Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

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

08.09.1930

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

JAMES HENRY BREASTED
Director

September 8
1 9 3 0

My dear Friend:

It is a great pleasure to find here on my desk on my return from vacation your welcome letter of August 16th. I am delighted to know that you cherish the memory of the old days on the Sonnenberg as I do, but I had forgotten all about the fact that we sang, "Shoo-fly don't bother me, for I belong to Company C." Its recurrence in the Atlantic Monthly, which is our "high-brow" journal, is very delightful. It is true the song is a survival of our Civil War, and when we spent those delightful weeks on the Sonnenberg I was still young enough to have recalled it as a Gassenhauer of my boyhood days. Your memory for such things is certainly extraordinary. In this connection let me mention also similar touches which I find with great delight in your Memoirs. I wonder if you saw the very appreciative review of this volume which appeared in the Egyptian Gazette of Cairo. I turn to these Memoirs of yours with the greatest pleasure, and we are planning to read them further during the coming winter evenings.

The Chicago papers of August 31st carried an announcement of the death of Eduard Meyer, and this sad news also wakened in me old memories. Imagine my surprise, after reading this announcement in our newspapers, to find in a large accumulation of correspondence on my desk a very kind letter from him acknowledging receipt of the Surgical Papyrus. I suppose that with her children all grown, Rosine Meyer is now entirely alone.

Turning now to your inquiries about some acknowledgment to Mr. Rockefeller: Let me say that while I know he understands some German, and studied it in his college days, he does not read it with any facility. Otherwise I know he would have been delighted, as I have been, to read your Memoirs.

May I say that letters of thanks are crossing his desk every day. He reads a vast mail with the utmost conscientiousness every day of his life, except when he escapes to a very beautiful summer home on the rock-bound coast of Maine, facing the Atlantic. In response to your request, my suggestion would be that you write him a short letter of thanks in your own delightful manner, in German; and, if you think wise to send it to me I will myself translate it into English and then forward to him both your German original and the typewritten translation.

I appreciate your kind acknowledgment of the Surgical Papyrus. I hope that you have also, in the meantime, received a copy of our new Medinet Habu publication, Volume I. I am sure it would interest you to see the new home of these activities slowly rising a few hundred yards from my old office. Our new building here has reached the second floor, and we are hoping to move into it next April.

I thought of you very often during our vacation in the Rocky Mountains, from which we have just returned. I made a little collection of post-card views which I wanted to use as illustrations for a letter giving you some account of this magnificent region. But, like so many other good intentions, this remained unfulfilled, and I am merely sending you the post-cards without the commentary which I had hoped to add.

Frances joins me in warmest greetings to you all.

Ever very faithfully yours,

James H. Breasted

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Ihr netter Brief aus Bennecke-Gten hat mir grosse Freude gemacht. Inzwischen habe ich die obigen Postkarten von den Rocky Mountains nicht finden können. Irgendwo sind sind sie mir entkommen.

JHB