



## Letter from Kasimir Fajans to Georg Bredig, July 11, 1937

Fajans, Kasimir. "Letter from Kasimir Fajans to Georg Bredig, July 11, 1937," July 11, 1937. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 8, Folder 1. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/yifihpz>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared April 16, 2025 11:23 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

Copy for Dr. M.A. Bredig

11 July 1937

Professor Dr. G. Bredig

Karlsruhe in Baden

Dear Friend,

Enclosed, I am sending you a copy of the letter, which I am concurrently sending to Max Albert. Believe me, since the beginning of my stay here, I have constantly thought of how to help Max Albert start a new life here in the country. He is by no means the only one with whom I am in touch about this topic. Last month, I received three such inquiries from former students and acquaintances, incidentally from two "pure Aryans." Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to accomplish anything now. Therefore, I would like to mention that it has thus far been impossible to find a suitable position for our mutual friend, the theoretical physicist from Stuttgart, although many influential people kindly considered the matter. At

the universities, there is strong resistance to employing foreigners. Moreover, companies are not able to employ foreigners before they immigrate. That is why I am especially pleased to offer Max Albert the position outlined in my letter to him.

I am aware that it will not be an easy decision for you and your son to make. Moreover, I would prefer if it would be permanent position. However, if you consider the situation just described, I must consider this opportunity as a very favorable stroke of luck, and I would like to advise you to accept it. Ann Arbor is a beneficial place to start out in because Max Albert would be close to us. In addition, the atmosphere here is very pleasant in many respects, which has made it a lot easier for us to settle in. However, once Max Albert is here and has the chance to make an excellent scientific and personal impression, I believe a new opportunity will arise within a year.

## Image 2

With regards to finances, I would like to add that Mr. Helfman was willing to donate \$2,500 for a married candidate. However, for an unmarried person, \$1,800 is considered sufficient.

We are now in the middle of the summer session, which is particularly interesting for the Department of Physics. Fermi from Rome will be a guest lecturer and James Franck will come the week after next. The temperatures are currently quite high. I am writing this letter in a room that is at 32 ° C. Showering a few times a day and driving to one of numerous lakes in the region to swim usually helps. Three weeks ago, we spent some wonderful days on the beach at Lake Michigan, which is very large and about 350 km from here (6-7 hours by car). Stefan was invited to visit friends in Canada. He is also participating in the summer session, albeit with an easier schedule than in the usual semester.

I hope to hear good news from your and your children soon. Best regards from all of us.

With thanks,  
K. Fajans

P.S. Dear Dr. Bredig, If for any reason you should decline this offer, I would ask you to recommend someone else. Conditions: The candidate should still reside in Germany, have publications, and be affiliated with Judaism, even if it is only through his wife. I would also request the list of their publications and their curriculum vitae. I am sending you the course catalog for the School of Engineering, see pp. 103-126, and take note of pp. 144 & 248.

Telegram address: Professor Fajans Ann Arbor.

As a route, specify: Western Union

Postponed telegrams for half the price (LC) and Night Letter Telegrams (NLT) (with more

than 16 words) are possible.