



Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, January 1896

Arrhenius, Svante. "Letter from Svante Arrhenius to Georg Bredig, January 1896," January 3, 1896. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/34t5i0z>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared May 20, 2025 18:55 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Stockholm, 3 January 1896

Dear Georg,

I'm sorry that I didn't write earlier and many thanks for your three kind letters. Among my friends, I can surmise that you understand when one is busy, there is hardly time for anything else. By the 11th of December, I had finished my interminable work on carbonic acid to such an extent that I could deliver it to the academy in time for the meeting held that day. Significant academic works, which are printed in *Bihang* or *Handrager*, will now be initially reviewed by subject experts. During this time, it is possible to make small revisions. I did that and also wrote an appendix containing my observations on moisture, which took approximately two weeks.

Image 2

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At Christmastime, I spent a few days with my mother and siblings in Uppsala. They say hello. At the same time, my in-laws had my son baptized. He was named Olof Wilhelm. The first name is in honor of my wife's ancestor, Olof Rudbeck, who held an important position at the University of Uppsala. The name Wilhelm is in honor of our joint advisor, Professor Ostwald, to whom I am greatly indebted.

Thank you for the nice "Liegnitzer-Bomben" pastries, which delighted me and my friends, Mr. Hanusch and Mr. Roszkowski. At the same time, I received the "Oberländer-Album" from Rothmund, which inspires my mind as much as the pastries please my taste buds. Did you forget an umbrella here? Can Rothmund have it?

Yesterday, we had an enjoyable evening at the pub with two old colleagues. Mr. Hanusch and Mr. Roszkowski were also there, and it was a lot of fun. Mr. Hanusch didn't sleep well last night as a result.

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He will stay here until February 1st. He now says he won't have time to visit his parents before he travels to Karlsruhe. Everyone has decided which positions to accept. R. will work on diffusing gases at a low pressure through porous membranes. The electrolytes of the gases have not yet come to fruition, but I have not given up hope. Perhaps I can use strong currents at a low pressure and then it will work. My work on carbonic acid has kept me so busy that I hardly have time to read scientific literature. As soon as I'm finished with revisions on the English edition, I must make up for lost time. After that, I have a lot of editorial work to do and won't have time for experiments in the near future. I would like to do a small experiment on reaction speed, which I might do at home.

Image 3

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It will interest me to find out what Bollmann has against Ostwald. I also have pull myself together to figure out the answer to this question.

In the spring, I will lecture on acoustics and optics. As I have not work in these fields before, it will take a lot of time to prepare. All things considered; I don't think I'll have much free time for experimental work. This summer, I'm going on vacation to catch my breath. The Wiedemann affair was very interesting, but it eventually lost traction. I'm glad because it is extremely unpleasant to investigate what each person said.

It's a shame that you can't continue working on conductivity. It seems like a promising topic. I once held a lecture about it at the Physics Society for general interest. Best wishes for the New Year and good luck on your work! Hello to Ostwald and thank you for the telegram. Mr. Roszkowski and Mr. Hanusch also say hello.

Yours truly,
Svante

P.S. My wife and child are doing well.

[upper margin]

P.S.S Many thanks to your father for his hospitality. Please give him my best when you see him next.