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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

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CAIRO. February 9th, 1926.

Prof. Adolf Erman,
Peter Lenné-Strasse, 36,
BERLIN - DAHLEM.
Germany.

My dear friend,

It has been a pleasure, quite beyond my ability to express it to you, to receive your kind letter of the 31st of December, telling me that the first section of the Wörterbuch had been issued from the Press.

A few days later, the copy which you had so kindly sent to Luxor, reached me here in Cairo. You can imagine with what interest I have been studying it. With the outer and merely mechanical finish of the fascicle I am of course delighted. It is printed on splendid paper and the typography of title page and introduction is beautiful. I think the text of the dictionary itself is very clear and easily followed. If I have any criticism to add it is simply that I hope you will insert as many citations at the end as you possibly can; they are exceedingly useful.

I feel great satisfaction, as I know you must also, in looking back over these 28 years which finally brought forth this great dictionary, which is to be for generations to come, a real foundation of our modern knowledge of the Ancient Egyptian language.

Of course the appearance of this first section arouses in my mind a great many personal recollections which add very essentially to my interest and my pleasure. The book does not reach back into the Klopstock-Strasse but it does reach back to Südende and to the Fichtenberg, and all these names are to me very much more than names; they are words which summon a whole world of delightful associations and memories which I know you cherish as I do because they belong to the very substance of friendship and of long comradeship in work and in play.

The family news which you give me is very welcome. I note with great sorrow that you feel your working days are now nearly ended, but I am sure that the life of accomplishment upon which you look back is so full of fruitful labour that you need feel no regrets and I hope that in these days especially you may find consolation in the admiration and affection of the many students all over the world who have so greatly profited by your instruction.

As for me, I find the life out here without my family very unsatisfactory, but the opportunities are so great that I feel a conscientious obligation to use every possible chance. I think you know that I have an expedition at Megiddo; unfortunately, all four of the young men in charge there are lying sick with Malaria. This fills me with great anxiety as I am not able to take charge of the work myself.

At the same time, I am trying to organize a new staff for the examination of prehistoric remains in the Nile Valley. These have been very insufficiently studied, indeed very largely neglected, and recent discoveries in this city have been exceedingly interesting and important. The work at Medinet Habu is making excellent progress. We are about to enlarge our house there and I am increasing the staff, putting in two of my students to assist in the epigraphy and an additional draughtsman. I am also trying to arrange to secure the services of Hölscher to make a complete architectural survey of the Temple and its surrounding palace buildings.

De Buck is working faithfully at the Coffin Texts but I am no longer able to do as much as I would wish. Gardiner is not coming out this year, but will, I think, be on the ground next winter.

I am very much pleased to hear that ~~the~~ Frau Professor is feeling so much better and I hope that she is entirely restored to health.

We had a very pleasant letter from your son-in-law, Herr Bänsch, with a kind acknowledgement of some of the things we had sent.

Please give my warmest greetings to all your household, and believe me,

Always your devoted friend,

James H. Breasted