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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, 02.05.1920**

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PARCELS: SUTTON SCOTNEY.  
TELEGRAMS: BARTON STACEY.

(Moody's Down,  
Barton Stacey,  
Sutton Scotney, Hants.)

2 May 20

Dear Professor Eiman

I am spending the week-end down at my Father's house near Winchester, and the peace of a Sunday afternoon gives me an opportunity of answering the letter I received from you three days ago. It was a very welcome letter, in spite of the fact that your natural cheerfulness and philosophy could not disguise the miserable circumstances in which you all are living. Here everything is outwardly prosperous in spite of high prices; and indeed the business men are making plenty of money. But somehow, and I don't think that this is merely a personal impression of mine, the light seems to

have gone out of the world; we have no beliefs, few hopes and few wishes. The one bright point is the children. They — at least ours — have indomitable spirits, think the world a wonderful and lovely place, have an incurable belief in the ultimate goodness of everyone, indeed they are, as far as I can see, the only class of really satisfactory mortals at the present time. Rolf has been away to the Norfolk Broads with a school-friend, and the two of them have had great times together. Rolf wrote me a letter yesterday teeming with nautical expressions, the upshot of which seemed to be that he had managed the boat so badly that he had knocked a hole in its side!

Margaret too has been away with school-friends, and enjoyed herself mightily, but we have heard less about her doings.

As for myself I have been pretty busy editing my Journal, helping Davies with vol. 2 of the Theban Tombs Series, and from time to time writing a page or two more of that grammar. Ah, that grammar! I wonder whether it will ever be finished. To use a common popular expression, I am afraid I have bitten off more than I can chew in undertaking it. Of course it would be an easy enough thing to copy your grammar as Desquiers has done, and rearrange it to suit my own fancy. In any case I cannot fail to appropriate ideas and examples of yours at every turn. But I am not content with this. I won't publish my book at all unless I really have a serious contribution to make. I have indeed a good deal that is new, I think, but at every turn problems present themselves that I cannot solve, and the

further I go the more I marvel at  
your achievement and wish I could  
emulate it!

I am distressed to think that  
your Glossar should be held up as  
it appears to be. Here too things  
are bad enough, and I have to  
pay £130 for plates which before the  
war only cost me £46. None the  
less as long as I have sufficient  
cash and the family makes no  
protests I shall go on publishing!

Please give my kindest regards to  
Frau Professor and the children —  
who are children no more!

Yours very sincerely

Alan Hardier