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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

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9, LANSDOWNE ROAD,

HOLLAND PARK, W. 11.

25 Sept. 20

Dear Professor Eрман

I only got back from France a few days ago, and found your letter awaiting me. It was so much more friendly and conciliatory in tone that I too, for my part, wish to forget all this unpleasant discussion and to return to the old relations with you.

It is very difficult to explain to you the whole situation, and I can merely assure you that under the circumstances no other course was open to me than that which I actually took. One very good reason that I had for not writing to you about the St. Amarna concern was that in dealing with it I was not acting as a

9. LANSOWNE ROAD

HOLLAND PARK W. 11

private individual but as Secretary of our society; and another reason was that it was so uncertain whether we should get the concession that I should have been sorry to kindle feelings which might possibly, after all, be without a cause.

In Paris I saw Lacan and every word he uttered confirmed me in my view that on no account would German work be permitted in Egypt for some years to come. I do not believe that the feeling that lies behind this policy is entirely a feeling of resentment. Certainly a potent factor in it is the consideration that the Egyptians themselves would certainly interpret concessions made to Germany at the present moment as a sign of weakness on the part of the

Entente. I am very anxious to print this out because you evidently think that the policy of the French and English is solely due to a desire to treat the Germans as pariahs. I am convinced that that is not the case. All kinds of psychological factors have to be considered, and I know numbers of Englishmen who would be delighted if only good relations could now be restored between Germans and ourselves.

As for myself, I merely expect that if there ever was anyone who deserved your confidence it is I; and really I expect to be trusted. If circumstances compel me to be associated with people who act, or seem to act, in an anti-German sense (as a matter of fact I do not regard our action with respect to El-Amarna as hostile) I must simply say that I am not more responsible for the present world-situation than you are, and that I cannot be blamed for it. In my own household
respect

my butler is a German, my secretary is
a German, next week I am expecting
a German guest to stay with me.
Why all this? Simply because I
cannot forget all the kindness and
happiness I enjoyed while I was
in Germany.

I can understand that you are
bitter and depressed. But perhaps
happier days are coming even for
you. There is still goodwill in
the world, I see it everywhere,
only everyone is suffering, even here,
and it is but human for people
to think of themselves first.

Please give my kind regards and
good wishes to Frau Professor and
believe me

Yours ever

Alan H Gardiner