



Staats- und
Universitätsbibliothek
Bremen



Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

**DFG-Projekt "Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses des
Ägyptologen Adolf Erman (1854-1937)"**

**Brief von James Henry Breasted von Oriental Institute
(Chicago, Ill.) an Adolf Erman**

Breasted, James Henry

Route between Turin and Paris, 14.06.1923

Nachweis dieses Dokuments im [Kalliope-Verbund](#)

[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63195](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63195)

Londoner Address: "delicious picnic"

The University of Chicago

Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

En route between Turin and Paris,
June 14, 1923

My dear old friend:-

You cannot imagine with what pleasure I have received your kind letter from Pforta, dated 22/4. It was delayed in reaching me by my many wanderings, but it was a real joy when at last I received it. Your appreciation of my book on the Egyptian religion has done me more good and encouraged me more than anything I have ever experienced in the way of ~~and encouragement~~ kind words before. I look back with the deepest pleasure to the days when I sat in your lecture room and learned the elements of Egyptian grammar. They were happy days indeed! And now if anything I have written deserves your praise, I feel as pleased as I did then in those delightful student days when you said my translation was good, an event which happened once or twice in semester!

Just as your welcome letter arrived, the postman brought me also the copy of your new book on the literature. I congratulate you on having finished it so soon. It is going to be exceedingly useful, and will at once displace Maspero's book, which has so long been the only book we have had on the subject. I have it in my traveling bag and I am going to read it on the voyage home. Many, many thanks for remembering me with a copy. If you have translated some of the same inscriptions which are also in my book, you have done it so much better than I could do it, that there is no necessity of mentioning my translation. I am only delighted and happy that you are well and strong enough to make these new translations and to give us another such fine book, which is going to be so useful and helpful to us all.

As you see I am now on the journey homeward. It has been a busy winter indeed. We found the Coffin Texts a much more difficult and extensive piece of work than we had imagined. It will take several years to make the hand copies. The photographs of the Cairo coffins will be finished in a few weeks. If we can be of any use in furnishing these texts to the dictionary, pray let me know.

After we had ended our season's work, Gardiner, my student Dr. Bull, and I made a journey of a few days to Syria, especially to see the French excavations at Byblos. We found just what we expected: the usual incomplete, hastily conducted excavations which we have learned to expect from our Gallic colleagues; but besides this the most extraordinary results:- a XIIth Dynasty tomb, magnificently equipped with Egyptian furniture, and in the ancient town survivals from temple equipment of the highest importance,- a whole set of alabaster vases from the hb-sd of Pepi II (these materials have not been seen by the French; they are in other hands!), - a seal of probably proto-dynastic date, with a very difficult archaic inscription containing the name ḥm. It is evident there was an Egyptian colony at Byblos in the earliest dynasties, and an Egyptian temple already in the Old Kingdom. The Byblos connections in the Osiris myth are drawn from real history. At Jerusalem we saw the Beisan stela of Seti I, found by the Philadelphia expedition. Unfortunately, like the Eljobstein, it is too weathered to allow reading any connected text.

On my way through Italy I stopped at Palermo to study the Palermo Stone measurements, and I hope to furnish a better basis for chronological reconstructions. Then I took a little rest, stopping in Florence ~~with~~ as the guest of a friend at his marvelous house, the Villa Palmieri, which you may remember is the villa which Boccaccio made the scene of his Decameron tales. I enclose a few cards which give you but a faint impression of its beauty and charm. It was a lovely place in which to work and rest. Yesterday I spent most of the day in the Turin museum, looking at Schiaparelli's marvelous plunder from Der el-Medinah, Heliopolis, Assiut and Gebelen. Es

ist ungläublich was dieser Mensch zusammengekriegt hat ! And not a syllable published! A few folios (Bogen) of his publication have been actually printed, but there are many more in manuscript, and as far as I could see the extraordinary tomb of Kha has not even been begun. It is a terrible pity, for the materials are suffering, and the good old man seems to have no one to help him. He is very feeble and I doubt that he will ever see his volumes in print.

Owing to arrangements for school, I had to send my family home two months ago. Please tell Kaethe that I have sent on her very welcome letter to Frances and I hope that she will soon have a reply. I hope also that Henri received the check for the boots we wanted him to have. I mention it only because we have lost a number of letters, and I fear it may have miscarried, as we have not heard from him. It was very pleasant to hear that you are all well, in spite of the terrible conditions which I know are so hard for you all. It must improve eventually. Be assured that I think of you and yours every day with sympathy, and hope, and affection.

At the moment the train is crossing the Alps over Mt. Cenis. The Italians have no coal and all their Alpine trains are run by hydro-electric power, which is very pleasant in the tunnels, where the old nuisance of the smoke and blackinders has entirely disappeared. I shall reach Paris tonight, and "little Charles" will meet me there. He is the only other one of the family who is not in America. I go on in a few days to London, where I shall probably stop with Gardiner, and then after a fortnight or two I shall sail for home.

Please give my warmest greetings to your dear wife, to Henri and all the children, and believe me, dear old friend,

*Always your devoted and affectionate old
pupil and friend,
James H. Brasted*