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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.

16 . vii . 34

Dear Professor Eriuan

Little did I think that, when at last I sat down to write you a letter (the moment is long overdue), it would be to mourn the loss of our dear friend Kurt Sethe. He had often complained of his ill-health in recent letters, but I had no idea that the end was so near. This has indeed been the black year for Egyptology, Weigall, Dythgoe, Peet, Griffith, Hunt and now Sethe. It seems incredible that all should be gone. We younger men who have still health

and strength will have our work
cut out to maintain a high level
for Egyptology. We cannot of
course hope that it should ever
attain the golden age of Boman,
Sethe and Steindorff, but at
least I am ready to pledge
myself to an endeavour to
lead and stimulate a worthy
generation of Diadochi. And I
will not allow them to forget
the great names that went before,
as the younger generation is so prone
to do. — As you doubtless know, von
Gunn has succeeded in Oxford, and
the latest news is that Blackman
has secured the Professorship in
Liverpool. There is still a vacancy
in Cairo, which will not be easy to
fill. *Crum.*

Sethe has undoubtedly left a great deal of unfinished work, and as I recently wrote to Grapow I should be very pleased to provide financial assistance in order to publish some of it. I wonder, indeed, if I could not obtain other help as well. I remember, for example, that Sethe wished to publish a Heft of the *Urk. d. Gr.-Röm. Zeit* containing all the stelae of the priests of Memphis. He wondered whether I could help in collecting the stelae in the Brit. Mus. Now I have a young man (fairman) who writes hieroglyphs very well, and who is particularly interested in the Ptolemaic inscriptions. He might possibly do this for Hinrichs.

Sheker has come and gone. The Brunel papyrus is a marvel — dry no doubt in some ways, but containing (as I expect we shall find) a vast mass of geographical and administrative information. So far as I can see at first sight it reads the taxes

due from temples in all parts of
(Upper?) Egypt subsidiary to the
Estate of Amān. Since there are hardly
any dates I should imagine it
to be a statement of assessment
only — not a record of amounts actually
received. The names of many officials
are given. All the repeated formulae
are exceedingly cursive, so much so
that I doubt whether it will ever
be possible to read them. Cerny
will help me in the autumn. The
date appears to be about Ramesses V.

I have made it a principle (from
which I do not intend to deviate)
to express no opinion of political
matters in Germany while writing to
German friends; and the same holds
good of the consequences of political
matters. I therefore keep silence on
a matter about which I would gladly
have written to you.

I do trust that the coming months may
be brighter for you and yours than the
last have been. Yours ever sincerely
Alan Gardner