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

Brief von Alan Henderson Gardiner an Adolf Erman

Gardiner, Alan Henderson

Luxor, 04.10.1909

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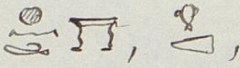
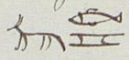



LUXOR,
UPPER EGYPT.

4th. October 09

Dear Professor Erman

Tonight I go northwards to Cairo,
after five most delightful weeks in
Gurna. I think you will be
interested to hear something of my
work there, and what new information
I shall have to bring back to the
Dictionary.


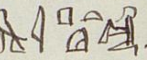
My best find has been that of ~~an~~
tomb of an O. K. Vizier in Gurna.
Whenever I passed an open tomb that
I did not know, I made a habit
of looking in to see whether there
was anything worth copying. This
particular tomb lay open on the North
side of the hill of Sheikh Abd el
Gurna, and its inscriptions were scanty

enough. However the words ,  and such names as , 
and others at once caught my eye and it seemed from the outset quite clear that the tomb belonged to the Old Kingdom. The vizier's name is unhappily half-destroyed, but it begins with the letters . I don't know at exactly what date to place him, but he appears to me to be certainly early, and if it were not for the fact that 5th. dynasty tombs are hardly known away from the Pyramid-towns I should be inclined to assign him to that age. The tomb was a vast one, and well deserves excavation. What I have seen is only a rock-cut chamber at the end of the tomb, but in front of it was a great brick mastaba(?) which would well repay excavation. But a competent archaeologist ought to undertake

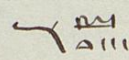
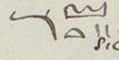
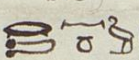
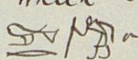
this task. Meanwhile I have had an iron door put on to protect the paintings which I found.

The tomb of $\overline{\text{R}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{A}}$ proves to be certainly of the reign of Senusert I, and this Vizier seems to have abandoned the tomb to his mother $\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}$ when he built himself a mastaba at Lisht. The Theban tomb contains very interesting "Beischriften" to the scenes which I daresay Sethe either did not notice, ~~she~~ did not stay to copy, as they are so faint as to be invisible save by very subdued, shadowed light. There are two good hymns to Hathor, sung by harpers, and two other exceedingly difficult harpers' songs. Besides this, very numerous graffiti in hieratic. The tomb seems to have been the regular showplace in the Hill of Gurna during the 18th. dynasty. One scribe records that he came to admire this tomb $\overline{\text{R}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}$ and another states that he found it $\overline{\text{R}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}$ $\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}$. Earlier graffiti name the rarely-mentioned queen ($\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}$).

In the tomb of Rekhmire I recopied the long biographical inscription, a very difficult but paying task. It is a regular masterpiece

of Egyptian literary style, and very important
lexicographically; Newberry's copy is exceedingly
inaccurate. I also collated all the
other Vizier-texts, together with the parallels
in the tombs of  and .

In other tombs I got together some
good texts which are not in the Dictionary.
Two fine long inscriptions in a newly-opened
tomb of the time of Hatshepsut; a
fascinating biographical text, unfortunately
very defective, in the tomb of the high
priest of Amon, Amenenhet; and many
others.

In the tomb of the ,  (sic
 ^{Imms} i.e. upper and lower Retenu) Amemes
we came upon a picture of a Syrian Migdol
surrounded by trees, which the Beischrift
to a kneeling prince  proved
to be the Libanon.

Well, I have written enough to show that
I have not been idle. And, so far as
personal profit and enjoyment has been
concerned, I certainly have not been wasting
my time.

Many thanks for the list of tombs, which
was most useful. Karnak has been under
water, so that even if I had wished to collate
the Osaken inscriptions I could not have done
so. Now, best greetings to deull bet bet bet k
Alan H Gardiner