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## **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**

**Turin, 14.11.1905**

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le 14. November 1905

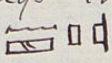
GRAND HOTEL  
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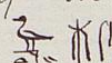
Dear Professor Erman

I have long intended to send you another report of my work, but the arrival of my wife about a month ago put an end to the long and somewhat dreary leisure evenings, and cut short my correspondence. Unhappily about a fortnight since, my wife received news that our excellent nurse ~~has~~ made up her mind to leave us to get married, and so Hedwig has been obliged to return to England to look for a new one: she quitted Turin last Saturday. I intend to stay here about three weeks more: to tell the truth, I shall be glad to return to Berlin, for the room in which I work is terribly cold, and I almost suffer while at my work here.

In the middle of October I made the virtuous resolve to proceed no further without subjecting all the papyri I had thitherto read to a new and careful revision. I came across a good number of errors, and also managed to read a ~~few~~ ~~pages~~ passages that had baffled me at first. I have never considered a papyrus

as satisfactorily collated without going through it three times, when possible, with a week or so intervening, and thus I think I can claim to have dealt with them as well as is in my power. Pleyte & Rossi is very nearly finished now: there remain some twenty plates to deal with, some of which contain very unimportant fragments.

The documents that I have been studying lately have given me nothing that can rank as a "discovery", but many of them are very interesting and will doubtless prove more so when we come to work at them in detail. The rare and unknown words still abound, but in some cases I have found confirmation of my readings in other papyri, as in the instance of  of which I have four examples.

The last papyrus I was engaged on was the very interesting official journal of the scribe  in the 12th. and following years of the last Rameses. It gives details of the grain which he collected in Hermonthis, Gebelen (Mitru), Pw, Smn, and Inyt (Esneh?). It is the best piece of Egyptian bookkeeping I have seen, and so far as I have calculated the numbers, they work out very well. The wages of the boatmen are given, and the amounts that were handed over for Pharaoh etc, and entered into the granary.

On an ostracoon I found some passages of the earlier part of Anastasi I, which will, I hope, help to fill out some of the lacunae there. A wooden tablet contains some very puzzling extracts from the lawsuit between the Head and the other parts of the Body. Maspero has read it very well, and I could do little to clear up the difficulties. Another ostracoon, also published by Maspero, has a fine hymn of praise on the accession of Rameres V (I think).

It is quite astonishing how bad the publication of Pleyte and Rossi is. They have failed to recognise parts of the same document even when they join, so that I have had a good deal to do in the way of putting disjoined fragments together. Also there is scarcely one of the longer documents of which they have not omitted some part.

I had intended to study the Royal Canon, recto and verso, but I am not sure that I shall do so. I do not forget that the main reason I am here is to work for the Dictionary, and it is more important for this purpose that I should study other documents.

May I ask you a favour? I believe that Lieblein published in 1875 a papyrus of accounts from the 12th, year of Ramesses II — not of course the well-known papyrus Chabas-Lieblein. If you have the article of 1875 could you lend it to me, as I wish to deal with all the published papyri, and Sch. cannot remember which this particular one is.

I have not yet thanked you for your most useful notes on the magical papyri. A few of the readings you suggested turned out right, others wrong: but the translations and philological remarks were all very helpful. And thanks too for giving your consideration to the question of transcription. It is a problem that must be very carefully considered: of course my letter, written in haste so as to come in time for the conference, was altogether too precipitate to suggest any very definite innovations.

With kind regards to Frau Professor and yourself,

Very sincerely yours

Alan H. Gardiner

P. S. The ink vouchsafed by this hotel seems to be created for the very purpose of making smudges!