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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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Grand Hôtel & Royal - Siena

Proprietario G. de Raho dei Baroni di Cassineto

Cavaliere Maurizioano

Telegrammi: Royal

Telefono N. 9

Siena 10th. March 31

Dear Professor Eiman

Your most kind letter, and the collation of Wenamūn which accompanied it, reached me just on the eve of my departure for Italy. I had just recovered from a tiresome though not severe attack of influenza, and as Margaret was overworked and in need of a change it seemed appropriate that we should take a fortnight's holiday together. So here we are in Siena, which we find even more fascinating than Florence. Yesterday it looked glorious in the sunshine, but today we have reverted to the clouds which, as I hear, have been the rule for the last month and more.

But to return to your letter. I am so grateful for the loan of the collation

of Wenamūn. It will be most valuable to me, but I hope I may keep it for a month or two, as I shall not reach that tale until then. I have autographed the Doomed Prince and about 2/3 of the Two Brothers, and hope to continue with the Blinding of Truth and the Horus and Seth as third and fourth items. Then will come Wenamūn, and after this the more fragmentary tales, all of which I have collated carefully with the originals. I doubt if I shall get to Wenamūn before June or July.

Your intention to inscribe my name on the flyleaf of your *Neuägyptische Grammatik* both pleased and flattered me very greatly. I doubt whether I have any title to such an honour beyond the fact that I shall unquestionably be one of the most assiduous readers of the book. How badly it is needed! One of

the great joy of our science is that we really can note a great progress as the years go by, and our knowledge of the language has changed almost toto caelo since you published your first edition. And at that time it was a real revolution in our knowledge. I shall be most interested to see how you treat the subject now. The ^{more} I study late-Egyptian the ^{more} I am perplexed by it, the orthography seems so wild. In a previous letter you said that in reading Ramenide texts, you had the impression of walking in a marsh where it was impossible to obtain a firm foothold. I feel exactly the same, but I do think that my method of comparing Middle Egyptian with Coptic, and assuming that late-Egyptian must somehow lie midway in the line between them, may now and again reveal the origin of late-Egyptian forms, as I found it to do in the case of ~~the~~ "until." I look forward to your book immensely, and let me repeat that to have the work dedicated to me by the

Allmeister of my studies is an honour
which I could never have believed
possible, and which I appreciate very
deeply indeed.

As I write, the sky grows more
overcast, and I am afraid it will
rain. If only the sun would shine,
we are so much in need of a
little sun after the bleakness of an
English winter, and there are so many
beautiful things here which need
the sun to show them to advantage.

I hope you are all well. Give
my very best greetings to Frau
Professn. Heddie would join in them
if she were here. I am inclined
to think we, or at all events I
myself, may be in Berlin in September
or October

Very sincerely yours
Alan H Gardner