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

Brief von Alan Henderson Gardiner an Käthe Erman

Gardiner, Alan Henderson

o. O., 07.04.1937

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GRAND HÔTEL
FLORENCE

7th. April, 37

Dear Frau Professor

It was only today that I received, forwarded by devious stages from London, the letter containing your sad news. Both Heddie and I were most deeply affected. One by one our old friends fade away, and Egyptology has lost all its great ones. By this time I fear he too will have departed, and my only hope is that the end will be painless and peaceful. All our sympathy goes out to you, who will have to face solitude now. But yours is such a resolute and understanding nature that I cannot in my mind imagine you defeated by any misfortune. I pray that you may even yet, when time has passed over your loss, know bright and happy days. But perhaps I should not even think of them now.

What a wonderful life of achievement his was, and what advances he made in our Science! Some of my proudest moments have been to receive his praise, and to know that he thought well of my efforts. In return for all I learnt

and received from him, I am glad that I was able to make some return by helping to elect him an Honorary Fellow of the Academy, and also by dedicating to him the latest of my books. But anything I was able to do was so wholly inadequate to repay my debt.

It is possible, after all, that this letter may come in time, and in that case, could you not find a way, discreetly and without letting him know how near he is to the end, convey to him my warmest, warmest greetings, and say how profound my admiration and gratitude are? But alas, I do not know whether this can possibly arrive before he, as his old Egyptians would have put it, "is walking upon the beautiful paths upon which the blessed ones walk."

Heddie will write to you very soon, I am sure. It was so thoughtful and kind of you to write to me at once — almost as though I were one of the family. Again assuring you of my deepest sympathy I am ever yours affectionately

Alan H Gardiner