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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

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 2
19 29

My dear Friend:

You and Professor Grapow will probably have been much surprised at my cablegram asking for any of Erichsen's valuable time. The situation has been as follows. I am so over-loaded with work that I cannot find the time to autograph the plates of the hieroglyphic transliteration of the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus. The publication is all ready with the exception of these plates. Under these circumstances I asked Devaud, who has a good clean hand, if he would make these plates and he undertook to do so. Unfortunately the poor fellow has fallen sick and is now in the hospital after having had a hemorrhage of the lungs. I fear it is very serious. There is no hope that he will be able to go on, at least in the immediate future.

Meantime the publication is delayed again after long previous delays, and the Oxford Press has a large quantity of hieroglyphic type tied up in the commentary volume. I have just spent a month in the hospital and the doctors are sending me off for a long vacation, and these are the circumstances which led me to send you a cablegram asking for the use of Erichsen's time for about two weeks - I think he could finish the remaining sixteen plates in probably less than a fortnight for these are the narrowest and shortest of all the columns in the papyrus.

I am sure you know that the last thing I should want to do would be to delay the progress of the Dictionary in any way, but I hope that it may be feasible for you to let Erichsen undertake these sixteen columns without seriously holding up the autographing of the Dictionary.

It has been a great pleasure to have your letter of 17th May and I am greatly interested to hear both from you and from Lange of the increased support which the Copenhagen Academy is granting for the Dictionary. This is splendid, the more so because it will be permanent.

By the way, in this connection, I have inquired in New York and discovered what the situation was with regard to the earlier hefts of the Dictionary, which I believe were returned to the publisher from Mr. Rockefeller's office. The cause of the difficulty was this. Mr. Rockefeller's office receives a large number of parcels and packages. Many of them come from

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irresponsible half-wits, people whom we call "cranks", and unless a parcel is marked as coming from someone known to his offices, his secretaries have instructions not to receive any packages. Some one of the secretaries, therefore, who did not know of Mr. Rockefeller's interest in the Woerterbuch, refused to accept the parcel. If Heinrichs will kindly send the returned fascicles to me I will see that they are properly taken care of. Mr. Rockefeller's series now includes only the first volume (first and second lieferungen), and lacks the second and third volumes. It would probably be better if in future the sections intended for Mr. Rockefeller are sent here addressed to me. Perhaps Professor Grapow could inform Heinrichs regarding the matter.

The whole family is about to leave with me for the same ranch from which I once wrote you a letter, and we hope to spend a number of weeks riding broncho ponies among the Big Horn mountains of Wyoming. I wish you and Frau Professor and your household could join us up there.

With warmest good wishes to you all from our whole household, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

James N. Breasted
RJB.

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