



Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, June 13, 1927

Bredig, Georg. "Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, June 13, 1927," June 13, 1927. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 7, Folder 9. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/pajne1f>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared December 14, 2024 18:22 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

PROFESSOR DR. G. BREDIG

KARLSRUHE IN BADEN, JUNE 13, 1927

RESIDENCE: BAHNHOFSTR. 14, TELEPHONE 1068.

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY: TELEPHONE 4093.

INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY AND ELECTROCHEMISTRY

Dear Max,

Many thanks for your letter from June 12th and sending your dissertation. The written dedication could have been to both your father and mother***. Overall, I read and understood it with interest. You are cited, albeit modestly, in an earlier paper in the Journal of Physics 34, 736 (1925), which is also in the newly published volume of the "Handbook of Experimental Physics" (Academic Publishing Company Leipzig) by Wien and Harms. "I have reared a monument more enduring than bronze" is what the Romans would only say

jokingly. Let's hope that your Göttingen work turns out to be at least as nice and not hindered by America again. Incidentally, there is a classic work by the famous American, Wood, on abnormal dispersion and resonance in sodium vapor.** See for example, Chwolson, Textbook of Physics, 2nd Edition Volume II 2, page 361 (Viervy 1922). Moreover, you should also read the literature on blue rock salt (naturally and artificially colored)*, e.g. in R. Lorenz & Eitel "Pyro Soles", page 126 (Volume 4 of Zsigmondy's Colloid Research in Individual Monographs, Academic Publishing Company Leipzig, 1926). By the way, I can send you all the books mentioned on request. I don't know if anomalous dispersion was already in the solid, colored rock salt. The colors have already been studied and detailed. You may still find literature by Ambronn or in Doelter's large "Handbook of Mineral Chemistry." The main thing in your work on the crystals in question are phosphors, because the anomalous dispersion of colored or light-absorbing substances that occurs is probably nothing new in itself. In any case, don't just be an experimental pen, but also study literature and theory as much as possible. Don't be embarrassed to ask!

*Also see Abegg, Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry, II1, page 225.

(left margin)

***Nevertheless, Mother says she would be happy if you are healthy!

**By the way, Wood also wrote a nice book called "Optics" or something like that.

Image 2

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As for the omission of the acknowledgments in your dissertation copy, that is downright stupid. That's what happens when you rely on others for such matters, as you usually do conveniently, instead of trying to have it printed independently. Incidentally, they will probably send you an invoice for the special reprints. In any case, you must clarify the mistake by sending a friendly letter of explanation and apology to Mr. Kallmann. In the local student printing shop or somewhere else, you could possibly print 100 or more copies of thank you notes and insert or glue them into the copies. For the ones that have already been delivered to the university, this will hardly be possible.

I still don't have a further answer from Professor Fajans, which probably won't be that easy to give. The fact that you are afraid of teaching is once again really a "Max" thing and impossible if you want to work as an assistant somewhere at a university. How else are you going to establish yourself? Also, that's where you learn the most.

I will ask Mr. Mark to keep the position open for as long as possible. I don't know if he can.

Just in case, and as a last resort, you should do the same thing with Haber. It would be very imprudent if you were to tell people in writing, as you write in your drafts, that you have no “initiative and imagination” for an academic career. You can probably wait and see that for the next two years, unless you are already firmly convinced that you must pursue a field in industry, which you would not need. However, you don't need to express that to anyone in writing!

Warm regards,
Father

You haven't written anything about possibly working nights in Fajan's laboratory. By the way, I also had to do this in Amsterdam, as did Rathenau in Neuhausen. You can read about this in the addendum to his letters. However, it was very extensive.