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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**

**Sutton, 28.07.1908**

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PARCELS AND TELEGRAMS:  
SUTTON SCOTNEY.

Moody's Down,  
Barton Stacey, R.S.O.  
Hants.

28 July 1908



Dear Professor Erman

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad to hear that you are getting forward with your Dictionary work, in which I hope to join during at least a part of the winter. For your own sake I am very sorry to hear that you will have no opportunity of leaving Berlin this summer: you will certainly be badly in need of a rest when the autumn comes.

I have already devoted a good deal of labour to  $\Phi$ , but am astonished and troubled to find how slowly the sorting and classification of the *Settel* goes forward. I shall be here for the next six weeks, and shall devote many hours to the task I have undertaken. But how far it will have progressed before I return to Berlin at the beginning of October I cannot say. Please do not be too sanguine. I will do what I can, but the summer seems to be slipping past more quickly than I have ever known it do before.

I send you two letters from Maclver. One of them deals with the Borchardt affair, and I am glad to think this affair is now at an end. The other deals with the antiquity-buying question. Might I beg you to read it carefully; I think it merits some consideration. Maclver is a very energetic, and in some ways an able man, and he has the advantage of being fairly young and very obstinate. It is by no means impossible that if he receives from you an expression of sympathy with his scheme, and a qualified promise to support it (of course the Berlin Museum cannot be expected to tie itself down to any obligations unless all the other great Museums do the same) something might be done to ameliorate a state of affairs which is undeniably a scientific scandal. I might point out that a definite policy of exchanges between various Museum excavators would quite atone for the one-sided development of Museums which might result from their being dependent only on their own excavations. For instance - if only an arrangement had been agreed on in principle in good time -

Maclver would doubtless have been willing to exchange many of his latest Nubian finds for antiquities from your Abuia excavations. Both his Museum and yours would have profited from the transaction. Of course you may object to the scheme proposed by Maclver that the Louvre and the British Museum would never consent to it. Who knows? At all events Maclver is ready apparently to take upon himself all the agitating in favour of himself, and so you need not fear that your already so much occupied time will be engrossed by any further trouble about it for a long time to come. You will at least admit that the scheme is theoretically an enlightened one. Nor do I think that it is wholly impracticable.

I met Lepart in London the other day and he showed me photographs of the two scarabs that speak of the circumnavigation of Africa. I cannot help thinking that you must have some special grounds besides those you name in your letter to him for thinking that they are forgeries. It is true that they contain a number of errors; but what Egyptian inscription has not? Where could a forger of such skill be found as to be able to invent such inscriptions? (Note for example the phrase  = "never"; ; and other such idiomatic expressions.) The cutting of many of the signs is admirable. If these scarabs

are false, surely we are in a miserable plight.  
I should never venture to trust an Egyptian  
inscription again unless I knew something  
about its provenance. I shall be extremely  
interested to hear what you have to say  
about the matter.

[I have not as yet found much of  
great interest in connection with  $\Phi_1$ . Are  
you acquainted with  $\Phi_{1 \rightarrow 1} = \Phi_{1 \rightarrow 1}$  in the  
N.K?]

Please give our kindest greetings to Fran  
Professa and the rest of your family

Very sincerely yours

Alan H Gardiner