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## **Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen**

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

### **Brief von Walter E. Crum an Adolf Erman**

**Crum, Walter E.**


**Bristol, 12.04.1922**

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13 Cornish Road, Bristol. 12.4.22

My Dear Ernan — This time at least I will abandon  
the affectation of exhibiting to your admiration my bad  
German; for one reason: because it must, just now,  
be quite particularly bad. I have denied myself any  
German reading for a month past, (1) because I  
have been ill (or at least, unwell) all the time &  
strictly forbidden to read anything but the most silly  
novels, (2) because, since getting onto my feet again, I  
have tried to keep my head full of French, with the  
hope that I might be able to write my small  
contribution to the Paris Champion "Festschrift" in  
that language. That is now done — un Diôle de  
français! — so that I have read (today) your  
"Entzifferung" with the greatest interest & profit.  
You have a notable gift for story-telling, I think;  
your "Festrade" must have had a great success at the  
Academy. I remember that, 25 years ago at least,  
a man I knew (dead now) showed me a 17<sup>th</sup>  
century book, in English, I believe, but of which I  
entirely forget the name or subject, in which there  
was, among other illustrative wood-cuts, this, or  
something like it:  and beside it, the word  
"Osiris."

I have often regretted that I lost the book's name.  
Where could a 17<sup>th</sup><sup>century</sup> printer have got that press;  
Kivcher?

Your letter of 11.2.22 arrived just as I was being  
put to bed, for a month's rest-cure; so it has been far  
too long unanswered. I stayed in bed most of the month  
& for the whole month, I did no work; so you can  
imagine that the Dictionary &c. &c. have made little  
progress. It is only a year since I had a "break-  
down" of this sort (though that was longer) and if I  
am to have one annually, what chance is there of  
finishing my work? As it is, my wife does every  
thing; corrects all the proofs of my N.York  
straca (all in print now) & of the Wady Sarga pub-  
lication, which H.I. Bell and I are doing for Lange's  
series; & yet I cannot in print thank her for  
all her help! I say nothing of all kinds of drudgery  
which she gladly does, year in, year out, for the  
Dictionary itself. However, if that ever gets as far as  
print, and as I shall probably have to pay all  
costs myself, I will see that her name is put on  
a level with my own — as your Academy had agreed  
to do. As for "Fexigheit" versus "Richtigheit", there

is plenty of the latter in Sp.'s book and many a  
good, new idea that I am grateful for: not to  
speak of the etymological side of it. As to that,  
'it remains for us still a dilemma: Demotic forms  
in transcription only, such as t<sup>3</sup>it, h<sup>c</sup>i, would be all  
but valueless; but in hieroglyphic type, they would  
double the cost of the book. I have thought of litho-  
graphed tables (such as in some of Bunsen's books), with each  
group numbered, to correspond with the Coptic word; but  
these, at the end of the book, would be very clumsy.  
Yet if the etymological element is to be omitted

completely, a student must use Sp!'s book as well as mine.  
H. Thompson — a very 'wise' man — advises total omis-  
sion; I think you do too, don't you?

Best wishes to you both from both of us

Yours  
W. H. Thompson