Staats- und
Universitätsbibliothek
Bremen

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

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

Brief von Alan Henderson Gardiner an Adolf Erman

Gardiner, Alan Henderson

W. Kensington, 09.11.1902

Nachweis dieses Dokuments im Kalliope-Verbund

urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-80694

Visual Library

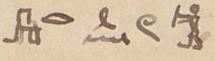
kurz beantw 12/11

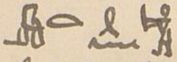
56 Fitz George Avenue
W. Kensington
9. xi. 02

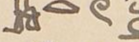
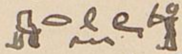
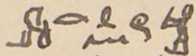
Gardiner

Dear Professor Erman,

You will, I am sure, pardon my long delay in answering your kind letter when you learn what has been occupying me recently. Five days ago a baby boy was vouchsafed to us: previously I was occupied much in preparations for the event, and in other things which suddenly sprang up to prevent my attending to the duties of a scribe.

The discovery of the equation  = λεσωνις is alas! not mine own: I am sorry that my expressions led you to believe that I thought so.

Spiegelberg has, as you have doubtless seen, summarised all that had previously been said on the subject, in the last number of the Recueil de Travaux. My only motive in printing to Rechmere was to suggest that thence might be gathered a closer definition of the meaning of λεσωνις than has been hitherto given to that word. In Rosettana and Canopus the demotic equivalent of λεσωνις is rendered in the Greek by ἀρχιερευς. This latter meaning was also conjectured by Grenfell & Hunt (without knowledge of the passages in Rosettana and Canopus) for λεσωνις in the Amherst Papyri. But I find it hard to see how an officer who had so definite spheres of work as we see (or guess) the  to have had, can have developed into a high priest, a merely religious functionary

I have not gone further into the question but I noticed that the three Amherst papyri mentioning the λεσωνις all had reference to questions of land, and the λεσωνις played a large part in these. In Rechmere, Pl X (cf Pl III) last line, we learn clearly that the  (which I take to be identical to or related with ) had to examine questions of land My train of thought, then, was, that probably the land-surveyor of the vast temple estates had, by Ptolemaic times, gained so high an importance, that he could be termed not entirely inaccurately ἀρχιερεύς. This is a mere idea which I have not yet had time to follow out, and which may in reality be mere moonshine. At any rate the translation ἀρχιερεύς for an ultimate  is surprising. What connection had the land-official mr šn with the police-magistrate whom we know of from the Kahun letters etc?

I am very ashamed about my rendering of the passage in the Vizier text. I find I had made a grievous blunder, which I hope I shall not repeat when I have enjoyed a little of your tuition

In a little note which I will send you in a few days, I have ventured to maintain that the word 𓎛𓈖𓂝 in Wnỉ, which in 1881 you took as a particle, is nothing more than the preposition. When I wrote my note I had not seen your new edition of the Grammar, where you express the same view. If I had imagined you were going to do so, I would have been more cautious before rushing into print with my idea. If I am wrong, however, I hope you will pardon my error as a sin of youth!

With iterated thanks for your kind note, and the kindest regards from us three to Frau Professor and yourself

Believe me very sincerely
yours

Alan H Gardiner