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

13.01.1932

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

JAMES HENRY BREASTED
Director

January 13

1932

My dear Friend:

Ever since I sailed from Antwerp I have wanted to write you fully and especially to tell you how much pleasure it was to us to return to our old associations and old friends in Berlin, not least to those in Dahlem. You can imagine, however, that the program to which I returned in Chicago was a very busy one. It was, however, a return of unusual interest and of course without any parallel in my own former experience. Now I find awaiting me on my desk your delightful letter written on Christmas Day, - a reminder which gives me twinges of conscience for I wanted very much to send you also a Christmas letter of reminiscence and affectionate greeting. It is a great many years since I stood under the Christmas tree with you and the little girls in the Klopstockstrasse. That was my first glimpse of a German Christmas and it is just forty years ago last Christmas! The doll house, which has since grown to larger proportions, and the Löwenbrücke copied from the Tiergarten, were masterpieces of architecture and sculpture! How little any of us foresaw what a totally different world would emerge from those older and simpler days. One still believes that there must be light ahead somewhere and I must confess I was recently very much pleased to hear that Chancellor Bruening had plumped it out and said that Germany would pay no more reparations. I hope they never will! As a matter of fact, America is probably very little better off than Germany. The last estimates which I saw placed the number of our unemployed at between six and seven millions. The result is we gave practically no Christmas gifts at all, and a great many families are putting all that they have to give at Christmas time into relief for the unemployed.

Nevertheless, it has been a veryhappy year for you and for us. I noted in your letter with what satisfaction you were looking back upon 1931as the year which saw the completion of the last Dictionary volume. You can well afford to relax and rest and look back upon the years of fruitful labor with deep and quiet satisfaction. As for us,the moving into the new building was indeed the beginning of a new epoch which affords me also a great deal of joy. I had looked upon it as a kind of beginning of a new epoch when I might find my hands a little more free from administration and distracting occupations. I have gone far enough with the new

building already to see that exactly the reverse is true. Since the building was formally opened we have had an average of about two thousand visitors a week in our exhibition halls, and whenever one of them happens to be a person of importance he seems to feel it is his profound duty to come up and call on me! And, while such visits are welcome and pleasant they absorb a great deal of time.

We have had some charming letters from Rahel and also some interesting newspaper clippings which Jimmie brought home from Princeton. We thought of you all on Christmas Day and remembered with especial pleasure the delightful afternoon when we drove out to Potsdam. I hope we may have many a future meeting like that.

With warmest greetings to you all, I am

Ever yours,

James H. Breasted

Professor Dr. Adolf Erman,
Peter-Lenestrasse 36,
Berlin-Dahlem,
G e r m a n y