



Letter from Elsabet to Max Bredig, April 1941

Elsabet. "Letter from Elsabet to Max Bredig, April 1941," April 5, 1941. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 9, Folder 4. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/8t44snx>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared June 14, 2025 21:57 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Copy of air mail letter

32 Davenport Road

Oxford

5 April 1941

[Max Bredig's hand: received at the end of April]

Dear Max,

Tonight, I dreamt that I could have thanked you all personally for your immense, gracious help and told you how it concurrently gladdens and afflicts me. I assume that my letter from February 18th has reached you in the meantime one way or another (by air or ship). Your kind letter from March 1st arrived here on March 19th. I was saddened to hear that your dear father appears to be in a state of deep depression, or was, when you wrote. With his pessimistic disposition, heaven must not know what he had to endure. You will understand that even though I am pursuing a career, I am also experiencing the challenges of these difficult times, which you and your father hopefully have behind you now. I realize that this

time is unbearable for the victims, but also the caretakers who must observe without being able to provide much solace.

It was comforting to me that two other friends also benefitted from the generous donation. I can only assure you once again that I know how great the sacrifice is in addition to your other obligations.

When my parents were still corresponding from the camp, they never mentioned Marianne and Viktor either. I realized that they had to be in entirely separate camp districts. According to the latest news, the camp should now be set up (?).

Image 2

They will hopefully be able to immigrate soon. I wish for this very much every day!

The last news I received from my parents was in an ELT reply telegram. It stated that they are both now in the camp hospital (reasons were not provided), but are being cared for by the American Quakers, who are also intensively involved in their emigration process. It was dated March 25th. For a long time, I have only received news through occasional replies to my telegrams sent approximately every two weeks.

I conclude that they are not well enough to write. As I know their care is in good hands, I am waiting patiently, albeit ardently. There is nothing else left to do. Uncle Otto Levis and his wife departed for a better camp after my uncle was very ill in Gurs for three months.

I recently received a long and very cheerful letter from the two boys. They told me about you and Walter. I will see Wolfgang soon because he will be nearby during the next school term. They seem to be enjoying English school life very much. That is very reassuring.

I am doing very well here, both personally and professionally.

I hope that your overtime does not take away from the joy of your work. After all, everyone hopes that scientists can forget about serious worries and find meaning in life. Take the time to see a good concert every now and then. Relaxation and balance in your life are an obligation, especially for those you are now caring for.

Best wishes and regards to you and your dear father.

Yours,
Elsabet