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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**

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Beamer 19/2.22

January 24, 1922.

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

My dear old friend:

Since I last wrote you I have come into possession of the Dictionary and I want first to thank you for the copy you have so kindly sent me and to congratulate you on the appearance of the book. It is immensely valuable. I have had my copy bound with interleaves, so that I can enter all my own notes and have my own working dictionary data between two covers, which is much more convenient than having them scattered through different card boxes and note-books, as I have formerly done.

I cannot begin to tell you what a help the "Handwörterbuch" is going to be to my students. For a long time they have made their own dictionaries; one of them actually copied your "Glossar" from cover to cover, a fact which will give you a hint of how useful the "Handwörterbuch" is going to be. Again, heartiest congratulations!

That same student, by the way, who copied the "Glossar," is now making his Doctor's degree with me, taking as his subject for the dissertation, "Egyptian Ships and Commerce." One of our difficulties has been the collection of all the occurrences of the numerous words for "ship". I have taken the liberty of enclosing herewith a list of 55 words which my student has put together. All but 17 of these are before the word "sr" and 17 follow it. I wonder if one of your dictionary helpers would kindly write on these sheets the Verweise to the passages where these words occur. I am, of course, not asking him to go to the trouble of copying any passages of the inscriptions. This request merely refers to the Verweise of the Stellen, for example, "LD III 52". If, however, even the writing out of the Verweise on the enclosed sheets is found to be too costly in time and trouble, I beg of you to give the matter no further attention. In any case, please accept our sincerest thanks for any trouble you find it possible to give the matter.

You may be interested to know that in view of the proposed economic conference at Genoa, which I presumed would be of great benefit to Germany and raise the value of the Mark, I had the Chicago subscription of \$250.00 for the Dictionary put into a Berlin draft payable to you in Marks. I was just about to mail it to you when the Briand ministry fell, as a result of the Chauvinistic reaction, which the whole world is regretting. My conclusion was that the success of Poincaré could only mean depression of the Mark. So I put your draft back into the bank and it awaits your disposal at any time you need it or deem it wise to have me send it to you.

ARTESIAN BOND



ARTESIAN BOND



I think I have not yet written you about a new medical papyrus which turned up in the collection of the New York Historical Society, along with the Abbott collection. It is of the same age, or possibly a little older than the Ebers. It contains 22 beautifully written columns, a total of nearly 500 lines, and is fascinatingly interesting. It seems to me that it is nearer to a real science of anatomy, physiology and surgery than anything we have yet had in such Egyptian treatises. It is full of new words which I cannot find anywhere and, what makes it especially important for the Dictionary, is the fact that it explains a great many terms in detail, evidently endeavoring to establish the technical meaning of the words used and build up a scientific vocabulary of termini technici. I mention it because it ought, of course, to go into the Wb. I shall make every effort to see that it does so. There is, unfortunately, a good deal of fanaticism among the old and aristocratic families controlling the Society which owns the document. They want me to publish it and thus far have held it as confidential material, except for popular notices. By tactful dealing with the situation I hope, however, to get prints of the photographs, which are just as readable as the originals, into your hands.

Bitte die
Kritik zu
halten!

This matter recalls to my mind that the process of producing Zettel up to fifty copies can be easily carried on with a small hectograph, which would enable one of your students or helpers to furnish you with Zettel at a rate so cheap that I think it would still be practicable for you. You may be interested to know that I have a staff of six people in the Oriental Institute at work on the Assyrian Dictionary. They use only transliteration of the Assyrian, and this, with the translation, is written with purple aniline ink on the typewriter,-- a Hammond. A totally unskilled student, at a very low rate of pay, then does all our printing of the Dictionary Zettel. We already have many thousand of these Zettel distributed (although work began only the first of last October) and the chief item of expense in the printing has been for the Zettel, that is, for the paper, not for the work of printing. The process must be very common in Germany for I remember in my student days that every restaurant "Speisekarte" was printed on what we call a "hectograph", with purple aniline ink. I remember that I once ordered "Gänseklein" from such a "Speisekarte", thinking that it meant young goose! Is not this method of printing worth looking into in the matter of the unfinished material needed for Wb.?

1000 Papier.
Zettel 66 Mk
gibt 25 Z.
zu 40 Expl.
also jeder Wb.
Zettel kostet
an Papier 2,64
Mk.
Dazu Bedu-
nung des Heften
gr. Kosten
mehr als alles
bisher.

With heartiest good wishes of the New Year to you and yours, believe me,

Always your devoted friend,

James H. Breasted.

Sie werden mir das Diktat verzeihen, lieber alter Freund! Ich komme mit den Akten und der Verwaltungsarbeit, mit meiner eignen Arbeit gar nicht von der Stelle.

