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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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Sainte Maxime (Var), France.

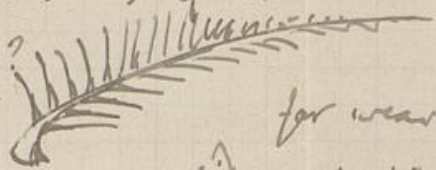
23.3.25.

My dear Roman - It would be better (for you) if I wrote always in English: here at any rate, where one has to try to practise one's French, I should find it difficult to use another foreign language at all. Practising French is indeed none too easy here: we have come, without expecting it, to a hotel full of English, where French is hardy to be heard. Sainte Maxime is one of the many small "villes d'été", which have grown up, along the western Riviera, since the war, and which consists generally of one hotel or two and a group of villas. We have been here 10 days and tomorrow go on for a week to St Raphael; after that, home again. This sort of thing is well enough, so long as the weather is fine; and it has been fine till today. Today there is a howling storm of wind and rain; and with not many books to read, it is rather gloomy. A little of this hotel-life is enough and I shall be very glad to get back to Bristol & to my work (about 8th April).

There is only one branch of "Fachstudien" that I could pursue here: the study of the date-palm, which grows plentifully, if not to a great height. As I look at the trees, I wonder which part of them it was, that the Coptic hermit made his clothes from: which was the yeñbīne-seferior? One of my hermit friends always dressed in jeñ (which, I suppose, is the same as yeñbīne) and, when dying, he

insisted on being buried in the ثوب اللين, which he had always worn, and not in the robes of silk, which his admirers had brought him as grave-clothes. Hence his monastery (near Nakādah) is called دير أبو اللين to this day. And of what did they make their baskets? But $gā\beta ip$, "palm-twigs for baskets"; but no part of the tree looks as if one could weave baskets of it.

Not this surely?



All of that is too stiff and hard for weaving: both the middle stalk and the sideways-projecting spikes. It must be the fibrous, string-like stuff, which lies horizontally, at the base of each branch. And yet BUT recalls BUT $enip$ &c. and must mean something stiff and curved: perhaps for the outer "ribs" of the basket?

In going through Paris we saw Moret and his wife: very nice people. He especially is a charming man. He spoke in most friendly and admiring terms of you.

With love from us both,

Yours truly
C. C.