



Letter from Max Bredig to Herman Mark, November 23, 1938

Bredig, Max Albert. "Letter from Max Bredig to Herman Mark, November 23, 1938," November 23, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 8, Folder 34. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Dr. Max A. Bredig

Ann Arbor Michigan, November 23, 1938
1437 White Street

Dr. H. Mark
Canadian International Paper Co.
Hawkesbury, Ontario

Dear Professor Mark,

My letter has a dual purpose. First, I would like to warmly welcome you to our new continent! I hear from Professor Fajans that you are already busy with work. I hope that you are comfortable, and above all, that you will be reunited with your family quite soon! I can likely assume that I will meet you at a conference or on a similar occasion in the near future.

The second purpose of my letter is quite serious. Like most German emigrants, I have also

recently received telegrams from my relatives with the urgent request to support their emigration. First, I received a telegram from the wife of my cousin, Walter Fraenkel, who was formerly a professor of physical chemistry in Frankfurt, and who you probably knew personally by name. He is now waiting in a concentration camp for an opportunity to emigrate. I also received a telegram from my father with the request for affidavits for my brother-in-law, who has also apparently been arrested, and if possible, for my sister and her three sons, who are 10, 12, and 14 years old, and lastly, for my father. Of course, I took immediate action and hope to initially acquire a few affidavits solely for my brother-in-law to free him. Unfortunately, my own sponsorship is probably not worth much. At the moment, after the conclusion of my one-year fellowship, I will be without employment and an income. Moreover, I can only show that I have a small savings account. However, even if the sponsorships were considered sufficient, as you know, the quota is stagnant for years to come. Hence, my brother-in-law's actual emigration and release is hardly possible. A recent newspaper clipping, which was confirmed to me here by the immigration officer at the Canadian border office, stated that Canada wanted to resume its immigration process. I wondered if my relatives could consider this option. Do you think this is even a possibility for a fifty-year-old former banker, who is strong and healthy, and has a wife and children? Do you think it would be possible to find someone to sponsor him? However, even if something remained from his assets after the current plunder, he probably wouldn't be able to salvage anything by selling off blocked marks.

Image 2

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My brother-in-law has a Ph.D., and together with my sister, speaks English very well. He lived in the U.S.A for several years during the war, and my sister also spent a year in England. Through her arts and crafts and pedagogical experiences, she would likely be able to contribute significantly to their financial sustenance.

Of course, I realize how challenging the matter is, especially to provide the Consul with evidence of financial maintenance. This has now caused me to further consider aiming for employment in and emigration to Canada. Through my income, I would especially like to facilitate the immigration of my relatives to a country where the immigration quota is not yet exhausted, at least not yet. Some time ago, I read some that there was no unemployment among engineers in Canada. What about chemists? It would be extremely kind if you could let me know about this. I hope that you will understand my desire to help my relatives and forgive this inconvenience.

Many thanks in advance and best regards.

Sincerely,
(Max Bredig)