



Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig and Marianne Homburger, April 3, 1937

Bredig, Max Albert. "Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig and Marianne Homburger, April 3, 1937," April 3, 1937. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 1, Folder 22. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/a17wha8>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Dr. MAX-ALBERT BREDIG, Engineer

Berlin W 15, 3 April 1937

Dear Father and Anndel,

Father, thank you for your letter, #Mx. 15, from March 26th and depositing 800 Reichsmarks in my account, which I received. I hope you all are doing well and can enjoy going out in the lovely spring weather. It must be warmer than here, where the very first flower buds are just starting to appear.

I am doing well but am having some difficulties with H.H.F. He is angry that I submitted more publications to him with my name as the sole author. He claims this contradicts our previous agreement. However, I don't perceive this regulation as binding and know that I am right. Not only did I do this work without his suggestions, but I did it despite his sympathy for me and with the help of a Chinese colleague. If times were as they were when I started with

company eight years ago, when I was assured that I could undertake a habilitation thesis without difficulties, I would have done the habilitation thesis and not insisted on co-publishing with H.H.F. In addition, I would perhaps point out to him that having independent minded employees with sole authorship is more beneficial for his outstanding reputation than constant references. His objection that no publication from the central laboratory with the name of a Jewish author can appear, seems to be a pretext. I also don't understand how publishing independently would be more harmful than publishing with him.

Image 2

This is only for your ears. We will soon be on good terms again because I have no power to make my wish come true. Resigning just because of this publication issue wouldn't benefit me at this point. It would be the same situation anywhere else. If I worked with Arrhenius, would I only be a slave? With regards to my specialty, H.H.F gives me a lot of freedom. I haven't quite yet come to terms with the fact that as an employee in industry, I have sold my scientific soul. In return, you earn more money than elsewhere, for example as a university lecturer.

Enough of this nonsense! I wrote to Aunt Vally on her birthday. I didn't see Fajans' letter to me, which I sent to you on March 26th and requested back. I must thank him soon for his kind offer and send my condolences on the death of his father. Greetings to both of you!

(Max)