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**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

04.10.1924

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 4, 1924.

My dear Friend:

I feel very guilty in having been so slow to acknowledge your last letter, and especially also the two very interesting ones which we had from Frau Professor. Frances and I have been very much distressed to learn of her illness and suffering. We earnestly hope that she is now much improved. I wish you and she could accompany us to Egypt this winter, for Frances is going out with me in January, to help at the "house warming" of the new Luxor Headquarters.

We have built the house just north of the Memnon Colossi, not far outside of the edge of the vegetation. It seemed wiser to put up a building on our own land in view of the present situation. We shall therefore be entirely independent in the maintenance of the building and in no way subject to outside control.

I think I wrote you that I shall be undertaking the Medinet Habu Temple first, and as you doubtless know, we are going to enjoy the services of our good Bollacher. I do not personally expect to spend very much time on this task. What I am trying to do is to get such enterprises well started and then keep a controlling hand upon them, to see that the work is carefully done.

Nevertheless, these tasks of our Oriental Institute absorb a great deal of my time and strength, and there is not much left for my own work. I ran away bodily this summer and succeeded in doing a little work on the Edwin Smith Papyrus. I think I have the final translation and commentary about one-third finished. It is a laborious task to determine the meanings of the anatomical terms. The work is absorbingly interesting, and when I have it finished, I think you will want to insert some of the results of the work into the Dictionary.

My greatest trouble here is that I am in demand continually to do what you call "representiren." I can hardly realize it myself, but I am now one of the veterans of our University and therefore I am expected to make public speeches and addresses and represent the University repeatedly on public occasions. In a democracy like ours we must depend upon the great public to support such a university. The State Universities, of which we have many, do very little scientific research or investigation. It remains for private foundations like ours to carry on such work, and our Oriental Institute, supported by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is an example of the way in which we are obliged to do it. This means that a man in my position must carry ~~on~~ not only scientific research, but also a heavy burden of public responsibility.

After all, it is a very fine thing that the scientific work of a nation should be directly supported by its people, and the responsibility for this support is one which the most intelligent among our people enjoy and prize very highly; but of course it means a very different world from that in which you grew up and which I learned to know so well when I was a student in Germany.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

CHICAGO, ILL.

Dear Mr. [Name]:

I have received your letter of the 15th and am glad to hear that you are interested in the work of the Chicago group. I am sure that you will find our work very interesting and I hope that you will be able to visit us in the near future. I am sure that you will find our work very interesting and I hope that you will be able to visit us in the near future.

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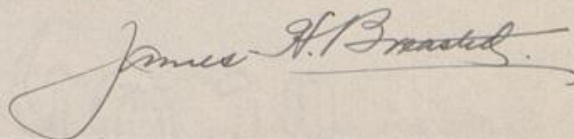
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I have been delighted beyond measure at your Academy essay on Amen-em-ope. For the first time we now have a tangible foreign source for a literary product in the Hebrew Old Testament. We can now maintain successfully the contention that literary men among the Hebrews were acquainted with Egyptian literature, and this fact is going to have a far-reaching effect. I congratulate you heartily on your discovery. Sie sind furchtbar bescheiden dabei gewesen!. Accept many thanks for the reprint and especially also for the Zettel which Grapow has sent me.

I have read the report on the progress of the Dictionary with great interest. I am enclosing herewith a check for \$25.00, which is the second half of my subscription for this year. I hope very much that the other gentlemen in the list which I sent you (perhaps I sent it to Grapow) have also paid their subscriptions. If there should be any delay or failure on their part to send in the money, I can understand that you do not want to write them about the matter, but if you will send me a notice of any who prove delinquent, I will have no hesitancy in writing to them about it in such a way that they will not know that you have written me, and urge the importance of support of the dictionary among all foreign scholars.

Frances and I are greatly interested in all that we hear of the families of Lotta, Doris, and Anna-Marie. I hope that they are all well, and that they are successfully meeting the unhappy difficulties which I know they have been obliged to confront. We all admire our German friends for the courage with which they have met their troubles. I have been greatly distressed at our poor Schaefer's tragic loss. I hope that Henri is making progress in his business position. Please remember us both very kindly to him, and believe me, with warmest greetings to all of your household, in which my family join, always

Faithfully yours,



JHB:ES

1 enc.

Herr Professor Doktor Adolf Erman,
Peter-Lennéstr. 36,
Berlin-Dahlem, Germany.

