

Alfred Baber Fonds

Correspondence - General

Brody, James P  
1995

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
LOCATOR	509515
BOX	7
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2628 W. Lake Isle Drive  
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092  
September 12, 1995

Dear Alfred:

I was very pleased to receive an autographed copy of "Adventures of a Chemist Collector", and write this to express my thanks...delayed because I have been doing some traveling.

To maintain my integrity as a book reviewer, I will withhold my imprimatur until I have read the book, but from my preliminary look at the contents, and knowing the good story of your life, I know that I will find it very interesting.

You probably do not realize what a presence you are in our lives...in our study, our living room, our dining room, our foyer, we daily walk past Bader pictures. Now we have your written words. I don't think we use any of "your" chemicals, but perhaps we do.

Again, thank you, and my best wishes for a long and happy continuation of the good "Adventures" of Alfred Bader!

With best regards,

*Pat Brody*



ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

ESTABLISHED 1961

October 10, 1995

James P. Brody, Esq.  
2628 W. Lake Isle Drive  
Mequon, WI 53092

Dear Pat:

Your thoughtful letter of October 4th has given me a great deal of pleasure.

What are the chances of two fellows our age sharing such similar experiences - for instance, using twine and salt, very coarse salt, to handle hides? I still love that smell, though I know there are some people who dislike it.

The day-long negotiations about the values of the hides and how much money and how much leather the Herzogs were to take have undoubtedly sharpened my negotiating skills. But the Herzogs would have done even better if they had a friend like Marvin Klitsner to advise them. Maybe not on hides, but about other matters.

Chapter 13, about how my business associates at Sigma-Aldrich behaved, may well become a business school primer, and the enclosed will interest you. Isabel and I are going to Queen's University for my 50th reunion next week, and I hope then to pick up that book, and if you are interested, would be happy to send you copies of that specific case.

Isabel and I would love to see you, and as many of your family who might be interested, to show you our gallery.

You know the old saying that when an American says to you that he would love to see you sometime, it means that he doesn't really want to see you. But if he says "Could you join us for lunch on Wednesday, November 8th?", he really means it.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

AB/cw

cc: Marvin Klitsner, Esq.

Enclosure

*By Appointment Only*  
ASTOR HOTEL SUITE 622  
924 EAST JUNEAU AVENUE  
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN USA 53202  
TEL 414 277-0730 FAX 414 277-0709



2628 W. Lake Isle Drive  
Mequon, WI 53092  
October 4, 1995

Dear Alfred:

I have now finished reading your book, and write this to tell you how much I enjoyed it. I had of course known the Alfred Bader story...at least the substance of it...and it is a good and remarkable story. But it also is told well in the book, both the personal side and the more public science/business/art side, and I can sincerely tell you that the book was hard to put down once I started reading it.

