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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**

**23.09.1905**

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Beauvoir 28/9



Le 28 September 1905

GRAND HOTEL

HOTEL D'EUROPE

TURIN




Dear Professor Erman,

You have probably heard from Herr Bollacker that I have been in Turin now for nearly three weeks, and that I am hard at work on the papyri. At the same time you would probably like to have some news from my own lips, so I will employ a half an hour this Saturday evening in giving you a first report. I arrived here on the third, and saw Schiaparelli on the following day. He was most friendly, and gave me unconditional leave to collate (and publish if I will) all the documents that have already been dealt with by others: he is also willing to let me study the rest, but as he has spent a good deal of time in putting the fragments together and as he contemplates a publication later, he naturally reserves to himself the right of printing them. I have a quiet and bright room to work in and may study from 9 to 5: in point of fact I find six hours quite enough for me.

I think you can have no idea of the amount of hieratic papyri in this Museum. I am certain I am underestimating the amount when I say there are four times



But the misfortune is, that the signs are so faint that I often despair of reading them. I need any suggestions that I can get, and if you could find time to look the magical texts through and make suggestions and express your doubts, this would help me a great deal when I make my final collation. I really think it is worth while troubling you in this matter, though knowing how busy you are, I am very loath to do so. However unless I hear from you to the contrary I will send you my notebook in a few days and leave it to you to see how much attention you can give it. I should be glad however if you would give me back my transcription not later than the middle of October.

In another magical text (where the gods are threatened with starvation etc) I find  instead of   


as many documents unpublished as published. Of course a large number are very fragmentary, but I think we can reckon upon the greatest treasures turning up here, when the collection is systematically handled.

I have already read a number of documents and am learning a great deal. I have lots of new words, phrases, and plenty of interest as well from the contents as from the language. Knowing that you are very busy still, I have sent one notebook of some 70 pages to Prof. Sethe, who has kindly consented to make suggestions. But I am now studying the magical texts, and for these I should be extremely grateful if you could give me some help. The papyrus Pleyte-Rossi 131-138 is quite particularly interesting. The recto (with the well-known Re-Isis story and, I believe, some texts also on the Metternich stele) is comparatively easy: but the verso, which is covered with vegetable paper and extremely hard to see. It is still more interesting than the recto. There is an unknown (?) story of Horus and Set, who are travelling together in the "golden dahabayah of Horus." "The one brother cried out. 'Come to me, Horus; ~~tell me your name~~ I will bite you, (psh) Tell me your name. It will help you. A man is helped through his name.' 'I am yesterday, I am