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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, 13.08.1926**

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My dear Emma -

Willen Sie das Allerletzte von  
P. Petrie sehen? Dieingend vor Vor-  
trag, den er vorige Woche an der  
"British Association" - diesmal zu  
Oxford - gehalten hat. Jedes  
Jahr erscheint er und trägt, in  
der anthropologischen Abteilung,  
irgend etwas Psychisches, u.  
Bestärkendes vor. "Esoter les  
"Voyage": das scheint seinem  
jähmaligen Zweck zu sein:  
namentlich auch Redame für

seine „British School in Egypt“, deren  
Zukunft, beiläufig bemerkt, wohl  
etwas unsicher geworden ist, da Petrie,  
wie Sie ja wissen, nicht mehr in  
Ägypten, sondern hauptsächlich in Paläs-  
tina gearbeitet ist! Lacau und  
seine Unterstützer sollen die An-  
sichte sein: natürlich muss ich aber  
nicht.

Mehr würdig, nicht wahr, wie in  
Archäologie, wie P. ist, bei philo-  
logischen Fragen & noch so nicht  
vorgelassen kann? Die ägypt. Ägri-  
valente seiner Darstellungen hat  
er hier wohl direkt, Aussprüche  
und alles, aus Budge's W. Buch  
über  
genommen.

In Ihrer letzten Briefe fragten Sie,  
ob wir denn nicht dieses Jahr wieder  
nach Deutschland können. Das junge  
kinnesfalls; so viel Ferien haben  
wir, gesundheits halber, abzu nehmen  
müssen, dass uns nichts unthätiges  
wahr möglich bleibt. Dazu kommt,  
dass wir — allerdings nur jährlich  
lax und unentwöhntlich — eine  
andere Wohnung suchen: entweder  
in der direkten Umgebung Bights,  
od. in dem Bath, was  $\frac{1}{2}$  Meile  
entfernt liegt. In der That wird hier  
alles so überbauet — vor 7 Jahren  
standen wir hier am Lande —  
und folglich so lüftig, dass das  
Leben und, ins Besondere,

Das ~~Edel~~ Schlafen, nur erschwert werden  
! ist. Nur Hausarbeiten ist schließlich  
Zeitverschwendung: zum Arbeiten  
kommt man erst nehmlich und un-  
ruhig.

Nächstes Jahr, geht alles gut, so tragen  
wir uns mit der Gedanke, eine  
Krankheitskur zu unternehmen.

Wenn auch würde dies gewiss viel  
gutes tun! Denken Sie doch  
daran! In der Voraison sind  
" : Ende Mai. Was sagen  
Sie dazu?

Das W. buch - das unsereige - geht  
ruhig, sehr ruhig, vor. Etymologisches  
lassen wir prinzipiell in Ruhe,  
weshalb werden wir Sie ja öfters

mit Anfangen verbundenen  
Arbeiten  
Anfangen

Anfangen

August  
11, 1926.

## SOURCE OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION.

### SIR F. PETRIE ON LINKS WITH THE CAUCASUS.

Sir Flinders Petrie, in the Section of Anthropology yesterday afternoon, made a report on the work he has done in exploring an important link between Egyptian civilization and religion and the Caucasus.

Last year he gave to the Association evidence of a so-called Badarian civilization in Upper Egypt, from Badaria, where it was first discovered. This was the oldest civilization in Egypt, apart from the Neolithic ages—a civilization of a comparatively high character, showing the finest glazed pottery and glass beads, and unquestionably older than any other type, because it underlay all others. The flint work found had very strong resemblances to the forms of Solutrian flint work, and also to forms well known in the Neolithic period.

Here, then, was a clash like what was troubling people during the past few years—similar types turning up from clearly different periods, the intervening age being probably the last glacial age. This earliest pottery known in Egypt was also the finest quality known there, and yet it was associated with objects unquestionably of the late Neolithic type where found in Germany. Forms well known and recognized as Solutrian flint work in Europe were absolutely the same as had been reintroduced as late as the First Dynasty in Egypt.

He believed there was a long continuing Asiatic civilization which sent off branches from time to time even from the tail ends of the Palæolithic. One of these branches was the Solutrian in Europe, perhaps losing greatly on its way across the continents. Civilizations fell as well as rose. It was perfectly true that there was a general rise; after each fall the upward movement was, on the whole, to a higher point; but fall was inevitable. The branch which went south-westwards to Egypt lost something after it got there. There was a descent from the finest to the coarsest pottery, from the finest flint work to the coarsest, and so on. "Nevertheless," he said, "we must regard this civilization we are dealing with as a branch of the Asiatic civilization which swarmed off in two stages into Europe

pottery, from the finest flint work to the coarsest, and so on. "Nevertheless," he said, "we must regard this civilization we are dealing with as a branch of the Asiatic civilization which swarmed off in two stages into Europe and in two stages into Egypt. That implies a northern origin. There has just come to light an important piece of evidence bearing on that. "This past winter has yielded a discovery that straw granaries buried in the ground in Egypt were made of the straw of wheat, and this wheat was not the old wheat of Babylon and Egypt, nor was it, either, the well-known wheat of Roman times. It was a northern wheat, not necessarily the same as ours, but a hybrid which was equivalent to it. We find by the evidence of that straw and that wheat that that wheat totally died out in Egypt and was unknown there in the subsequent ages. Its presence at that early date suggested that we had to deal with an intrusive civilization coming from the north."

