



## Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig, October 31, 1938

Bredig, Max Albert. "Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig, October 31, 1938," October 31, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 22. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/eks4b8w>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 31, 1938  
1322 Wilmot Street

Dear Father,

Many thanks for both of your letters, #72 and #73! I am glad that you are doing well and that you like your new apartment. You all will celebrate Marianne's birthday tomorrow and my letter will unfortunately arrive too late.

I am doing well. The day before yesterday, I returned from Detroit where I spent two weeks attending a metal conference and looking for positions. I haven't been successful yet. I may have the opportunity to work as a researcher for a small company that makes bearings. I will hear the decision this week, but the chances are 50/50. I am not sure if I should be glad if something comes out of it. Until recently, they didn't even have a decent laboratory. I spent four hours at a large pharmaceutical company, where everyone knew your name. They were very interested to hear about the possibilities for X-ray, optical spectral, and crystal analysis,

but must wait until next year when the new laboratory is ready. Mr. Helfman, my mentor in Detroit, was very helpful with advice.

I am glad that I feel prepared to work sufficiently in any area of chemistry. However, there are an abundance of good American chemists and companies are only interested in you if you are a specialist in a particular field. I hope that a recent publication on X-rays from a large chemical factory here (Dow Chemical Company, where Bader made a good impression) will work in my favor. I received the names of some interesting contacts from the publisher and am preparing to write to them. Thank you for mentioning the Mellon Institute. I know the name well. Yesterday, Ernst C. kindly offered to serve as a reference.

When I have a position, storing the journals won't be a problem. Until then, I would most likely rent a storage space, which would cost about \$2 a month in Ann Arbor. In at least two years, I hope to be in the position to do something about it.

In Milwaukee, McBain told me that he is only a "poor, uninfluential professor", who would glad to do what he can. Creighton most likely won't be able to do something either. The same applies to Berl, who I hoped to see in Milwaukee. He was not there though. I will write to him again in the future.

## Image 2

Have you also received the Ipatieff book from the American Chemical Society?

I haven't been able to do much for Marianne's nephew. I started a conversation with Fajans about it, but it was interrupted. I will try again.

Lore is doing well again, especially since the summer is finally over. I don't know why there is insufficient news about Erich's wife. According to Liselotte, who met her, she is supposed to be very nice. They are now in California, where the economic situation is worse than other places in the USA.

I was thankfully able to nip my cold in the bud after one day with iodine and aspirin.

Fajans hosted a small coffee reception for Germans yesterday. It was nice. On Saturday, I attended an American dance party for Halloween (All Saint's Day, but a fun holiday here). It was on a large farm with a lot of nice Americans.

If I don't get the position that I told you about in Detroit, I will stay here for the next three weeks. I have a list of three dozen contacts to write letters of applications to.

Warm regards to you, the Homburgers, all of our friends, Aunt Vally, Mrs. Contiaux etc.

Your son Max

I sent my declaration of assets to the police headquarters in Berlin before October 31st.