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**DFG-Projekt "Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses des
Ägyptologen Adolf Erman (1854-1937)"**

Brief von Walter E. Crum an Adolf Erman

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G. FLORESTA

HÔTEL TIMEO

THORMINA

Beauvois 12/5

7. V. 03.

My dear Erman.

It is long since I last wrote to you and I may do so from here, first because, in this climate one must stay in doors a good deal until the cool comes and so there is more leisure for correspondence than I find at home; and secondly, because I feel that the long notice with which Carl Schmidt has honoured my Cairo Catalogue, calls for some sort of ἀπολογία from me to

you, who were instrumental in
getting me that job in Egypt &
so in making it possible for
me to learn & see so many
things, which otherwise I should
never have seen. Schmidt's
notice did not come at all as a
surprise to me; long ago — before
even I had got to Egypt — he
had told me what I might expect
when my work appeared! Indeed,
I am surprised that his criticism
is so moderately worded; he is quite
polite here and there. Nor can I
quarrel with his many corrections;
I could add a long list to them
myself. But there are one or two
points where his criticisms are not
quite justified and to you, at any

rate, I should like to explain these.

- 1) I might certainly have written an Introduction; but I could not have indicated in it a plan for Strogowski's volume, as I never heard there was to be one, till I had long ~~for~~ left Egypt and the plan for my own part had been already carried out.
- 2) What is or is not in the Photographs is not due at all to me. When I was in Cairo, there was no talk of photographs, the stelae were to be zincotyped, after my own Drawings. Misprints and wrong numbers in the photographs are not due to me, as they were all produced in Cairo (? Paris) and I was assured that Chassinat would take all responsibility for them. I never saw them till the volume was sent me, ready, finished.
- 3) The same reason accounts, at least partly, for the apparent shortness of time I had for preparing the work.

A large part of my time in Cairo was spent in making elaborate drawings, all of which were set aside afterwards — and quite rightly — so that all this was simply time wasted.

4) I need scarcely add that I am not responsible for the high price of the book, which was fixed entirely without my knowledge.

I do not know whether Schmidt's copies are always better than mine; I have no books here, so can not compare them.

You dislike all these discussions and personalities, I know; so I will say no more. I had contemplated sending a letter to some journal, to explain these points, in which I don't think S. does me justice; but perhaps it is not worth while.

We have had a month in Italy & are now on our way home. I shall be in London for the rest of the year.

With my wife's and my kindest remembrances
Ys. ever W.D. Brown.