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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**

**Crum, Walter E.**

**Bath, 07.01.1929**

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[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-70771](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-70771)

Bath 7 1 29

mein lieber Konon - Sie sind  
kürzlich so lieb, wenn ich eine lästige  
Anfrage an Sie richtete, dass ich mich  
jedes mal auf neue schämen muss,  
wenn ich daran denke, wie viel Sie  
dabei noch in Anspruch genommen  
sind - Besten Dank für "La Grèce".  
Gut, dass ich es so gedankt habe!  
Ja, das muss ein sehr interessanter  
Mensch gewesen sein. Lenin "The-  
Lawrence" habe ich immer noch  
nie zu Gesicht bekommen.  
"1st Deutschland Reich?" Lesen

Sie kriegsten Aufsatz; davon werden  
Sie nicht viel mehr wissen als jetzt.

Hein ist jetzt sturges Winter.

Wir wohnen auf einem Hügel:



Heute ist unser Hügel wie eine  
Glasplatte und ich wage mich  
nachmittags noch ungern in  
die Stadt — im Altergenischen!

Mit  
Gruß

85. Mit dem, was Sie wirklich  
über das heutige Volk usw.  
knighten, bin ich vollständig überein.  
Ich bin eben ein „Victorian“, der  
neuen Zeit nicht gewohnt.

# IS GERMANY RICH?

## THE HAUSFRAU'S REPLY.

### WAGES, TAXES, AND THE WEEKLY MARGIN.

### HOW WAR DUES ARE PAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Saturday.

"The Blessings Reparations Payments Have Brought the German People" is the title which the Socialist "Vorwaerts" suggests for the Agent-General's Report on the fourth annuity year under the Dawes Plan, issued this week. Comment elsewhere has been even more bitter. Seldom has any official document had such a bad Press. One would have to hark back to German comments on the Versailles Treaty to find its parallel.

The difficulty which the man, and more particularly the woman, in the street has in appreciating the big turnovers of banks and business houses crystallises in a sense of the hopelessness of expecting any improvement in wages and salaries, while those at headquarters complain that more and more will be expected of them. This has sent a general wave of disappointment over the whole country. A glance at the standard of living to-day, which the Reparations Agent declares so improved, reveals the fact that the German people is indeed paying its war dues, household by household. The standard of the Report, therefore, is that of the terrible period just after the war and of the inflation. It is not that of pre-war days.

#### CONTROLLED RENTS.

Details of composite budgets published during the past year, when this question of improved general prosperity was already being broached, are taking on an added importance. "Are we rich?" and "What is prosperity?" asks not only "Vorwaerts," but the more bourgeois Press as well. The reply is to be found in the statistics compiled by those social and welfare organisations which form the basis for any definite upward movement in wages and salaries.

The average German worker's weekly pay is forty marks a week. This is two pounds, as one mark may, without any great discrepancy, be reckoned as the equivalent of a shilling. In practically every case one-tenth of this is required weekly for taxes and insurance, docked at headquarters. This is an increase of a hundred per cent. on pre-war demands for the same funds.

The higher grade employee, works foreman, and civil servant may earn anything up to 300 marks or £15 a month. His insurance and other payments are in proportion, but whereas pre-war figures apportion 40 per cent. of the month's wage to food and household, all that can be afforded to-day is 36 per cent. The controlled rents, which are the subject of bitter discussion in party politics, have

anything up to 300 marks or £15 a month. His insurance and other payments are in proportion, but whereas pre-war figures apportion 40 per cent. of the month's wage to food and household, all that can be afforded to-day is 36 per cent. The controlled rents, which are the subject of bitter discussion in party politics, have provided for only 14 per cent. of these incomes being paid to the landlord. In pre-war days 20 per cent. was the figure. This adjustment is the sorest point on Germany's internal programme. It haunts householder and landlord alike.

