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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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Dear Professor Erman

It is some weeks since I heard from you, and all the while I have been intending to reply, but have been prevented by the amount of work I have on hand. Now, however, I must delay no longer, the more so since we have a common loss to mourn. To me poor Breasted's death has come as a terrible blow, and it is a very grievous loss to our science, as indeed to all archaeology. Where shall we find anyone with the same enthusiasm and the same organizing power — not to speak of his own admirable scientific achievement? To me it is doubly

grievous, since he has died just too early to witness the appearance of two large works of which, under him, I am the editor - the first volume of the Coffin Texts and Mrs. Davies' great work on Egyptian Paintings. Both will be out in the early spring.

I am glad to say my own work is progressing well, and I am only sad that you will be unable to see it with your own eyes. In the next Journal I have an interesting little papyrus on a lawsuit arising out of a slave-dealing transaction, and also an article on a papyrus in the stela of Piankhi. These will both, I think, interest you. I am also engaged in publishing the text and translation of the new papyrus

acquired by Capart from the royal collection
in Brussels and completing the Amheist
papyrus. We now have the entire
confession of the principal thief
concerned in the robbery of the tomb
of King Sebekemsaf, and although
interesting it is

I have written to you already
about the great Brooklyn revenue
papyrus. I have done no more
work on this at present, being
absorbed in other tasks. My own
next book will be the Late-Egyptian
Miscellanies, containing transcriptions
of all the Anastasi and Sallier
Schülerhandschriften, together with those
elsewhere, Turin, Bologna and Leyden.
I have an assistant who has written
out all these texts very neatly, and
they form a single volume with
140 pages of text, and an equal number
of pages of notes. In the introduction
I shall, with Oscher's help, try to
answer all those questions which you
wished me to investigate with regard
to format, verse-prints, etc. etc.

I have such an abundance of interesting material to deal with that I hardly know where to begin. I think that perhaps what would interest you most is two perfectly preserved papyri of the twentieth dynasty, both throwing great light on legal matters connected with marriage and inheritance. One is a perfectly preserved will of a Theban lady, who acknowledges that she has testamentary rights over only that third of the property of her husband and herself which she brought into the home at marriage. The other deals with the manumission of some slaves, and the adoption of a wife and by her of a younger brother in order that these may have their rights as lawful heirs secured. Lastly, my hieratic ostraca, on which Ceram is working with me. I have many hundreds of them, great and small. The most striking of all is the lower

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half of me which must have contained nine-tenths of the story of Senneke. What I possess is 46 centimetres in height, and the piece must originally have been at least 65 cm. high. There are many interesting variants and new readings. You will easily understand that among my ostraca there are plenty which are dull and uninteresting. But cumulatively they are extraordinarily instructive, and when at last Ceram's book and mine appears, we shall indeed know a great deal about the Theban necropolis.

Well, I must not burden you with too long a letter. I

wish we were able to think of
you in greater prosperity and
happiness in your old age. My
Father, at 92, keeps wonderfully fit
and well, and Heddie and the
children are also flourishing.
With kindest wishes to Frau
Profenn and yourself.

Yours ever sincerely

Alan Hardie
