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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

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Ångholm, Ekenäs
Finland
9, LANSDOWNE ROAD,
HOLLAND PARK, W.11.

15. viii. 21

Dear Professor Eiman

I cannot tell you how great a pleasure your letter gave me and how much I treasure and appreciate its friendly words. To me the two days spent in Berlin had been really a kind of ~~IS~~ ~~NI~~ ~~S~~ ~~III~~, a kind of renaissance, just as the war was to me in a way the frustration of all my aims and ideals—the end of that international cooperation in small things which I had long hoped might be the beginning of an international cooperation in all spheres of life. That you should have felt something of the same kind gives me hope for the future, and a renewed zest for work; indeed I have

been writing my grammar so enthusiastically,
since your letter arrived that I am
even inclined to make that letter
itself responsible for my long delay
in answering it!

How I wish that your suggestion
as to my returning to work on
the dictionary could be realized! I
have thought over the idea again and
again, and shall certainly keep it in
the foreground of my thoughts. But
as you can imagine there are many
difficulties — the education of my
children, the transference of the
editorship of the Journal and large
financial responsibilities, not to speak
of the difficulty of going far away
from my old Father, who as a widower

rather depends upon our society. In spite of all these things it is perhaps possible that I might spend several months in two or three consecutive years in Berlin; I can think of nothing more enjoyable or more profitable to me personally than a renewed cooperation with my old friends.

I do not think it likely that I shall ever take a permanent post in England. I have been too free all my life to care much about tying myself to a regular post and a fixed place. The only post that tempts me is Petrie's, in case that should fall vacant. There I should indeed have an opportunity of organizing our science in England, and I do not know whether I should have the right to refuse this position if ever it were offered to me. As soon as I have finished my grammar I am seriously thinking of embarking on an edition of the

M. K. book of the Dead. Lacan will never give us this, and I have long had it in mind that a few of us, Gunn, myself and perhaps de Boek ought to copy the Cairo coffins before they perish completely, as I believe they are doing. This of course would be a long task. What a fatality it is, how disastrous for the science, that Germans cannot be working in Egypt still. But I foresee that even if politically that became possible, financial difficulties would be a very serious obstacle. I mention all this in order that you may realize that the exclusion of Germany from work in Egypt throws a very serious responsibility on those Egyptologists who are not Germans, and it may be that my duty will call me to Egypt rather than to Berlin. Still, in theory at least I repeat that nothing would please me more than to work upon the Dictionary once again and I am most grateful to you for proposing it.

Here in Ängholm we have had poor weather until ten days ago, but none the less we have enjoyed ourselves immensely. It is a real island of the Blest, so peaceful and so picturesque that it is an almost ideal summer resort after the strenuous life of a great city. I have enquired carefully about the cat but have to abate my assertion as to distance. The distance across which we saw the cat swimming was not more than 500 or 600 meters. How the cat knew of its possible mate over yonder I cannot elicit. A cousin of my wife - a pretty accurate witness I should think - told me that in the neighbourhood of Helsingfors one cat that he knew of used to swim to a neighbouring island $\frac{3}{4}$ kilometer away regularly twice a day. We were

rowing between some islands that are close to one another the other day when a ripper came swimming along within two or three meters of the boat; I could have struck it with my oar had I chosen.

I am returning to Germany before the rest of our party in order to visit Sethe, and arrive in Berlin on Sept. 1. On the 2nd. I shall come up to the Museum and should like to work a little in the Dictionary rooms if I may. There are a number of points I should like to look up, if I may. I expect to be in Berlin for four or five days at least, and shall of course come out to call upon you, if you will let me. It was such a happiness for me to be among you all again. Very best greetings from Heddie and myself to all of you, and a kiss to my Peterkin. Yours very sincerely

Alan H. Gardner