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

Brief von James Henry Breasted an Adolf Erman

Breasted, James Henry

Cairo, 17.03.1924

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[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63224](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63224)

Beantw. 21/4.24

The University of Chicago

Baskell Oriental Museum

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Semiramis Hotel, Cairo,
March 17, 1924.

My dear Friend:-

Your letter of the 17th January was very welcome. I am very glad to know that you have been able to meet all your many difficulties so successfully. I earnestly hope that Annemarie's husband is now quite well again, and that you have been relieved of this anxiety.

My stay in Egypt this winter has not been very successful. As soon as I reached Luxor on Jan. 17th, I was attacked by a malicious person who has more than once given me trouble before, namely Madame La Grippe. She kept me in bed for over four weeks, and as soon as I was up again, I was requested to serve here in Cairo as "mediator" in the legal action of Howard Carter against the Egyptian Government to recover his possession of the tomb of Tutenkhamon. I finally succeeded in settling the matter and in securing the concession for Carter again, when his lawyer called the Egyptian Government "bandits" in open court. The Government at once broke off all negotiations and refused to sign the concession I had secured at the cost of two weeks very hard work.

The opening of the sarcophagus was of course a very interesting event. When the lid was raised we saw a marvelous gold covered coffin. It was concealed at first by a shroud of discolored ~~linen~~ linen which had to be removed. ~~Certainly~~ The lid of the coffin is an excellent portrait of the king, lying with crossed arms, bearing the crook-staff and flagellum, both in the round and thrust into the king's hands. On his ^{fore} head he wears both the uraeus and the vulture, the uraeus on the north side and the vulture on the south, as the king lies with his feet to the east, head to the west. That is of course intentional. The quarrel with the government will of course prevent the opening of the coffin this year, for no more work will now be done. Carter is going to America to lecture, - a thousand pounds a lecture! It does not seem to me probable that he will ever regain his concession, or enter the tomb again. Indeed he tells me that even if he does regain it, he will not accept it.

Thus far I have not been able to do anything on the Coffin Texts, but I hope to begin soon. I am also arranging for another enterprise out here. I want to see the Theban temples properly copied and published. I am now engaging the ~~staff~~ staff, and I hope that Bollacher will join

us. My friend and former student Prof. H.H. Nelson of Beirut will have charge of the field work, and Gardiner and I hope to make the final collations ourselves.

I am expecting to leave for Syria in two or three weeks, where as you know the French have made extraordinary finds at Byblos. I have purchased the Ford collection of Phoenician monuments at Sidon, and must attend to its packing and shipment to America. You can always reach me out here in care of Thomas Cook & Son, Cairo.

With warmest greetings to you and all the household,

Always faithfully your old friend,

James H. Breasted