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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 July 24

Dear Professor Eiman

I was greatly pleased to receive the generous offer of collaboration which you and Gropius have made me; I was indeed certain that after our long association you would be ready to meet me half-way. In the meantime, however, I too have been thinking how best I could reconcile the interests of English-speaking students with your quite reasonable fear that, among people ignorant of the exact position of affairs, the existence of two Egyptian dictionaries might seriously damage your sales. I have now reached

The dictionary-question has filled my mind so completely while writing this letter that I have forgotten to say how deeply interested I was in your article about Proverbs. I do not see how we can escape the conclusion that the Egyptian book served as basis to the chapters in question.

a decision which I think will be satisfactory to all concerned. I am not going to make a hand-dictionary at all. What I propose to do is this. I shall entitle my work Introduction to the Study of Middle Egyptian. It will be in two volumes. Volume 1. will be Egyptian Grammar, volume 2 will be an Egyptian Reading Book with list of signs and vocabularies. In my reading book I shall include complete texts of Sinuhe, the Eloquent Peasant, the Shipwrecked Sailor, the Kahun papyrus and a number of standard smaller texts. My vocabulary will contain references to these and also all words which occur in the body or in the exercises of my Grammar. By this means I

think I shall secure the nucleus of a Middle Kingdom vocabulary such as would be truly useful to English-speaking beginners without competing in any way with your Dictionary. If I can be of any service whatsoever in connection with the latter, of course I shall be delighted; and I know from long experience that you and Grapow will similarly help me in my enterprise if I need references or the like.

My new plan of campaign has the further advantage that it will provide handy texts of several old Egyptian books to which one is always wanting to refer. I dare say you yourself have experienced the inconvenience of always having to get out the folios whenever you wish to consult a passage in *Sinuhe* or *The Peasant* or the

Do please let me have a word of approval soon. Very sincerely yours Allen H. Gardiner

Shipwrecked Sails. For this reason I hope my book will be a convenient work of reference as well as a useful book for beginners.

Now that I have made my change of plan, which I think meets all objections you could possibly feel, will you please give my enterprise your blessing! I should hate to start on any work which had not your wholehearted approval.

The one-volume Dictionary which you and Giesbro are making will, as I see from the sample, be a most important and valuable work. So far away from Berlin, of course, the references which are to follow are the main thing. But in the meantime such a conspectus of the uses of Egyptian words will be most important.

I see you are, or have been, staying at Pforta. If you are still there give Annemarie and Vochen and Dr. Schall my very best greetings. If I were not so overburdened with work and letters I would write to them.