### FAMILY PROBLEMS

But this portion of the population, with no tradition of wealth behind it, is infinitely better off than the professional classes. Before the war a written guarantee was required from parents who allowed their sons to study law—the gateway to all administrative positions under Government—that they were in a position to support him after graduation (at twenty-two or thereabouts) for the next five years. Money from home, however little, was absolutely necessary to the university graduate. To-day only one per cent. of the high functionaries of State possess any private fortune either of their own or from their wives, all having been swept away in the flood of paper marks. More than this, in this country of excellent and self-denying parents, sons and daughters, instead of relying on help from home, have to reckon on giving one hundred or so marks a month to keep the old people from starving.

The successful civil servant of forty-five to fifty earns no more than 650 marks a month. He participates less in Germany's prosperity than any other of her population. His wife cannot hope to get more than the equivalent of two pounds a week for housekeeping in a family consisting of four or five; she is lucky if her husband does not prevail upon her to pay his own and the children's boot repairs from this housekeeping money.

### LEAP YEAR AS A TRAGEDY.

The average controlled rent, including heating and warm water paid by people on this income, amounts to 145 marks, over twenty per cent. of it. There are nearly always arrears of debts, owing to the banks which grant advances of income for various purposes, such as renovating the flat—dilapidated during the war years—or paying for an operation. Schooling, clothing, and holidays have to come from the remainder.

The wireless at two marks a month, collected by the postman, is one of the few luxuries these people may permit themselves. The cup of real coffee at four marks a pound, an indirect tax, is a privilege the head of the house permits himself only occasionally. Wives get few pleasures at all; festivals are the only occasions of a really bountiful table; about the twenty-fifth of the month more potatoes and still less meat appear on the menu than usual, and all invitations to a friendly glass of beer at the local academic rendezvous are refused. A leap year with an extra day in the month is a tragedy, a new suit and a new dress an event. It is the loss of all family fortunes, which is chiefly responsible for these restrictions.

### "DIRECTORS."

The above is a faithful portrait of family life in a very large proportion of the German population, and includes that of men of brilliant achievement who have to wait weeks to obtain a scientific work from a free library because they cannot afford either to buy it or to pay the lightest subscription. It completely eliminates that sign of American prosperity—luxuries bought on the instalment plan.

For important posts and branch managers of great firms, industrial undertakings, and in banks, an income of fifty pounds a month is reckoned adequate. These people are rich on the extra margin allowed over the academic classes. At the top "directors" in all varieties probably live on more luxurious scale, with more attention to impressing rivals, than in any country in the world. It must be, thinks the average German to-day, that this small section which is profiting by the country's prosperity accounts for the figures of the experts, otherwise so hard to understand.

## N POKING FUN AT THE CENSORSHIP.

### THE COMEDY OF "SCARLET ISLAND."

#### "LORD GLENARVON" AND THE ARAPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MOSCOW, January 1.

The old device of the play within a play is employed for the equally ancient purpose of casting ridicule on censors and censorship in Mikhail Bulgakov's comedy, "Scarlet Island," which is running at the Kamerny Theatre with conspicuous success.

The very appearance of Bulgakov in the role of a satirist of censorship has its comic element, because this young author, who has inherited at least a small measure of the broad satirical humour of Gogol, is generally regarded as a representative of the extreme of what is permissible in Soviet literature and drama. It was almost necessary to fight the Russian civil war over again before the Moscow Art Theatre could obtain permission to present a dramatised version of one of Bulgakov's stories under the title "Days of the Turbins," where certain White officers are shown as futile champions of a lost cause, but as personally gallant and agreeable persons. Bulgakov's "Apartment of Zoikina," a topical satire on contemporary Russian life, also caused much headshaking among the upholders of Communist ideological orthodoxy.

#### PLAY WITHIN A PLAY.

The opening scene of "Scarlet Island" is laid in the office of a Moscow theatre. The director informs the Censor that his theatre wishes to produce a new play, fully sound from the political point of view. The censor agrees to look in at the rehearsal. The rehearsal is then shown in scenes of rollicking foolery which in places suggest a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. "Scarlet Island" is a remote and undiscovered bit of the earth's surface where a clique of "white Araps" oppress the aborigines, who are red in political colour, if not in skin.

