



Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, November 1895

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, November 1895," November 15, 1895. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/w4vkw3w>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Stockholm, 15 November 1895

Dear Friend,

Last Sunday, some of my colleagues, Petterson, Bjerknes, Strindberg and Högbom, were with me to bid farewell to Rothmund. On the same day, he departed south with the night train. He has now probably told you all of our news in Sweden, so that there isn't much left for me. On November 2nd, Wieselgren's 60th birthday was celebrated with a lot of pomp and circumstance. My wife gave birth to a healthy son in Vestra Ekedal in the presence of her two sisters. Both mother and child are doing very well. Tell Ostwald my news, as he never writes. You will probably be my intermediary now. Of course, Ostwald should also tell his wife that I am sorry for not conveying the news myself.

Image 2

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Most importantly, however, I am certain everything is alright. My wife has started to walk again, and I have overcome any insecurity. We can now be happy.

Can you ask Ostwald who once worked on the effect of local anesthetics? He told me the name after my lecture in Lübeck, but I forgot. It would be even more convenient if he could give me the citation. I have recently read my biography and the extremely positive assessment of my work in the last chapter of Ostwald's "Electrochemistry." Ostwald will be pleased to learn that Cleve included my biography at the same time in an addendum to the "Nordic Family Book" with the following quote: "He developed this opinion (that the electrolytes are partially dissociated) into a comprehensive theory which, although not yet generally recognized, has attracted a great deal of attention and found recognition with many of its facets."

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I am still experimenting with carbonic acid, but am distracted by all the little things, so that my work progresses very slowly. I referred your essay to the journal "Physics Society." It was accepted yesterday for publication after being reviewed by the academy. After approximately 6 weeks, I will send you the corrections.

Roszkowski moved into your old room today because it was too dark for him in his old accommodation. In two weeks, we will have vacation time and I will probably have some more flexibility at work. The carbon dioxide results must be ready by December 11th. Hopefully, I will also be done with "Temperature of the Moon."

Tomorrow, Kahl will give me a tube to conduct experiments on the passage of electricity through dilute gases (first simple ones, then mixtures) in my free time. After a few weeks of work, if all goes well, I'll send it to Roszkowski for further development.

Image 3

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Hannusch is very diligent in the laboratory. He now has two employment offers but remains undecided. Roszkowski also accepted a position. He will go to Freiburg in Switzerland and earn 200 francs per month to teach a 3-hour course on analytical chemistry.

Warm regards from all of us. Say hello to Prof. and Mrs. Ostwald, as well as their children.

Your dear friend,

Svante

Many thanks for your nice letter and postcard. Hello to Leblanc, Wagner, and our other friends.