



Letter from G. Huber to Georg Bredig, March 1906

Huber, G. "Letter from G. Huber to Georg Bredig, March 1906," March 23, 1906. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 2, Folder 27. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/8z7st93>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

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Tübingen, March 23, 1906

Dear Colleague,

It is only now that I have had the pleasure of carefully studying your treatise on inorganic fermentation, and now I cannot refrain from congratulating you on the fine treatises that you have just published and the many interesting conclusions you made. As a physiologist, most scientific research on catalysis strikes me as the fulfillment of a compromise. However, there is a time for everything. In earlier times, especially in the early seventies of the last century,

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all the conditions were not met that could facilitate real progress. The same is true for the formalities. The only thing that we repeatedly appreciated with regards to catalytic processes was working organically in the laboratory. Moreover, since we all more or less worshiped a

mechanistic world view because we grew up in it, we each made up for our doubts by trying to at least make the aforementioned and former problem generally plausible through moralistic speculations. However, we always did this in the hope that the time would soon come when the problem would permit thorough questioning and experimental treatment.

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Personally, from the outset, I greeted Ostwald's appearance on the scene with sincere joy as a true deliverance from the purely arrogant rhetoric of most chemists. This ultimately led to the egoists being criminally guilty.

The much repeated saying from the old, renowned Bunsen hurt all these colleagues very much: "A chemist who is not concurrently a physicist is nothing at all!"

Thank you again for your kind correspondence and best regards.

Yours sincerely,
G. Huber