Magdeburg, September 25, 1899

Dear Colleague,

I received your kind letter from the 15th of this month in Heidelberg just before my departure for Munich. I couldn’t respond to you there, so please forgive my delay.

I was very interested in your news, but I don’t think our publications would interfere with each other. Please reassure your doctoral candidate, Mr. Ernst, regarding this matter. Leave the compact metals to me, for example sheet metal, and work on your interesting colloidal solutions and other solids. Hopefully, our experiments will then complement each other in the best possible way.
I can’t tell you much about the results of my experiment yet. Of course, I intend to measure the speed of platinum (already at 0° with a speed that can be tracked) and silver (at around 200°) that reveal a reaction obeying a law of the first order. The preliminary experiments have not revealed this yet. Next, I want to use copper, maybe aluminum and the like. With these metals, with the likely exception of platinum, I think their “catalytic activity” (which would then actually no longer be catalytic) will be based on alternating reduction and migration. The rates of both reactions should occur in such a way that, for example with silver, the reduction is $\infty$ to that of migration. With aluminum, it would perhaps be the opposite and with copper, both reactions should homogenize with a measurable rate. However, these are just ideas. You have a rough draft of my work there, and as you can see; I hope it doesn’t conflict with yours.

Please say hello to Privy Councilor Ostwald. Best regards.

Yours sincerely,
Max Bodenstein