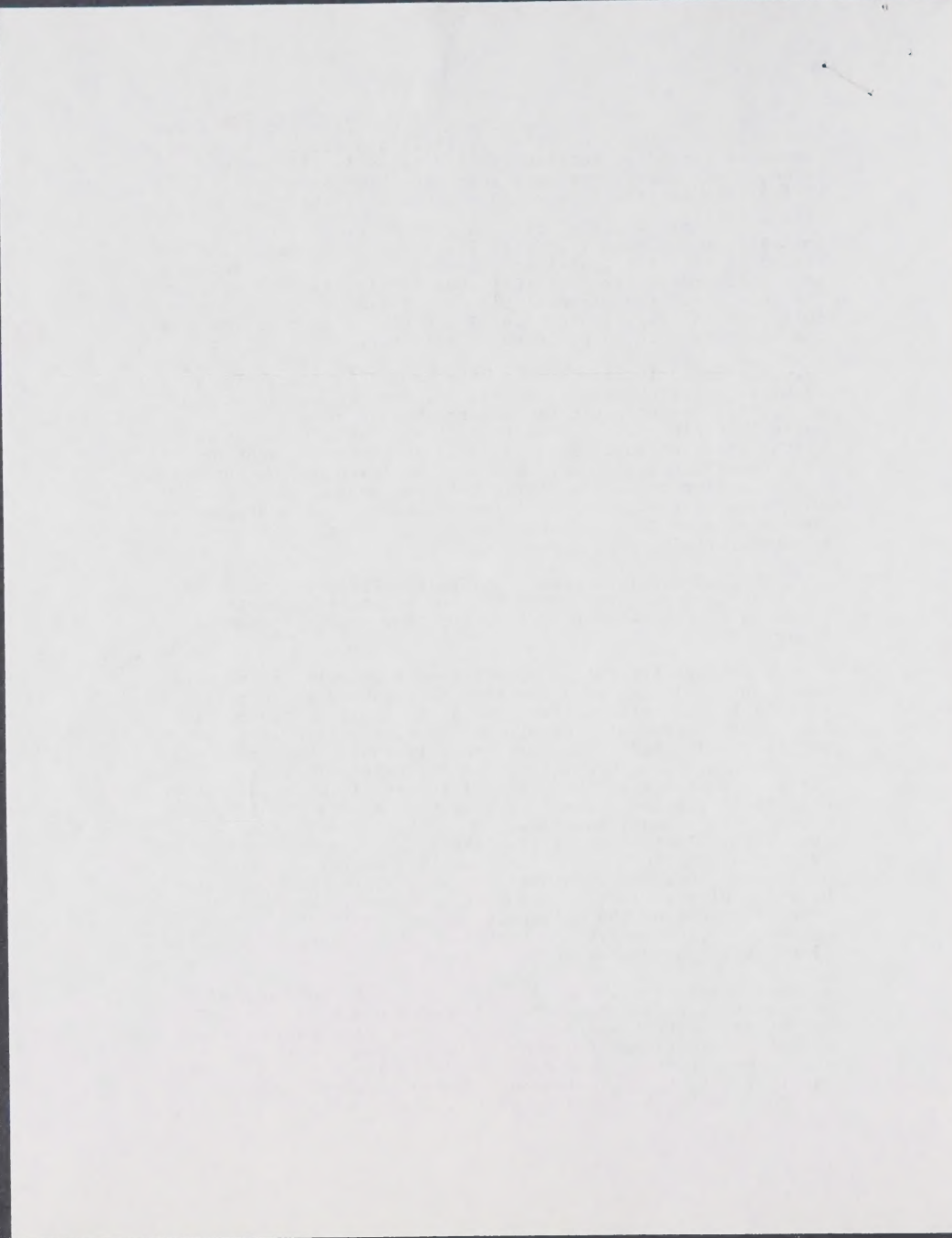
I must admit that some of the technical discussion of chemical research was beyond me, but even so it was told in a way that was sufficiently understandable to a non-scientific lawyer. I must admit also that I was touched by the story of your personal life. As the story went on, even though it was a happy story of achievement and success, I kept seeing the scene at Vienna's Westbahnhof on December 10, 1938. Even with the optimism of youth, what a tragic day that must have been for you. But how you handled it, and the ensuing years!

The Art sections were fascinating. The description of how your business associates behaved at the end should become a business-school primer for "How Not to Succeed in Business"!

Your book brought so many personal memories to my mind, and I must tell you of a few that have caused me to relate so well to your story. Like you, in my early childhood, I had a very comfortable existence. We were not wealthy, but we lived well, and I had more "worldly goods" than many of my contemporaries. Then, in the early Depression, my father's business crashed, and, like you, I was at the other extreme. I started working at a young age, and through high school and college; and always during my school days was just barely "out of the red". Like you, I counted pennies in my food expenditures, and I can still remember the great delight I had when occasionally I was invited to someone's home for dinner. I still remember to a penny the food budget I had one year at the University of Wisconsin. So, I understand your remarks on that subject and your remembering dinner with the Cohens on the Sabbath!

We lived many thousands of miles apart, but both of us, at a young age, handled hides. I wonder how many people in the Milwaukee business/professional community could include that in their resumes! One of my uncles ran a meat market, and he bought hides from farmers. As a little boy, I'd watch and listen to the negotiations. The hides would be spread out for examination, and my uncle was very skilled at noting

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knife cuts that reduced the hide's value. Once the price was established, I had the job of sprinkling coarse salt on the inside of the hide, folding it, and tying it with coarse twine. Then, once or twice a year, the hide-buyer would arrive, and negotiations would resume. Yes, the hides had a strong smell!