### NEW LIGHT ON BOOK OF THE DEAD.

SIR FLINDERS PETRIE now called attention to a second astonishing line of evidence. It was pointed out a year or two ago by an American that three names in the Egyptian Book of the Dead also occurred in the geography of the Caucasus in a very closely equivalent form. Three names afforded a small basis on which to build. He had, therefore, extracted all the place names from the Book of the Dead in their local connexion with one another, east, north, south, or west, up stream or down stream, as indicated in the text. These places were supposed, in the Book of the Dead, to be mythological places, just as in the sacred books of Tibet the racy folk tales from India imported by the Buddhist become sacred narratives. Now these place names could all be traced in the same local connexion in the Caucasus.

He exhibited a map of the region and drew attention to the following remarkable correspondences of nomenclature, doubly striking when the places named were, as he said, named in the Book of the Dead in their correct geographical relation in the Caucasus:—

Akret, Ekretike ; On, Oni ; Zesert, Tosarene ; Dedu, Totena ; Bta, Ptua ; Khalusa, Chalasi ; Kara, Kuy ; Bakhu, Baku ; Andes, Andish ; Astes, Ashti ; Iaru, Iora ; Shen, Sanua ; Fenkhu, Phanagoria ; Urmu, Urmia ; Tamena, Tamen ; Maoti, Maiotis ; Desdes, Euxine ; Reu, Rha ; Restan, Resht.

In the Book of the Dead a "lake of fire" was spoken of as occurring in a fertile valley, and evidently corresponded with an existing naphtha lake of the oil region. Other points of evidence of a different kind corroborated the conclusions to be drawn from the place names. Osiris was the god of corn in Egypt, and his origin was traditionally placed in this same region indicated in the Book of the Dead ; and there was this northern corn found in Egypt under all other relics of successive civilizations there. Osiris was said to be the King of Akret and the god who redeemed the Egyptians from savagery and taught them agriculture. Agriculture was certainly known there since the earliest migration of the Badarians. If it had been of later origin it could not have been said to have been introduced into Egypt by the Badarians or that Osiris was the great god of corn.

## PLAY CENTRES.

LONDON CHILDREN IN THE  
HOLIDAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Having read with much interest and sympathy Lady Aberdeen's appeal in your columns for "street playgrounds" and Dame Katharine Furse's plea for the opening of the London squares during the holiday month, may I venture to remind your readers that something is being done, even this year, on a fairly large scale to provide recreation and organized play for the London child? The Evening Play Centres Committee have received permission from the London County Council to open 18 of the elementary school playgrounds, scattered through all the poorest districts, as holiday play centres, and there we are taking in some 10,000 children a day, providing the bigger ones with organized games and all kinds of quiet occupations, and the little ones with dolls and drag-about toys.

Ten thousand children a day out of London's 600,000 "left-behinds" is not perhaps a very large percentage, but at least they are those who need it most, being the dwellers in the older slum districts whom it is most difficult to move out to trees and open spaces. Open the square-gardens if the owners will, raise the standard of living of the workers so that more and more families can take their week's holiday in the country, and still the streets of the East and South will swarm with children on any August day. For these our organization is ready, and anyone who will take the trouble to make his way to Broad-street School, Ratcliffe, to Compton-street, Clerkenwell, to Scawfell-street, Haggerston (to name only three at random), or to the Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock-place (the pioneer of them all),

street, Clerkenwell, to Scawfell-street, Haggerston (to name only three at random), or to the Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock-place (the pioneer of them all), between 2 and 4 or between 5 and 7 will convince himself that at least we can make the children happy. But our toys are wearing out, owing to the unforeseen rush of children in certain places (we have had up to 2,000 in one playground in one day), and I should welcome further gifts from the benevolent either in kind or in cash. Flowers, too, from country gardens are intensely appreciated, and serve to brighten the dreary asphalt grounds. One hamper will keep 100 little girls happy for an hour, tying them into tiny bunches and then taking them home. Will those who wish to help us kindly communicate with me at the Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock-place, W.C.1 ?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JANET P. TREVELYAN, Chair-  
man, Evening Play Centres  
Committee.

Pen Rose, Berkhamsted, Aug. 8.

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## BUILDING SOCIETIES.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In the very excellent and encouraging letter appearing in your issue of Saturday last from Mr. W. Graham, M.P., calling attention to the valuable work of building societies, the statistics are those quoted recently by the Minister of Health. It seems desirable to supplement those particulars by others of more recent date—namely, for the year 1925—as these figures demonstrate in an even more striking manner the extent to which the building society movement has been able to contribute to a solution of the housing problem.

At the end of 1925 the membership had risen from 1,000,988 to 1,103,575, an increase of 102,587 (exclusive of depositors). The sum advanced on mortgage for the erection or purchase of mainly private dwellings during the 12 months was £49,000,000, an increase of more than £8,000,000. The assets had increased from £145,000,000 to £166,000,000, equivalent to 15 per cent. The reserve funds on December 31, 1925, amounted to £8,838,000, an increase of £1,039,000.

To those unfamiliar with the working of these societies, it is perhaps well to point out that, in addition to the security afforded by such excellent reserve funds, the system of periodical (usually monthly) repayment of the principal of mortgage loans, as well as interest thereon, steadily increases the margin of security held by societies, and thus affords added strength and reserve for investors in the societies. It may safely be said that there is no sounder, non-fluctuating, or more remunerative investment available at the present moment. The movement makes a further strong appeal to those desirous of encouraging habits of thrift and self-reliance.