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

**Brief von Ludwig Borchardt von Amerikanisches Konsulat
an Ludwig Borchardt**

Borchardt, Ludwig

Cairo, 29.01.1915

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Abchrift.

American
Diplomatic Agency and Consulate
General.
Cairo. Egypt.

Cairo, January 29, 1915.

Ludwig Borchardt, Esquire,
Foreign Office
Berlin. Germany.

Dear Mr. Borchardt,

In reply to your letter of December 16th ultimo in which you requested me to advise you about the excavation-sites in Upper-Egypt, the Herman Institute for Egyptian Archaeology and your two villas at Gezira-Gardens, I beg to let you know in the following first what Professor Reisner reported to me on January 12th inst. in regard to the German Concessions:

- (1) Rumors reached me about December 15th that the Egypt-Exploration-Fund, American Branch, was about to apply for Tell Amarna.
- (2) I visited two members of the archaeological committee and endeavoured to persuade them to one of two courses:
(a) to give me Tell Amarna and Giza in trust to be held without working until after the war; (b) to reserve all German and Austrian concessions until after the war. Both of them were favorable to the principle of the proposals.
- (3) On December 21, Mr. Edgar received notice that the concessions had been cancelled on December 2nd and at the same time orders to remove the guards at once.
- (4) On December 22, Edgar and Quibell and I visited Sir. H. Macdonald and secured a postponement of the removal of the guards until after the next committee meeting. To meet all eventualities, I applied for Tell Amarna. Another member of the committee assured me he had still hopes of reserving the concessions.

(4) On January 6, the Committee voted to reserve all the German and Austrian concessions and to put them under Museum protection.

(5) On January 10, Edgar came to see me and take measures for the proper protection of the sites. We agreed on the following as the best which could be done. a) Guards at Maghagha and Derwa are to be removed. b) Three of the German guards (Abul-Hassan el Bedawi, Mahmud Ali and Salman Ahmed) are to be taken on as Museum guards at Tell Amarna at 125 PT. a month. I agreed to pay personally to each of these guards enough additional to bring their wages to 7 1/2, 7 and 6 1/2 PT. a day. This I am to do privately in order not to establish a claim on the site. My desire is simply to protect it from plundering in the interest of science. c) One other guard to be paid for by the Germans may be left on to guard the house at Tell Amarna. d) The guards (Ahmed Musa and Hassenin Mabruk) at Thebes and Abusir are to confine their duties to guarding the houses at these sites. They are, of course, to be paid by the Germans.

This is the best I can do in the circumstances. The arguments I used to the members of the committee were: 1) The scientific desirability of continuity in the researches already partially carried out by the Germans; 2) the services rendered to the advancement of knowledge by the Germans in their researches in Egypt; 3) the loss to science which would be caused by the exploitation of Tell Amarna by illicit or incompetent excavators; 4) the absence of any military advantage in taking away the possibility of the resumption of research work by the Germans after the war; 5) the appreciation which German scholars would feel for English fairness if these concessions were given back after the war. I am unable to say which of these reasons influenced the committee in its decision; but the end result is that the decision on the question is, in fact, reserved to the end of the

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United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry,
Washington, D. C. (1954-1-19):

(4) On January 15, 1954, the following was received from the
United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry,
Washington, D. C. (1954-1-15):

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war. The concessions have been annulled, but they will not be given to anyone else. This latter assurance I have in writing from a member of the committee. -

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Respectfully yours

(sig.) Olney Arnold

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