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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**

**o.O., 02.09.1920**

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Eschallon 11/9. 20.

2. 9. 20

Dear Professor Eiman

Your second letter has but added to my disappointment, though I clearly saw from the first that you had definitely committed yourself to a condemnation of the action of the Egypt Exploration Society, and that no explanations would bring you to view the matter in a different light.

What I am most concerned with at present is your attitude to myself. It is inconceivable that you should have expected me to share the views expressed in your first letter. Had you by any chance preserved the letters that I have written to you during the

past two years, I should have asked you  
to look through them and to see  
whether they contained a single reproach  
<sup>against</sup> directed <sup>against</sup> Germany or Germans. And  
yet, forsooth, you expect me to agree  
with you when you level the word  
Raub against countrymen of mine  
who were closely associated with  
myself! The word was without  
any justification whatsoever, and  
it is not astonishing that it  
led me to depart for me from  
my rule, and to point out to  
you the fact which everyone surely  
must instinctively realize, namely,  
that what you describe as Raub  
would necessarily be regarded by  
the average Frenchman or Englishman  
as an obvious compensatory  
act of justice. Even then I never  
identified myself with that average  
view, and the implication contained  
in your words Sie sehen es als  
selbstverständlich an is erroneous.

I refuse to express an opinion either one way or the other, and it seems to me that you are doing a signal disservice to the solidarity of our Science by provoking between us an ethical controversy on the merits or demerits of our respective countries.

I repeat, with the assurance born of a clear conscience, that in supporting the British demand for the El-Amarna site I believed that there was no possibility, whatever of an early resumption of German work in Egypt. Had I believed the contrary, I should not have supported the demand, for I have the greatest admiration for Bruchardt's work, which seems to me very nearly ideal scientifically. Further, your idea that I was tacitly criticizing the D. O. G. in my remarks with regard to publication is quite wide of the mark. The delay in producing an El-Amarna memoir was both explicable and justified.

In supporting my claim for the  
El-Amarna site I was convinced  
that this course was, under the  
circumstances, the best thing that  
I could do for our Science,  
and I was foolish enough to  
imagine that my credit stood so  
high with my German friends  
that they would take for granted  
and without question the decency  
of my motives.

It is a bitter experience to find  
an old friend so ready to believe  
the worst, and to be so utterly  
forgetful of repeated signs of loyalty  
and devotion. Indeed I should  
find your present attitude to me  
very difficult to forgive did I  
not know that your ~~present~~ view  
of things is largely coloured and  
distorted by the unhappy conditions  
prevailing in your land. Perhaps  
you will judge more fairly someday  
With best greetings, yours sincerely  
Alan Gardner