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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

07.11.1927

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 7, 1927.

My dear Colleague:

I have still lying here on my desk two unanswered letters of yours, one from Karlsbad of the 23rd of September, the other from Dahlem, of the 22nd of October. I suppose you have no idea with what pleasure I recognize your handwriting whenever I see it among my correspondence, and I have read and re-read these two letters with the greatest interest. How I wish I might have joined you in some of the pleasant walks around Karlsbad! At the same time, I have been very sorry to hear of the reason for your new visit at this famous cure. I sincerely hope that Käthe is now improving and is no longer confined to her bed.

I am writing this letter primarily to discuss with you an important question regarding the Dictionary. One of the reasons why I wanted very much to come to Berlin last spring was this very matter of the Dictionary. I wanted to discuss with you its finances and especially to confer with you on the matter of the supplementary volumes. Only my sudden and unavoidable recall to Chicago prevented my carrying through this plan.

This morning I find on my desk a letter from our mutual friend, Lange, enclosing his review of the Dictionary in the "Deutsche Literaturzeitung". I am very much pleased to learn from this letter that you agree with him and that it is now your plan to include the citations from the original documents in full in the supplementary volumes. It seems to me that this policy is the only wise one. The complete citations will enhance the value of the supplement enormously and make it very much more serviceable in the hands of our colleagues all over the world. Especially where younger scholars are obliged to work in limited libraries, not possessing many of the texts cited by reference only. I have now been connected with the University of Chicago for thirty-three years. When I began we had no Oriental library worth mentioning, and the first half of my life here was spent with a very incomplete library of Egyptology. There are many young men scattered throughout America and I presume also Europe who are working under just such difficulties as I experienced in my younger days. I am therefore very much pleased at your decision to publish the citations in full.

Lange writes me that for the production of a supplement of about 7000 pages, presumably divided into seven volumes, a subvention of about 50,000 gold marks will be required. Of this

The University of Chicago

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Chicago, Ill.

COLEMAN WYBOM

amount Lange writes me that your Academy will furnish 10,000 marks, and Denmark probably 6,000 marks more. These two contributions from your Academy and from Denmark, do not concern me particularly in considering the whole question. On the other hand I am writing this letter chiefly to ask you the following question, in order that there may be no mistake: Is Lange correct in his estimate that a supplement of 7,000 pages can be produced with the aid of a total subvention of 50,000 gold marks? Before I take any steps here I would like to have the assurance directly from you that in your judgement this sum will be sufficient for the completed supplement as planned.

You will easily understand that I am not in a position to promise funds that are not my own, but as you make your plans and look forward in your work I want to assure you that you can count upon every atom of influence I possess toward securing the necessary subvention, and there is little doubt in my mind but that we shall be able to secure every penny that is necessary. As soon as I have received your assurance regarding the sufficiency of the needed subvention, I will see what steps can be taken toward the contribution of the balance from America. It would be wise to let me have your reply as early as possible so that I can set things in motion here before I leave for Egypt. I do not as yet know the date of my departure and I think it would be advisable for you to cable me your reply to the above question. If you regard the estimate of 50,000 gold marks as correct will you please send me a cablegram of three words which may read as follows:

ORINST, CHICAGO. KORREKT

ORINST is the registered telegraphic address of our Oriental Institute, and I will understand, on receiving the word KORREKT that it is a reply to the above question. This will insure my being able to take the necessary steps before I leave for the Orient. We usually send our cablegrams at a "Deferred Rate". A cablegram marked "Deferred" is sent at half rates. The expense involved would therefore be very slight.

Referring to the copy of the third heft which has been returned to you from Mr. Rockefeller's office, I take it that this must have been done by one of the subordinate secretaries in his absence. One of my students is now professor in a neighboring theological seminary where the library is limited, and I know that he would value the copy highly and make good use of it. His address is

Professor O. R. Sellers,
McCormick Theological Seminary,
Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

It was an excellent thought of yours that the volume should be scientifically useful in this way, for of course it would only be put on file in Mr. Rockefeller's library.

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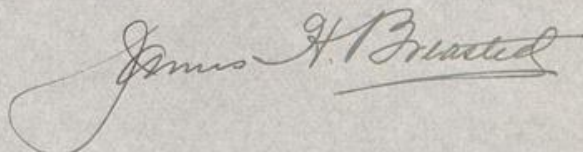
It is barely possible that I may be able to go out to the Near East by way of Berlin. In any case I shall make a great effort to return from Egypt by way of Berlin on my voyage to America next spring. Meantime I earnestly hope that Käthe's health will improve and that you may be able to continue your work as heretofore on the great Dictionary enterprise in which we are all so vitally interested.

I am glad you are reading the memoirs of the elder Rockefeller. They are an extraordinary family. Curiously enough I do not recall that any English edition of the book has appeared, at least I have never seen one, and I am now making inquiries. If it is really in print here and I can find a copy I will send it to you.

I do not know whether I have written you that Frances and Astrid are now in Geneva where we have put the child in the international school which is connected with the League of Nations. Both mother and daughter are industriously studying French. The child is now thirteen years old and as tall as her mother.

With affectionate regards to you and all the family, believe me, always,

Very faithfully yours,

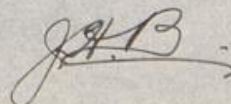


Dr. Adolph Erman,
Peter-Lennestr., 36,
Berlin-Dahlem,
Germany.

P. S. It occurs to me that if the estimate sent by Lange should not be wholly correct, the cablegram I have suggested above would not be of any use. In case, therefore, you think that the estimate of 50,000 gold marks should be modified in any way or it should be increased, then please cable me with the new total, for example as follows:

ORINST, CHICAGO. FIFTY-FIVE (or SIXTY, or SIXTY-FIVE).

I shall know that any number you send me means so many thousand gold marks, that is FIFTY-FIVE will mean 55,000 gold marks; SIXTY will mean 60,000 gold marks, etc.



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