



Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig, Marianne Homburger, and Viktor Homburger, December 26, 1938

Bredig, Max Albert. "Letter from Max Bredig to Georg Bredig, Marianne Homburger, and Viktor Homburger, December 26, 1938," December 26, 1938. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 7, Folder 20. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/vzdysc8>.

Courtesy of the Science History Institute, prepared June 12, 2025 08:59 UTC

English Translation

Image 1

BRIDGEVILLE, PA

Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 26, 1938

My dear loved ones,

Yesterday, just as I was invited to a Christmas roast at Fajans' place (together with Lore M.), your two dear Christmas letters from December 13th (No. 75) and December 15th (from Marianne) arrived. Thanks very much! I am glad that you are all healthy and I hope that by the time you receive this letter, you have also had a good start to the New Year!

In the meantime, you have probably also received my two letters from December 20th, along with the affidavits. It would of course be great if things had meanwhile worked out with W.! I have heard nothing new on the matter from the Halsteads, whom I have kept apprised of the development of my affairs.

As much as I would like to do everything to facilitate Father's stay in England or Holland

(also see my telegram from December 17th), and although I believe that it is possible (what about Ernst C. in Utrecht, for example? Perhaps I could send money.), I believe Father should travel with you initially because he would be better cared for. On the other hand, he would worry too much about you all! However, if I should unexpectedly succeed in somehow obtaining a temporary entry visa for Father to come here with the help his former students with whom I correspond, then of course he should travel in this case. The preference quota is unfortunately out of the question due to the lack of my incomplete naturalization application. You all have already experienced this.

Your question, Anndel, as to whether I am willing to vouch for a child, was answered in my telegram from December the 17th. My sponsorship could possibly suffice for all of you, especially if you also consider that if everything goes well with my new position, I could send 20-25 pounds per month in addition to the previously mentioned 1,600 (600 pounds).

Although things like furnishing an apartment here are truly secondary concerns, I believe I have made everything as comfortable as possible for Father in New York. If possible, I would like to move to a suburb where there is a small house with four rooms or an apartment of any desirable size. There are plenty of German domestic workers here that I could afford to hire with my salary. We have many good friends in New York and there would always be someone available to take care of Father if I have to travel for business.

Image 2

(page 2)

My marriage plans, if they even existed, would not influence this in the least!!

Father, I would now like to respond to your letter too. I already wrote in detail about the amount of funds in my account in my last letter. You will see that it is higher than you assumed. Namely at Deutsche Bank, I have about 4,500 Reichsmarks, especially after the Bavarian Nitrogen Works received approval from the Foreign Exchange Office to distribute the payments from October 1st to December 31st. From my information, you will also see that your calculation of 1,000 Reichsmarks was possibly too low, and will probably be $1\frac{1}{2}$ or, in the worst case, $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much! This means that your final calculation, namely 2,000 Reichsmarks, which is left over from the payment to the Gold Discount Bank for the journals, will remain approximately correct. I leave it to your discretion as to whether this 2,000 Reichsmarks and the additional 4,000 Reichsmarks should be used to send me the journals (or part of them). This seems to depend on whether the funds mentioned could be better spent elsewhere. However, I don't think that is the case. With regards to journals, I am not interested in the Journal of Electrochemistry, the Journal of Applied Chemistry, or the

Journal of Physics. The Central Journal, Reports, the Journal of Inorganic Chemistry, and the Journal of Physical Chemistry are more important to me.

Many thanks for the scientific resources for Vanadium! The company has already provided me with a lot of material. Unfortunately, due to packing up and my extensive correspondence, I haven't gotten very far with them yet, but I will soon! Today, Fajans went to a conference in Providence, R.I. for a few days. I probably won't see him before my departure. He sends you his warmest regards and will answer your letter as soon as his busy correspondence schedule allows. Enough for today! Once again, best wishes to you all, especially for a better New Year.

Warmest regards,

Max

(left margin)

*or is this reserve required for other authorizations? In this case, please consider my interests last. Although it may seem useful for me to have my things here, you all may need them in Germany. This especially applies if you no longer have the necessary funds mentioned above, i.e., due to imminent emigration.