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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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Hôtel Igica

Palermo

14 April 22

Dear Professor Egan -

You will have had all my non-Egyptological news from Frau Professor, I wrote from here about a fortnight ago. There still remains to be said, how that since then we have made the most wonderful and delightful tours to Segesta, Gergenti, Syracuse and Taormina. A more delightful or instructive holiday than to Sicily could hardly be made. It has quite revived my classical memories, in a very small way - so far as a much depleted purse could afford it - I began to collect coins again. One tetradrachm of Lentini, very well preserved of an unusual type, is the crown among my acquisitions. We start north tomorrow and this day week I expect to be in Vienna - since my sister-in-law said she would not pardon me if I went abroad again without paying a visit to her home and to my various Austrian relatives and connections.

By May 1st I hope to be back in London full of zest and energy for a three-months' spell of work. I look forward to finding in my library on my arrival your article on the Young-Champollion controversy. I suspect that throughout Champollion was the initiator and discoverer, but I have always felt a pang of regret that he had not the generosity - and the practical wisdom - to make the most, rather than the least, of the merits of his rival.

You will, I think, be very much interested by Gunn's book "Studies in Egyptian Grammar" which ought to appear in the autumn. Gunn is a very brilliant, though occasionally and often, in my opinion, wrong-headed, scholar. There are a number of very fine discoveries in his book, besides other things of less value. His new relation of the form is in my opinion quite certain, though I do not agree as to its derivation. It was a great pleasure to me to learn that you liked the form and method of my recent article. The more I go on, the more I desire to look at Egyptian facts broadly and in comparison with the facts of other languages. In a few days I shall send you a wholly un-Egyptological article on "The definition of the word and the sentence." The more I study Grammar the more anxious I become to understand what all these mysterious things, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs etc. really are. We talk glibly about them, but hardly any philologist that I know could define any of them in a satisfactory way. I believe that a great deal could be done in this direction without importing into the facts a doctrinaire rigidity which they will not bear.

I have not heard from Grapow since I sent him the £5 for the *Verzettelung* of the Petrie Ostraca. When that note-book has been exhausted for the purposes of the dictionary I hope it will at once be returned to me by registered post; after that I will send you another note-book.

Before September I hope to find time to come to Berlin at least for a few days but my plans for this summer are still very uncertain. Heddie wants to go to Finland, but after this holiday I myself shall be very busy making for the next months at least before I can reconcile it with my conscience to go abroad.

With very best greetings to Frau Professor and yourself and to any other members of the family who may be available

Very sincerely yours
Alan H Gardiner

