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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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LUXOR,
Dec. 19, /'21

Dear and honoured colleague,

A thousand thanks for the new dictionary! It is a wonder ^{-child} before which the three kings, the Americans, The English and the French, may well bring their homage. What we want are a few books at least to which we can turn with security and without mental question-marks, and that is what you and Sethe and Gardiner in different ways give us. This glossary is preeminently of that sort; for it rests not only on your unsurpassed judgement, but on a great mass of accurate data, and presents us ignorant and tired workers in the field with the essence of German scholarship, the most painstaking in the world, in two or three hundred pages. And your kindness in hurrying to save me from the terrible mistakes which I am always making, or on the point of making, in philology, increases the pleasure I shall have in using it by a very great deal. I shall have the effrontery to suppose that you think that my efforts, with a little improvement, might be of some use. I find now how much I relied on the kind help and sympathy of my friends in Germany to maintain the necessary courage in these tedious tasks, and I admire immensely the way you all keep at your work under depressing conditions and the existing handicaps.

Work here goes on with painful slowness, and comes to fruition only after a lapse of time when it has become very distasteful. However those ^{are} the conditions, and we ought to be thankful that they are not worse. There is nothing, so far, this season, which is worth recording. Winlock and Fisher are both working at Thebes this winter, but have not yet made much history.

May this Christmas have some of the old happiness for your house, which has been missing these many years, and all the threatening evils be averted one by one!

Believe me most sincerely,

Yours

H. de Jans Davies