A British ship appears in the offing, and the owner, Lord Glenarvon, concludes a deal with the Arap King, buying up all the pearl treasures of the island for a cask of rum and a thousand pounds. So this play within a play scrupulously observes all the formulas of Communist anti-imperialistic dramatic propaganda, but everything is done in such a spirit of grotesque parody that the net result is satire.

The play reaches its humorous climax when the Censor, a spectacled middle-aged individual, armed with the bulging portfolio that is almost the coat-of-arms of the Soviet official, arrives on the scene. He is conducted to a place of honour on the stage ship which is bearing Lord Glenarvon and a crew of British sailors off to the final conquest of the island. The leader of the "red aborigines" proves a thorough-going rascal and casts in his lot with the invaders; but the attack is triumphantly repulsed; the British retire without a pearl, and a huge red sun rises to typify the victory of revolution.

#### MUTINY TO ORDER.

But the Censor is not satisfied. To the horror of the director of the theatre, the author of the play, and the actors, he announces that the performance is forbidden. When the director plucks up courage to ask for reasons the Censor replies:—

"Who are the British sailors in the play? Proletarians. But do they show any sympathy with the natives? I regard

horror of the director of the theatre, the author of the play, and the actors, he announces that the performance is forbidden. When the director plucks up courage to ask for reasons the Censor replies:—

"Who are the British sailors in the play? Proletarians. But do they show any sympathy with the natives? I regard the play as definitely counter-revolutionary, because it has in it no element of international solidarity. Maybe," he concludes, "the citizen-author doesn't desire the victory of the world revolution."

Once this hint is given the end of the play is changed with alacrity. A timely mutiny, staged among the British sailors, lifts the frown from the Censor's brow; the director's production expenses and the author's royalties are saved.

The Soviet newspapers have been attacking "Scarlet Island" as dull. The fact that the Kamerny Theatre is sold out for days in advance shows that the theatre-going public does not agree with this criticism. And, while the substance of the play is slight and would scarcely bear reading, it is well adapted to the technique of the Kamerney Theatre.

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## TWELFTH NIGHT IN ROME.

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### THE TOY CARNIVAL OF PIAZZA NAVONA.

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(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ROME, Saturday.

Christmas and Epiphany used to be celebrated on the same day by the early Church; it was only in the fifth century that the festival was divided, since when the feast of the Epiphany has increased with the years in popularity.

At Rome the Epiphany is especially connected with Piazza Navona, that beautiful oblong of fountains and palaces marking the site of Domitian's stadium. It has always been the centre for festivities of one kind or another: in Roman times there were games and sports, and in Renaissance days jousts, feigned battles, and water displays; while, for the last hundred years, from the evening of January 5 until dawn on January 7, Piazza Navona has always been in possession of humbler citizens, who turn it into an immense toyshop. Wooden shelters and picturesque stalls rise up as if by magic the day before Epiphany, and a merry trafficking ensues. Coloured lights are scattered among the endless variety of toys, puppets, in tinsel and satin, clowns beating drums, long trumpets of the Epiphany, painted figures of the Nativity for household shrines, sugar dainties fashioned into many shapes, and every kind of mechanical toy.

Bernini's Triton, whom the people call the "Moor of the Fountain," overlooks the merry scene and adds to the fantasy of Twelfth Night in Rome.

Every year a fierce controversy is waged in the Press as to whether it is seemly to keep up these popular customs of old Rome in the greater Rome of to-day. This year discussion was cut short by the Governor of Rome, Prince Buoncampagni Ludovisi, who, as a true Roman devoted to old traditions, gave permission for the familiar stalls to be set up, and put heart into the humble sellers by fixing a low tax for the privilege of a site. All the same, one has a fear that the years are numbered of the carnival toyshop of Piazza Navona.

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Toc H, Mark 1 Branch, and L.W.H. Kensington Branch players are presenting "The Rising Generation," by Wyn Weaver and Laura Leicester, at King George's Hall (Central Y.M.C.A.), Caroline-street, Great Russell-street, W.C.1, on January 8 and 9, at 8 p.m. These performances are being given in aid of the Toc H Endowment Fund, the object of which is to raise £25,000 to provide for whole-time workers for the movement.