



Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig and Viktor and Marianne Homburger, July 1, 1938

Bredig, Max Albert. "Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig and Viktor and Marianne Homburger, July 1, 1938," July 1, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 8, Folder 21. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 1, 1938

1517 Montclair Street

My dear loved ones,

Today, with many heartfelt thanks, I can again confirm receiving the following letters: #65 from June 11, #66 from June 12, #A12 from June 13, and #A13 from June 16. I also received another old tie and the pajamas. I am always happy to have good news from you. Lieselotte will probably travel to New York next month, but probably not visit here, at least not in the beginning. She may be able to give you my regards in person, even if I fear that her schedule will not allow her to visit Karlsruhe.

I'm doing well so far. Last week, the weather here was summery and warm for the first time. Yet, I didn't find it as people described, although the extremely high humidity, which makes you sweat intermittently, is unpleasant. However, you get used to everything. The worst

thing is that it's impossible to keep the heat out by blacking out and closing the windows and shutters (which don't exist!); The walls are so thin that after a few hours, the whole house is warm! At night, it slowly cools down again, but it's hard to sleep on nights like this. You then have all the windows and doors open, and you "sleep" with the entire family of 5 in one room. This is particularly pleasant when the little one has pneumonia, which fortunately has been resolved in the meantime. In general, it is particularly "idyllic" here with Hense's children! I should probably be happy to be here.

During the hot days, I visited Detroit to introduce myself to a large company recommended by Helfmann. The people, at the least the first ones, were nice, but couldn't give me any hope now, even though they have just ordered an X-ray machine. It is supposed to be operated by their young and apparently competent physical chemists, who know your name, Father, from college (electro-atomization)! I was taken out to an elegant lunch in one of the tallest skyscrapers, the Fisher Building, which was air-conditioned and cool. I was finally given 5 letters of recommendation, some of which were nice, to send to other companies.

When I received your letter, Father, about the interview with Badger, I already had a letter of refusal from the Dow Chemical Company in my hands. I am therefore skeptical that Badger's mediation would still be of any use, especially since he thinks I'm too old. I assume that the latter remark is like a message I was given here, and quite truthfully, that Badger and the company don't want to do anything to do with the first volume, as is usually the case with the chemical industry here!

Yesterday, I spoke with Ewald and his wife here, who are nice. He gives a few lectures here at the summer school and is probably also looking for a new position. My former X-ray instructor from W. will supposedly go to Canada to work in the cellulose (or similar) industry.

Image 2

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The chief metallurgist in Detroit advised me to wait until September before looking for a position. Otherwise, I would be closing the doors for myself with premature cancellations, which can certainly be expected now. He speculated that I could work in house in the fall.

Next Sunday, Fajans and I are invited to dinner at Helfmann's. I would like 2 more duvet covers (at least)!

I received Eucken III.2. Many Thanks.

I am still working, but almost finished. Unfortunately, on account of my supervisor's tenacity, much work has been done in vain to write an alloy thermal breakpoint, which was in fact due

to the oxide forming a protective atmosphere on heating. Thomassen and I had always suggested this. Now, after the microscopic results contradicted the thermal ones, I simply thermally analyzed the oxide alone and then ascertained the long breakpoint! Dr. C, the "boss," will be amazed when he returns! Now everything is extremely simple without any contradictions! Maybe I'll do a few more experiments varying the aluminum content instead of the silicon. I'm no longer obliged to work after the end of the current semester, but I'll be happy if I'm given an unpaid opportunity to work at the institute. This is still uncertain. Helfmann praised my "spirit"! The scholarship money lasts until October.

That's all for today. Warm regards,
Max