



Letter from Kasimir Fajans to Max Bredig, August 11, 1927

Fajans, Kasimir. "Letter from Kasimir Fajans to Max Bredig, August 11, 1927," August 11, 1927. Papers of Georg and Max Bredig, Box 7, Folder 38. Science History Institute. Philadelphia. <https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/zmhiyfi>.

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Translated by Jocelyn R. McDaniel

English Translation

Image 1

Bad Gastein, August 11, 1927

Villa Mühlberger

Dear Dr. Bredig,

The nice weather during the last few days has somewhat delayed my reply to your letter from August 6th. As far as your application to the funding agency is concerned, there are two options. The lecturer is requesting support for specific research by granting a designated collaborator. Hence, as far as I understood, it was Göttingen in your case. Or a prospective researcher asks for support for his scientific training by stating the proposed project. As I can see from a letter from your father dated July 24th, he has a valuable idea in mind and in your case, it would also be more useful to me. You must have your academic qualifications certified by your previous teachers, insofar as this is still necessary after the processing of the recent Göttingen submission. In any case, you must refer to it. In return, I would enclose a letter emphasizing the importance

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of the investigation and mention that you are particularly well suited to conduct the experiments based on your previous work, namely your work in Göttingen.

Since you also must provide more precise details about the aim of the work, I would like to tell you the following information about it. So far, the work has been done by my assistant Dr. Wüst and a doctoral student Mr. Reindl. Since the completion of the new room, the measurements have been made, albeit only at night, and the dispersion of H_2S in air (for control purposes) in water vapor has been measured. In the last week, the apparatuses were rebuilt by Dr. Wüst und a second doctoral student. Mr. von Hirsch. Now the gentlemen want to measure the vapors of HgCl_2 , HgBr , HgO_2 by the end of August, which should be examined in the solid and dissolved states regarding dispersion and absorption. This is all related to the deformation change. We will have vacation in September. At this point, Dr. Wüst will leave. However, he is willing to introduce you to the apparatus at the beginning of October. Mr. von Hirsch, who is very intelligent, skillful, and has a pleasant personality, will already have been trained enough (he has been busy with preparatory work for a long time, namely determining the vapor position of the aforementioned mercury salts).

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With this in mind, I hope your collaboration with him will be successful. The work schedule will depend somewhat on the results of the current measurements. On the one hand, we are considering salt vapors, and on the other hand, the comparison of vapors and their liquids in connection with Debye's theory and van der Waal's forces. As a last, but very difficult goal, I would like to consider atomized iodine.

Please write and let me know how you intend to submit your application and which recommendations you can provide (Professor Pohl, who submitted your application earlier, will probably be able to advise you). I will then send you my accompanying letter. I would suggest one year as the timeframe.

I'm staying here until August 25th of and then I'll be in Munich for about 10 days. Afterwards, I'll travel to Poland where my wife and sons are staying in the countryside.

You must have spent some lovely days at the lake with your dear sister. We heard that Miss Marianne might come to Munich during the winter semester.

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That would be very nice. We would be very happy about it.

With warm regards to you both,

Yours sincerely,

K. Fajans