



## Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, May 1897

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, May 1897," May 4, 1897. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/rfova9i>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

### English Translation

#### Image 1

The Office of the Rector at the University of Stockholm

Stockholm, 4 May 1897

My dear friend Bredig,

Thank you very much for your last letter, which I would have answered a long time ago if something hadn't always come up. Everyone liked your drama so much that they are thinking of having it published. If it appears, I will of course send you a copy.

Up until two weeks ago, we had a very bad spring here with constant snowstorms and hail. We haven't seen so much filth on the streets in many years. Moreover, summer is suddenly here, and it is 17 degrees Celsius! I was annoyingly lazy during this period. You would like to do nothing at all, but do not get around to it. In any case, there is more stress at work.

#### Image 2

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At the moment, we (Ekholm and I) are editing our experiments dealing with the moon's influence on the frequency of the northern lights. While doing so, we also had to investigate two days of strange results, which are not associated with the moon and the sunspots. When this chaotic project is finished, I also hope to find some time for Physical Chemistry. I will also have the opportunity for experiments during the summer holidays. There are a few problems that particularly interest me and I hope to make progress on finding their solution.

This summer, we have a small exhibition here that promises to be very interesting. I hope to take this opportunity to welcome many of my scientific friends here as guests. For example, if you would like to come here in August, I could show you something new and I would be delighted to see you again.

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If you would like to invite a colleague to accompany you, that would be even more enjoyable! Tell me what you think.

The constant difference in the molecular thermal conductivity is very striking and noteworthy. It would be beneficial if you did not abandon your calculations on it but publish them. The appropriate outlet for such a publication is undoubtedly Ostwald's journal, which is read by everyone interested in this field. Ostwald would surely agree.

Good luck with your research on equilibrium constants and electronic power. I hardly think that anyone in Nernst's laboratory will steal the idea from you. By the way, he is very happy that Ostwald employs so many workers. That is how progress is made.

## Image 3

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I very much appreciate you telling me about work and life in the second chemical laboratory in Leipzig. I have remained interested in it since my time there. Without your news, I would know almost nothing about it. Thus, I am glad when I receive a letter from you.

Unfortunately, I haven't heard from Hanusch in a long time and fear that he is not doing well. Rothmund has not yet completed his habilitation thesis. Roszkowski has the most positive news. He only must decide whether he wants to stay in Freiburg or go to an agricultural university in Lemberg.

Petersson is only working on hydrography at the moment but is very happy with his success.

Strindberg is supposed to leave his bride and travel with Andrée to the North Pole with the 4th version of the Perpetuum mobile (they leave on May 17th). Ekholm is very happy with his wife but is otherwise buried under piles of paper. They all say hello to you dear Georg. Likewise, say hello to my many friends in Leipzig.

Yours truly,  
Svante Arrhenius