noguchi, Lewin etc, also had many interesting things to work on. However, they were all over-worked and always looking for the next best topic. It is a very stressful life in the big city. I next traveled to Boston to give the Lowell Lectures on cosmogony.

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Of course, this topic is exceptionally well suited for popular lectures. I was pleased to observe that the lecture hall was full the entire time (with a capacity for 600 attendees, 1,200 could find space). I stayed in Cambridge with Professor W. Osterhout and gave 4 lectures there. I liked Harvard University very much. The people there led quieter lives and the atmosphere was reminiscent of European culture. On 6. May, I traveled from Boston to Chicago via Niagara. I next traveled to Minneapolis and Madison and then returned to New York. Every place hosted a banquet after the lecture and the two-week trip took a toll on my health. On 21. May, I sailed with the Lapland ship again and arrived in Antwerp on 29. May where my wife greeted me.

## Image 3

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We stayed with the Cohens in Holland for a few days. Next, we visited Walker in Edinburgh and Thorpe in London, where I also gave a lecture at the Royal Institution. I returned here on 19. June. At the beginning of September, I visited my dear old friend Ostwald and was glad to dialogue with him. I also saw old Hoekel and other friends. When I returned home, Riesenfeld married my sister-in-law. I haven't really adjusted to working again.

Today, I'm sending you a small article on adaptation. If you see Haber, tell him the article on energy relations was sent by mistake. I'll send him a corrected version soon. (The article was printed in America while I was away. There were many mistakes, that I did not observe on other occasions. I also didn't see corrections). Best regards from our home to yours.

Yours truly,  
Svante Arrhenius