



Letter from Ilse Wolfsberg to Max Bredig, January 1941

Wolfsberg, Ilse. "Letter from Ilse Wolfsberg to Max Bredig, January 1941," January 1941. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 9, Folder 25. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/qk75rkd>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared July 16, 2025 00:19 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

513 – 6th Ave. S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 2, 1941

Dear Mr. Bredig,

I didn't think I would have to bother you again. However, I received the following telegram from Hochwald this morning:

"All papers in order but according new regulations mother in Germany prevents consular visa consul advises you delay necessary steps state dept until his favorable report arrives twentieth stop follow your own judgement."

It's crazy, and I trust the consul less than ever because Hochwald's medical examination already took place last Wednesday, and a visa would have been a matter lasting half an hour. In addition, the consul did not communicate anything to Hochwald about the recommendations of Senator Ball and Professor Gortner. Instead, the consul complains that

“all” recommendation letters are signed with German names and probably come from friends in Berlin.

What poor old Mrs. Hochwald supposedly has to do with Fritz Hochwald's visa is completely unclear to me, but we must accept the facts as they are.

I sent a letter to Senator Ball at the same time. He is my only indirect contact in Washington, and I do not expect much from him. We asked him to have the State Department cable Madrid immediately. However, whether this will happen is quite uncertain.

I am turning to you because your help and advice came so quickly. Please don't blame me. We must assume that Hochwald will not be able to catch the ship that is leaving Bilbao on June 17th. As a result, there are two possibilities to consider at the same time

The most logical possibility is to start negotiations with the State Department. A recommendation letter from a strong, obvious American reference will probably be of the greatest use. Do you think you could enlist the help of American Cyanamid Co.? I must rely entirely on your judgment in this regard. I do not know to what extent such requests could give the gentlemen at Cyanamid Co. a negative impression that could harm Hochwald in the future.

The second possibility would be to have Hochwald sail to Cuba as quickly as possible to avoid the complete destruction of his chances by the outbreak of war in Spain or the United States' participation in it. He personally wrote a few weeks ago that he was thinking about this possibility. As far as I know, the prerequisite for a Cuban visa is a deposit of \$500 dollars. I couldn't find out more here. Could I ask you to call the responsible Cuban consulate? I'm completely cut off in the Midwest.

If you think it is possible to comply with the requirements of the Cuban authorities in New York, I would be very grateful if you would inform Hochwald accordingly by night letter so that he could exchange his ticket.

Image 2

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Perhaps the Cuba idea sounds very unusual. However, I fear that Hochwald will not be able to obtain a Spain- U.S.A. ticket even if the State Department acts relatively quickly, especially since the ships are supposedly sold out for a prolonged period of time. That's why I think it's beneficial to consider two possibilities at the same time.

From Hochwald's latest letters, I have the impression that his steadfast nature is waning,

and he is becoming somewhat weaker. Moreover, he does not receive the correct information from Spain and must therefore receive guidance from us.

I am terribly embarrassed to bother you so much and to take advantage of the kindness you once showed me. However, I don't know where else to turn for advice.

With thanks, I remain yours sincerely,
Ilse Wolfsberg

P.S. I am very sorry that I asked you for a telegram again. May I ask for your expenditure this time?