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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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TEL. PARK 5109.

9, LANSDOWNE ROAD,

HOLLAND PARK, W.11.

22 Dec. 31

Dear Professor Eriuan




About one hour ago I finished autographing my late-Egyptian Stories, and am therefore able to devote a little time to my much belated correspondence. I have to thank you for two much-appreciated reviews of my Chester Beatty volume. They interested me greatly. Do not think me ungracious if I refer to the two

points in which you differ from
me. As regards the style
of translation, of course first
of all, de gustibus ---!

But secondly, I really do not
believe that these stories are
colloquial Late-Egyptian any
more than I believe that
my would-be Elizabethan
English is real Elizabethan
English. Wenamun shows
us what really colloquial
Late-Egyptian would look
like. In Wenamun there is
not a single hackneyed
formula. It seems to me that
the Egyptians love an artificial

style for their stories, and I have done no more than copy them.

As regards ~~the~~ ~~98~~ I am still sceptical. It is commoner in texts of Dyn ~~88~~ than has been noted, and in some hymns (Ch. Beatty IV) I find ~~the~~ ~~98~~ ~~||~~ ~~1~~ ~~2~~ ~~3~~, so that the action is probably actively said of the eye. My reasons for thinking that it is really 9mi are these. The vocabulary of the L.-E. stories is so limited that the authors seem deliberately to avoid new words. Also in some places, as the one where Seth goes before Re^c, "ashamed" is really quite out of place. Seth was never ashamed

only intensely annoyed at having
been tricked. It is like an
Egyptian to blubber out of
annoyance. And lastly, is it
not possible that the scribes
may have taken  as a
sign for rm? They always
wrote  for pwme, and
may easily have been at a
loss to account for  in
that word otherwise. But
perhaps you will think this
suggestion fantastic. I
admit I may be quite
wrong.

I was perfectly delighted
to note that the references
to the Wörterbuch are to be

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published in advance of the
fully written out quotations.
This will be a great boon
to us for whom the Dettelkoster
themselves are inaccessible.

It must be a very deep
satisfaction to you to
see the entire Wörtbuch
now printed and distributed.

Pon Annemarie wrote me
a charming letter some
weeks ago. I have been
too busy yet to reply.
I fear she has had a very

hard time, and that in addition to her not very robust health must be doubly trying.

I read with the utmost sympathy of the difficulties which you are having in Germany. Here things are difficult enough to worry a great many people, but of course the situation is nothing like as bad as in your country. I do hope that soon the consciences

and the brains of Europe and
America generally will awake
to the folly of reparations
and war-debts — and, for
that matter, also tariffs —
so that the healing process
may at last begin.

With every good wish to
Fran Professor and yourself
and to whomsoever of your
children is with you this

Truistide Sincerely yours

Alan H Gardiner