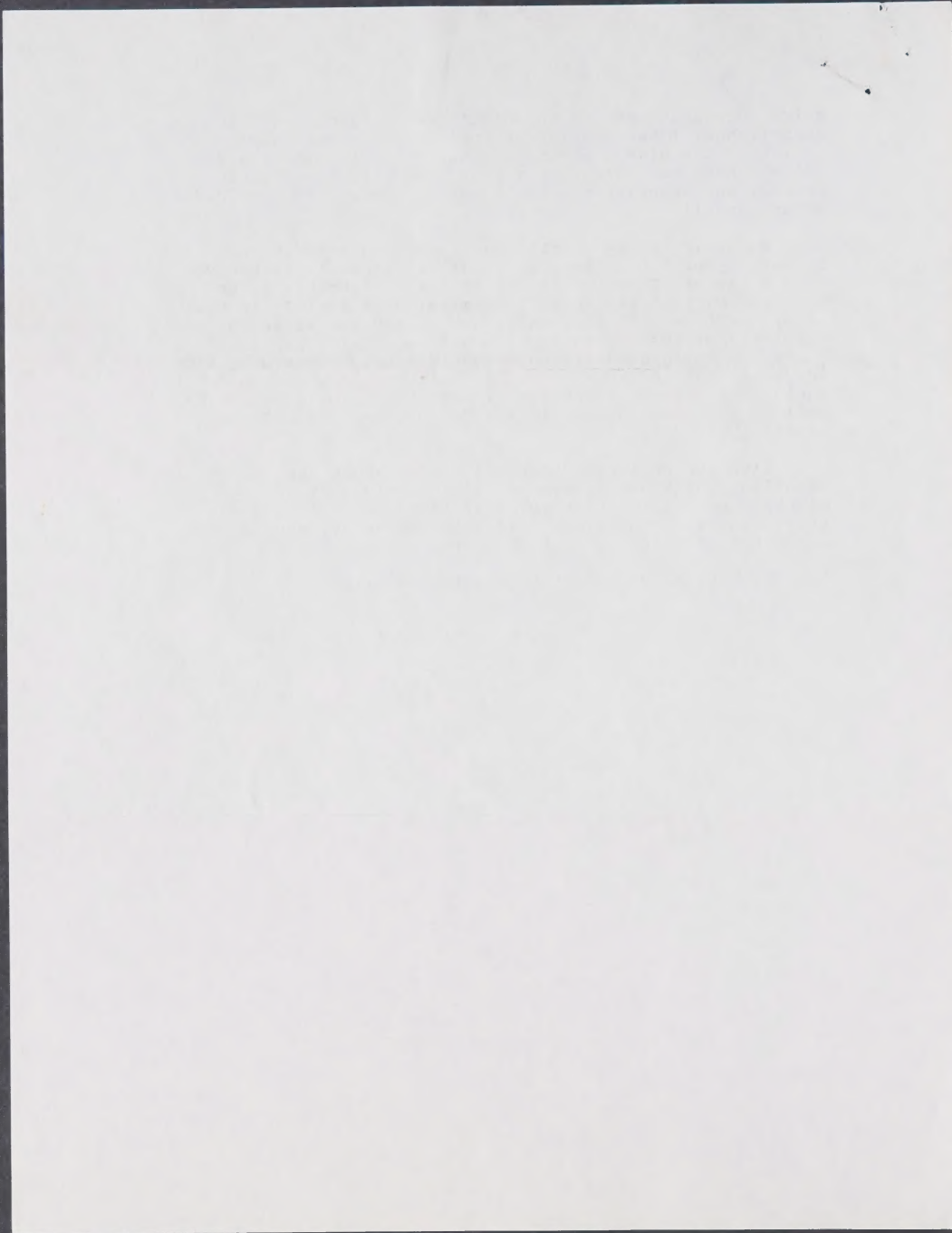
The third thing I will note is your comment when you received your LLD...that you sometimes secretly wished you were a lawyer. I must tell you that when I went away to college, my goal was to be a chemical engineer! I did well in my first year of Chemistry, and worked part-time for a chemistry professor, in the lab and correcting papers. I liked it, but gradually found myself attracted more by the subjects that led to the Law. I don't know how successful I would have been as a chemist; I expect you would have done well as a lawyer. But would the Court have been able to handle two Badgers?

I've run on longer than I intended about some personal memories your book has evoked. I'll conclude by saying simply, once again, that you have lived and told a great story. And the sensational gifts to Queens are such a wonderful and fitting part of that story.

My best to you, Isabel, and your family.

Sincerely,

Pat Brady







ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

ESTABLISHED 1961

October 31, 1995

James P. Brody, Esq.  
2628 W. Lake Isle Drive  
Mequon, WI 53092

Dear Pat:

A rather long trip to Canada has delayed my thanking you for your letter of October 16th.

We would love to see you in the gallery whenever convenient to you. However, we are leaving for England on November 13th and returning on December 24th. From then on, we will be in Milwaukee for most of the winter.

That interesting letter is owned by a good friend of mine, a bookseller, Michael Hatcher, whose telephone number is 962-2756.

I have not yet seen the book of case studies which includes the Sigma-Aldrich case, but when I receive a copy, I will of course make copies for you, Marvin and Jere McGaffey.

