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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 ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

JAMES HENRY BREASTED
Director

A p r i l 16
1 9 3 2

My dear old Friend:

It has been delightful to have your cheerful letter of the 29th of March, giving us very welcome news of your family and of your work. I am glad that Medinet Habu Volume II reached you safely. The courage with which you have accepted the physical limitations under which you are now working is an inspiration to us all. As I read what you have written my mind went back over many years to the days of over forty years ago when as a youngster in Berlin I sat down with you and read the Papyrus Harris and for the first time learned something about Medinet Habu: Then, in later years when I was working on my Ancient Records, you came into the library, which was also your Bureau at the Museum, and you told me that you were working on the Papyrus Harris - and then we both shouted together and said, "And the gifts are not gifts but merely confirmations of the possession of old wealth long the property of the temples!" Now, in a final chapter, it is a great gratification to me to send to you these volumes which I hope will represent the final publication of this magnificent temple and its records.

The first book of yours that I ever owned was your Neuaegyptische Grammatik. I still have my old student copy with lecture notes in it. This child of yours is now over half a century old and I should think that in his new clothes he would look considerably "dicker." It is really an extraordinary thing that in that lapse of half a century nobody else should have dug his way into New-Egyptian and given us a useable New-Egyptian grammar. But it will be a great satisfaction to us all that it was reserved for the writer of our first treatise in New-Egyptian to furnish, after half a century, a new and modern treatment. Our students here will be very glad to welcome it and especially Edgerton, who is devoting himself, as perhaps you know, to Demotic and the later stages of Egyptian. I now have two of my students as my successors here in the teaching responsibilities; one is Edgerton, just mentioned, who will teach New-Egyptian, Demotic and Coptic; the other is John A. Wilson, a very fine young fellow, who will do the teaching in Classic and Older Egyptian. Edgerton, as possibly you have heard, has inherited the materials of Spiegelberg's Demotic Dictionary, and we hope to complete it and see it published by our Oriental Institute.

THEORY OF THE STATE

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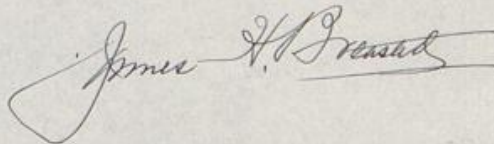
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The greetings which you have sent the two youngsters, Jimmie and Astrid, in the delightful tongue of Old Egypt, were very welcome. I find it difficult to believe that your eyes have suffered any, for your writing of the hieroglyphs looks exactly as it did in the first examples of Egyptian grammar which you used to write for us youngsters on the blackboard in your old lecture room at the university, and your hieroglyphic hand has not changed in a single particular.

Frances joins me in warmest greetings to you all. We hear occasionally from Rahel and are always glad to receive her letters. We were also interested in two long letters which we had from Henri. We are all rejoicing that Hitler was beaten. I do not know whether you have adequate Schimpf-worte in German for such people. We have plenty of them in English; the best one is "Blatherskite."

Ever your old friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James H. Priest". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Professor Dr. Adolf Erman,
Peter-Lenestrasse 36,
Berlin-Dahlem,
Germany

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