



Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, August 8, 1938

Bredig, Georg. "Letter from Georg Bredig to Max Bredig, August 8, 1938," August 8, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 7, Folder 13. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/kzbuiwe>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared June 24, 2025 21:19 UTC

Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

1.

Enclosed: 1 postal slip

Karlsruhe, August 8, 1938

Mx #69

Your next letter should be addressed to Haydnplatz 6 because I will be staying with Marianne from August 20th for about 14 days.

Dear Son,

Thank you for your kind letter dated July 26th (which arrived on August 5th). I hope you have received my letter Mx #68, which I sent on July 25th. I'm glad to hear that the climate is tolerable for you despite the extreme weather conditions. The high temperatures should subside in September, and the much-awaited autumn season will begin. We have had temperatures reaching at least 33°C in the shade over the past two days. The reports of 51°C heat in New York, as stated by the newspapers, are probably untrue or exaggerated. I

hope your egg acclimatization treatment is successful, to some extent at least. This may not be the most appropriate time to send out job applications, as people are either traveling or exhausted from the heat. I am interested in hearing what Badger has to say. Have you been in touch with Creighton lately? Perhaps he could temporarily assist you during this difficult time? You could also try asking Fiske and the other contacts I gave you for industrial employment after the holidays, without emphasizing your specialization in X-ray work and physical chemistry. If you are unable to afford the operational expenses of your Ford car, you could consider leasing it to someone you trust, who will take good care of it, rather than selling it. This way, you could save on garage costs, at least. However, I hope you can continue to use the car yourself because you need it.

Recently, based on Viktor's advice, I instructed the local Badische Bank at the Ritterstrasse branch (formerly Straus & Co.) to sell your emigration blocked mark account to Golddiskontobank.

Image 2

(page 2)

2.

Before proceeding with the transaction, I obtained approval from the Berlin foreign exchange office, around 1460 blocked marks. The current price for the transaction is $8 \frac{1}{4}\%$.

I need to move in the next few weeks. Think of your mother and if it makes sense for me. I'm happy to be in Marianne's neighborhood. She has put in a lot of effort to help me with the move. We've been busy cleaning and organizing over the past few days, and I came across some items in the white closet in your room that I thought you should know about. I found five thick Stolzenberg folders containing letters you wrote to your parents from 1926-1933. It seems like your mother collected them. I also found a folder with letters from your parents and Marianne to you, which I believe you collected. Additionally, there is a cardboard box called the Pischwitz folder with more letters to you and "memorabilia", as well as a leather box containing the same materials. Additionally, there was a stack of notebooks, mostly containing cursory notes from college. I threw them away and kept two college notebooks on mathematics and two notebooks of your German school essays, as well as two group photos from school in frames. Please write soon to let me know what should happen with these items, whether we should destroy them or simply throw them away. Going through the very large bundles of letters would be far too tedious a task. At most, we could pick out and forward some of the items you specifically described, although I doubt whether this would be useful.

(left margin)

I'll have the proceeds sent to your bank in Ann Arbor as dollars.

Image 3

(page 3)

3.

Based on my understanding, you still have a credit balance of 310 Reichsmarks at American Express from the freight depot in September 1937, and a blocked mark balance from your leave payout at Deutsche Bank in Berlin. If our application for the shipment of the journals is approved (we are still awaiting the second response, which seems likely), we could use those funds (after approval by the foreign exchange office) to pay for the freight costs. However, I only have power of attorney for your account at Badische Bank (formerly Straus & Co.) and possibly at American Express, but not at Deutsche Bank. What do you suggest we do with the remaining balance? For now, let's wait and see about the journals. Please take a look at the newspaper clipping enclosed to see how things are at the Bavarian Nitrogen Works. Also, do you know what H.H. is up to? Since Tausz is moving, where and how do you want to store the journals? Given the likelihood that the shipment won't occur, should I hold onto the items as inheritance or sell them?

I believe you may be mistaken about the declaration of assets. I sent you a form and included instructions on how to complete it. According to B6 (bottom left of the first page), as a "Jew of German nationality" living abroad, which you are, you are required to register any assets sent to or from abroad since April 1, 1938 if their value exceeds 5,000 Reichsmarks. You have until the end of October 1938 to register.

Take some good photos for yourself, and it would be helpful to have several copies. You can't use the previous ones for your applications as they are not good and could be off-putting. You don't need to portray yourself in such an unflattering way. Also, you should treat yourself to a few weeks of vacation.

Don't despair if you don't have a job by October 1st. In the U.S.A., it's necessary to be open to doing other work in times of low employment, beyond what academics may usually prefer, in order to make a living. The chances of finding a suitable job can still occur.

Warm regards from all of us too you and all our friends,
Father