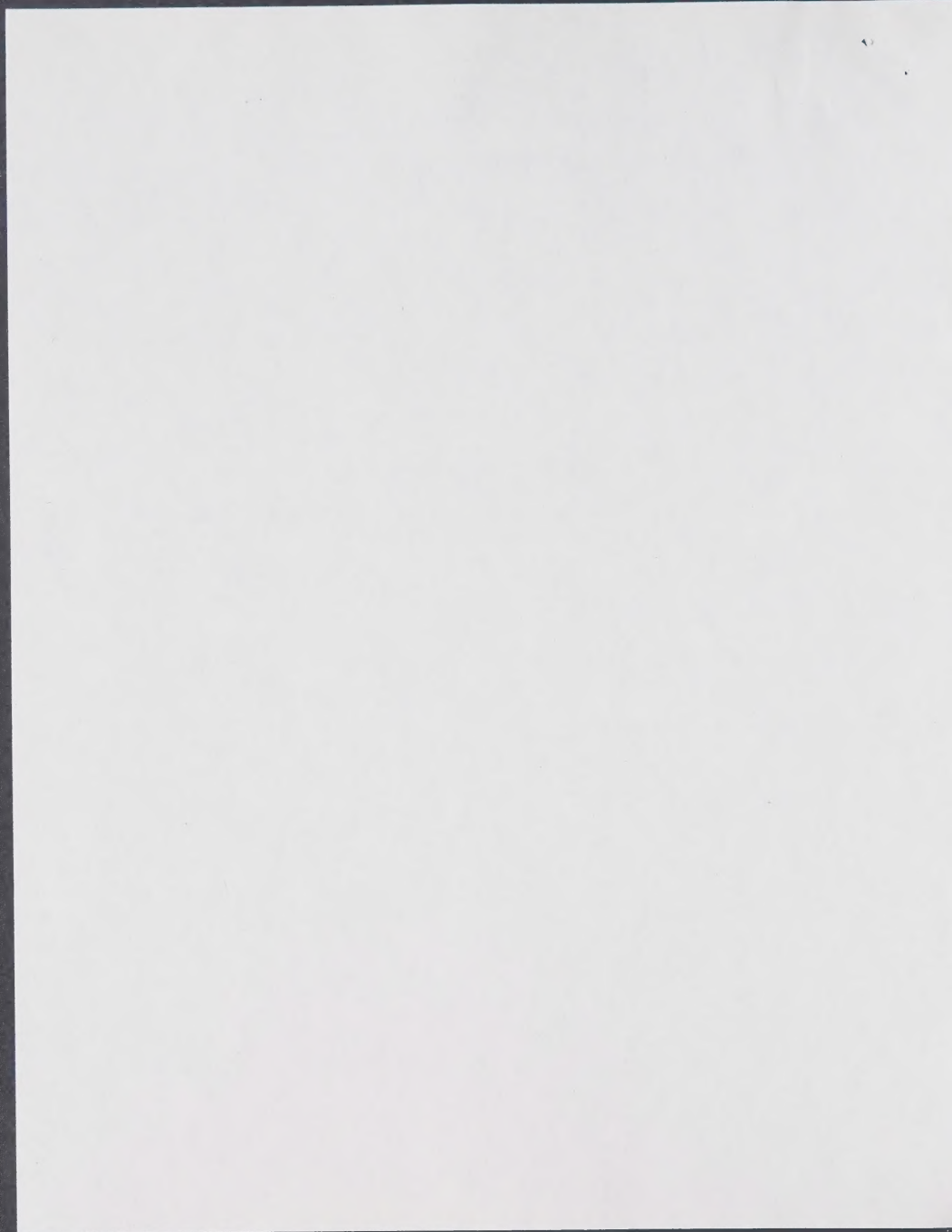
With all good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

AB/cw

cc: Marvin Klitsner  
Michael Hatcher

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TEL 414 277-0730 FAX 414 277-0709



2628 W. Lake Isle Drive  
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092  
October 16, 1995

Dear Alfred:

I received your invitation to lunch on November 8 , and would have been pleased to accept, but I will be unable to do so. I will be having cataract surgery late in October, with some follow-up visits to the doctor yet to be scheduled, and I cannot at this point make plans for early November. Needless to say, I would have much preferred being with you!

While I cannot be with you on November 8, I would like to see your gallery again, as you invited, and since you invited "as many of (my) family who might be interested", I would like to bring Lorraine and perhaps a daughter who is interested in art and once saw your collection at your house. I will call you after my medical situation has improved, to learn when you might be available. If all goes according to plan, it shouldn't take long.

I was in the office today, and read the interesting letter from Mr. Hawley which you sent me. Where did you find it? I suppose it is likely that the Hawley of your letter is the man for whom "Hawley Road" was named. I couldn't help thinking that if Finch & Lynde, instead of cutting that bill from \$50 to \$35, had only stood fast and invested the \$15 in any number of infant Milwaukee companies, it could be quite a tidy sum today. I have a couple of thoughts about the letter which I will pass on when we next meet.

Have a good 50th reunion. I am interested in the discussion of the Sigma Aldrich case, and if you wish to send me a copy of the case, I will appreciate it.

Sorry I cannot be with you on November 8. I will call you soon.

Sincerely,

Pat Brody

