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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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Jan 21/1824

My dear Roman,

I was with the trouble of writing the book
to extract so kind and so long a letter from you
and it has the amount of praise it deserves when
you consider it worth this expensive return. You
are much more fortunate than I for I have been
thinking for six months about writing you to
thank you for the last Abhandlung you sent me.
My reluctance to write letters is, I fear, an
unmistakable sign of incipient old age, and it is
too bad of Gardiner & Davies to expect two letters of
thanks for one book, especially when your obligation
is entirely due to Gardiner. However I accept your
kind words about the book and they are perhaps not
undeserved for the plates are clear and correct &
I do not think that much is said that is superfluous.
I wish that these two books had been rather more worthy
of their immortality: I don't know how they got their form
matter & think that Messrs Amantstep, son of somebody
and Nebanum must have had a touch of the Schieber
in them.

As to your own generous suggestion as to reprisals
in the shape of Roman-Ranke, I bought a copy for

my library at home and brought out the dear old
Erman's Egypt to continue its invaluable service out
here, so I do not need it so much as others. But when I
saw you in Berlin you spoke of sending me your book
on the literature of the Egyptians; so I did not purchase
that and if you still have a copy of that to spare
it would be nice to have a copy that came from you
instead of the booksellers. You are always speaking in
deprecatory terms of Aegypten, but I think that is the
book of yours you have the most reason to be proud
of. I have not had time to really study Erman-Names,
and partly because I was so fond of the girl that I
did not like to think of her being married. I hope
however that I may live to see her babies and admire
them.

I have made a beginning this year with the Tomb of
Rekhmire. I am not sure that I have done rightly, when
it is one of the few tombs that have been decently published
before. But it is worth mine in archaeological material,
in human interest, in textual value, and in variety of
subject and in beauty and carefulness of drawing than
ten or twenty others, so I am seizing the opportunity
while there are millionaires in America who are willing
to publish inadequately and in colour, to give a worthy
- or comparatively worthy - edition of the Standard
Egyptian dynasty tomb. The pictures of frescoes (now

which I shall lay stress), of crafts, of religious Ceremonials,
and the types of hieroglyphs far surpass any others &
must have served as models for the hieroglyphs. As I
think I am doing right and if I can add small improve-
ments to the existing texts and great improvements to
the visibility & details of Newberry's excellent work,
it will I hope merit your commendation. For there are
few rewards which I place above that, and still
fewer on which I can rely so safely if only I do any-
thing at all to merit it. I doubt if I shall ever
bring to birth the picture of Ancient Egypt which you
are so flattering as to propose: the more modest tastes
I am engaged upon are those best suited to my abilities
and my part. If I make it difficult for future workers
at Thebes to publish bad books on the hieroglyphs I shall
have done something.

I enclose a review on Wrenzius's Atlas which you
might not otherwise see. When you are so generous in
praise of my book I feel rather ashamed that I have
not spoken more enthusiastically about it; for it will
be most useful. But I am afraid I am jealous of the
young men who light heartedly court my mistress
the fair Clementine on the west of The City.

I am afraid I can give you no information worth
having on $\text{Ⓔ} \text{Ⓜ} \text{Ⓝ} \text{Ⓟ}$. I suppose it cannot be the
later copies of Ramesses X. That official appears to

have had a burial scarcely commensurate with his position and rank; for Tomb 293 has as owners apparently both ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ and (later) ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ ~~⊙~~ (Euzelbach, the inspector here, is bringing out a list of the Tombs 261 - 318 immediately). This tomb was found by Carnarvon in 1922 in Dra' Abul Kaja.

Nothing of interest has been found in Egypt this season yet so far as I know. I have not been over to see the Tomb of Tutankhamun this year yet. It is almost as much as one's reputation as a serious archaeologist is worth to set his foot in the Valley, and besides Carter is much too busy assigning places to actresses, mill-owners and lords to have any invitations to spare for ~~the~~ unremunerative students of history.

What is going to happen to this country in 1927, when apparently the whole of the European staff retires, no one dares to think. There are times when one hopes that nothing can be much worse than Lacaze, but after all one shivers to think of the service in the hands of the little Egyptian rats who have to learn not only Egyptology but civildisatin between this and 1927. So far there is no sign that they do not think themselves capable of it, and still less sign that England will not sell the laboratory of Ancient Egyptian History for a smile from Zaphul Parha.

as she has betrayed the whole nation here for a pat on the
back from Woodrow Wilson and the chance of a long
sleep. Yours is not the only nation suffering humiliation.
As I write England is in the hands of the Bolsheviks
(English Bolsheviks, it is true) and I must confess it
is no more than she deserves. But, as you say, it
hurts to be angry about public matters.

Gardner and his wife are staying with us here and
we are having a pleasant time together. We are
getting terribly civilized. We only go to church now
by automobile. There is a carriage drive to the house
and it is lit by electric light! But I think I was
as happy in the Himmelsreich Ptahstep's and did
more work. (Mervin-ka is still unpublished!).

With all my heart I wish you all good, in 1924
to Fran Eman & to your family. God grant us
patience and a happy issue out of all our afflictions,
as the Prayer Book says!

Yours most sincerely

R. de Forest Dore

