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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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Naples, 02.05.1927

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[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63030](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-63030)

The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Naples, May 2, 1927.

My dear Friend:

I am sending you this brief note which is to let you know how deep is our regret that owing to affairs at home I have been unexpectedly obliged to change my program and to proceed to America as rapidly as possible. The executive secretary whom I left in charge of my office in my absence, Dr. T. G. Allen, has broken down, and I am therefore obliged to hurry home without being able to carry through our program of a visit to Berlin as I had planned.

We arrived here at Naples yesterday and we are expecting to sail for New York on May 4th, arriving there May 12th, and we shall be in Chicago not much later than the middle of the month. It is needless to tell you that we are deeply disappointed for every reason. Our chief reason, however, for coming to Berlin was to see our dear old friends, the Erman family, and we still cherish the hope that when I return to the Near East next autumn it may be possible to go out by way of Berlin.

We have had an exceedingly busy winter and an unusually hard one. I am enclosing a photograph of Chicago House, as we call our headquarters at Medinet Habu. The epigraphic field methods which we are developing there would, I am sure, interest you, and the results are very gratifying. We hope that the first volume of our Medinet Habu publication may appear next year. You will be glad to know also that Gardiner and De Buck are making rapid progress with the Coffin Texts. De Buck finished 1055 pages of hand copies during the past season. The large body of Coffin Texts in the Cairo Museum will be finished within the next two seasons. Paris is already finished, London is begun and Berlin also is ready for collation on the basis of hand copies from the Lepsius publication. There is an important matter in America also on which De Buck and Gardiner are already at work using large scale photographs.

As you perhaps know we are undertaking at Medinet Habu also an architectural survey of the temple, using Hülscher's previous acquaintance with the place. We expect to spend two seasons in clearing the large enclosure with Hülscher's assistance.

The early Pre-dynastic remains in the Nile Valley have interested me very much in the earliest traces of man in this region and I have secured the funds for a Prehistoric Survey which began last autumn and has already gained very gratifying results.

The University of Chicago

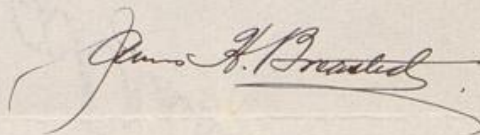
The Oriental Institute

CHICAGO, ILL.

At Megiddo the clearance has descended through three levels and will this season confine itself to the region of the old castle at the north end of the great mound. We hope to penetrate the 18th Dynasty levels before the close of the season and we shall be disappointed if we do not find monuments of the pharaonic conquest. We are also expanding our work into the Hittite country in Asia Minor, where we have one of your former Berlin students, H. H. von der Osten, carrying on a very successful campaign. Our Assyrian Dictionary has now over six hundred thousand cards alphabetically organized and in another two years we hope to begin the compilation of the results and the writing of the word treatments.

Frances and I have been greatly distressed to learn of the anxieties under which you and your wife have been suffering. We earnestly hope that things have now improved and shall be greatly interested to hear about your own health and that of Henri and the other children. We were greatly pained to hear of Anna Marie's disappointment which was very distressing for you all.

Hoping that we may hear from you after our arrival in America, and with warmest good wishes and affectionate greetings from us both, believe me, always, very faithfully your old friend,



Professor Adolph Erman,
36, Peter-Lenneweg,
Berlin-Dahlem,
Germany.

Enclosure.

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Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or date.

