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

Brief von Norman de Garis Davies an Adolf Erman

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Ludwig
Jan 2/1926.

Dear Master,

Many thanks for the Schülerhands., as much for the evidence of your continued and bright activity, as for the interesting study itself. You always seem at your best & trust yourself when you are dealing with something that rubs close against human life. We are grateful to the discoverer of the Pseudo-particip but we feel friendship for the author of Ägyptisches Hebr.

At the same time I got a hint from a bookseller that the birthday of the first Part of the long-respected Dictionnaire is fixed (as far as birthdays can be, which involve the principe féminin). It seems likely to coincide pretty nearly with the completion of Gardiner's grammar, and the two together ought to make a great furtherance of our studies. But after all the men whose names are some you now, and where and of what sort are they? The apronting Egyptologists in England at any rate seem a poor lot, less industrious & swifly grounded than ever. Petrie's school is not much better than that of Fagin in Dickens' Oliver Twist; America is still worse for it must drive both work in a motor car, and of France we do not even expect anything. Perhaps Czechoslovakia will produce a scholar one of these days or will it be Berlin again?

At Christmas time I went to stay for a day or two with Immer Blanche at El Kab. The old chap is now

85, and rather deaf and lame, but still extraordinarily bright and amusing. He even is busy on another book! If I can reduce my activities into that are the Tibetan Tombs have a chance yet, always supposing I can prod or wheedle the American press into some sort of sluggish activity. As my last book has had fifteen months of gestation without dropping so much as a fruit from there is something wrong with the stud.

There are no sensations here, except Tutankhamun's Coffin and the piece of splendidly chased gold which it takes four men to lift, and the mass of jewellery, amongst which are some really lovely things. The daggers are marvels of beauty & craftsmanship and not unworthy to be placed side by side with the finest productions of human hands. I expect Dirth, & Reimer too, may produce some sensations, but Lacau has killed enterprise. We have not put a turak into the ground for two years. My wife and I are going down to Uluarna shortly to paint the frescoes of last year but one. There is no one else to do them and they will perish otherwise and a unique work of art be lost.

I have recently copied (three hours washing to one of drawing or reading) the book of the vizier Utes and have obtained a very nice account of the Cabinet Council at which Utes was appointed "Staff of old age" or deputy vizier to his old father Amethin, whose spine was getting too stiff for him to do the necessary consultations before the King. But it is not easy to translate and restore. Now I am tracing the biographical Shila of Nekhemire - also an unpleasant task.

I hope it is not too late to wish you and all your house the very best in the New Year we have just entered on.

With warm regards from us both to the Frank Professor & yourself.

H. de Gans Doris