Science History Institute

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Excerpt from a letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig, February 12, 1931

English Translation

Regarding Kortüm’s dissertation

February 12, 1931

Excerpt from a letter from M.A.B to G.B.

The recent conversation was less about a criticism of your views and more about the statement that MgO must be different from CeO2. I couldn't find any valid objection to the experiments here. I found that (1) there is probably always less CO2 here than HON, (2) there is no trace of NH3 decomposition and, (3) above all, no C- precipitation occurs with the pure transfer of CO via contact with (MgO + Cu)!! The behavior of Cu should be considered in order to avoid NH3 decomposition. Point (3) strongly supports the variability your catalysts and those here, doesn't it? By the way, a slightly better yield is said to have been achieved with your catalysts. Why have you all never tried MgO? Now, you would also have to measure the adsorption of NH3 and Co and H2 and MgO! Of course, your adsorption measurements only mean something on the condition that the temperature dependence is the same for all gases! Hence, the HON works by H.H. Franck and his colleagues will appear in the near future.