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## **Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen**

**DFG-Projekt "Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses des  
Ägyptologen Adolf Erman (1854-1937)"**

### **Brief von Alan Henderson Gardiner an Adolf Erman**

**Gardiner, Alan Henderson**

**London, 20.02.1931**

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TEL. PARK 5109.

9, LANSDOWNE ROAD,

HOLLAND PARK, W.11.

20 Feb. 31

Dear Professor Eiman

It was kind and considerate of you to write to me a personal letter about the difficulties in connection with the printing of the volume of references of the Wörterbuch. My reaction was naturally one of great disappointment, since I know both from my own personal experience and also from the expressions of many colleagues, English, French, and American, that the Wb. is of little use to them, without the references which can alone help them in their scientific work. Still, I made up my mind to wait and learn the explanation before replying to your letter. Now that

I have received your circular, I cannot do otherwise than acquiesce in and approve your decision. It is clear that you cannot devote the Rockefeller funds to a purpose for which they were not given, and if there is no other source in view, we must just accept the inevitable. A few years ago I might possibly have been able to make a personal contribution, but business in England is going from bad to worse, and the burden of taxation is now terrible. There is nothing, I fear, to be hoped from this quarter. It is most disappointing that the great work, the absence of which we have felt for so many years, should be deprived

of so large a part of its value for students by the inability to publish the references. But I hope still for a deus ex machina!

I wish I could tell you that my book on the Ch. Beatty papyrus were on the point of appearing. As you know, I had written a long philological commentary. It turned out, however, that Mrs. Ch. B. was not willing to publish this without a long delay, so that my book has had to be completely remodelled. The text will contain only a general account of the papyrus as a whole, translations, introductions, and sachliche Bemerkungen (in the case of the love-songs a few philological notes as well, but not much). The proofs are practically out of my hands already, and the book might to be distributed in April but not before. When it does appear I shall feel much honoured and pleased if you will consent to

review it. The subject-matter at all events is of absolutely first-rate importance. - Meanwhile there is no reason whatsoever why you should not quote the text as much as you like, and for that matter, the second story as well, which I hope to publish very soon, as I will now explain.

It has long been an ambition of mine to publish the texts of all late-Egyptian stories and fragments of stories in one volume, and the Lange-Capart scheme has now given me the opportunity. I hope to have a large fascicule ready by the Leiden *Orientalistische Rundschau*, consisting of the Doomed Prince, the Two Brothers, the Blinding of Truth, and possibly whole or part of the Horus and Seth story.

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The great advantage of this book is that it will be very cheap. I am revising the texts with minute care, and have discovered a number of new and certain readings both in Pap. Harris 500 and in the d'Orbigny. The autographing proceeds apace.

Properly speaking, I ought to go to Moscow to collate Wenamün once again, but the results to be gained thence would doubtless be small after your collation for the *Wb*. I have both the *Zettel* which I made from that collation, and also some excellent photos which Golénischeff gave me. I should

be most grateful if I might  
use your collation for my  
book. The fragments of the  
Antique paper are being  
sent to me from New York,  
and I am hoping that  
Itchen may at least determine  
their relation to one another,  
but I cannot hope to  
re-establish much more of the  
sense that you have done in  
your literature.

With kindest regards and  
greetings to Fran Proferris  
and Henri  
Very sincerely yours  
Alan Harding

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