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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.

4 Dec. 21

Dear Professor Erman

Since I spent that happy afternoon with you in Dahlen I have not written to you, and I should feel thoroughly ashamed of myself if I had not an excuse in the great mass of correspondence with which I have to deal. At all events I feel sure you will pardon me, and understand. But now, at all events, I can delay no longer, for the Handwörterbuch lies on my table as a constant reminder of the debt unfulfilled. I am most grateful to you and Gropius for the splendid gift, and

I cannot say how much I admire
the drive and idealism which has
enabled you, despite all material
difficulties and obstacles, to present
us with one more indispensable
and epoch-making book. It will
live close to my hand as I write,
and become, together with your
grammar and Sethe's *Verbum*, my
principal and perennial source of
mental nourishment. Its clearness
and handiness are not the smallest
virtues which the book possesses.
Gunn is in Egypt, but he will
be delighted that you have
presented him with a copy.

In my own part, I am completely absorbed in my grammar. If only the result is in some small degree commensurate with the trouble it is costing me!

A few days ago I sent off to Grapow a notebook containing my transcriptions of Petrie's ostraca for use in the Wörterbuch, and at the same time I made a suggestion which you might like to consider. If it were possible to have 80 copies of each Zettel made at a price which would be trifling with our Valuta, I should be very pleased to pay, not only for my own 40, but also for the Wörterbuch 40. You see, in the final publication I hope to give a glossary as Griffith does in his Rylands papyri, and the best basis would be a complete Verzeichnis

as was usual formerly in the Wörterbuch.

I would ask you to store my slips until I could find time to use them. I have a number of notebooks which could be utilized in this way.

Breasted, Lacau and I have definitely arranged to collaborate on a Middle Kingdom Book of the Dead, and we hope that the work will begin in October 1922. Until then I shall have plenty to occupy me even without the Journal, of which Griffith has temporarily taken over the editorship.

Heddie and I have sent off a little Xmas offering to you and Fran Professor, and another to Schaal. All good wishes to you and the entire family, and thanks once again for the Handwörterbuch — a really great treasure. Yours very sincerely
Alan H. Gardiner