



## Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, July 21, 1897

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, July 21, 1897," July 21, 1897. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/jylf2ol>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

The Rector's Office at the University of Stockholm

July 21, 1897

My dear friend Bredig!

Thank you very much for your kind messages. From your last card, I can see that Mrs. Ostwald's health has improved. I am very glad to hear that it worked out well in the end. I spoke to Professor Retrius about the case and he apprehensively told me what I already knew. We can only hope that dear Mrs. O., who has suffered so much, will be spared from such difficulties and unfortunate consequences in the future.

I am also very pleased that Ostwald's textbook will be completed in the fall. I have been waiting for the completion of the interesting last chapters.

#### Image 2

I have been waiting for the completion of the interesting last chapters. I can only imagine that you have a lot to do and was afraid that you would not have enough free time. One topic of lively discussion here is the polar expedition and how its three explorers are faring.

The trip may take a month or maybe even longer. Perhaps they are sitting in snowdrifts and cannot travel further. Such a situation must be unpleasant.

At the moment, my dear friend Professor Rindek from Finland is visiting. He is currently attending the Congress of Farmers from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland. The work of the Congress occupies most of his time and I do not see him much at home.

In August, Nernst, Tammann, Abegg and other friends will come for a visit. Perhaps we will relive our happy days in Leipzig and I really look forward to this prospect! At the same time, Dr. von Euele, a Bavarian, will arrive to work with us until November. On September 1, he will receive a new colleague, a Scottish student of Walker's. In early September, W. plans to marry a very pretty young girl, Miss Sedgwick, whose heart he has won. Roszkowski recently sent me a rather confusing postcard from Schwansee in Switzerland, from which I can at least infer that he was in good spirits when he left. Harrusch finally qualified as a professor. He sent me a large manuscript, which will be printed in the appendix of the local academy. The designation "I" indicates that more will follow.

### **Image 3**

As for me, I have been quite lazy in putting together an exhibition. However, I hope to pull myself together soon. Lately, I have to catch up on a lot of literature that I have neglected.

The university recently received a 100,000 crown monetary gift from Consul General J.W. Smitt. This worked out very well, as the university was without donations for quite some time. The interest of the new donation will go towards scholarships and scientific grants. How the great Nobel laureates will fare, however, remains in the knowledge of the gods.

I extend many heartfelt greetings to all of our dear Leipzig friends, especially Ostwald and his wife, Wagner, and A. I am very grateful for your promise to send news again soon.

Your loyal friend,  
Svante Arrhenius