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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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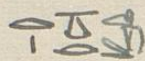
Dear Professor Eрман

It is only a few days ago that I sent a picture-postcard to Frau Professor from Cordova, otherwise I must confess to having been very reminiscient in writing to you and to members of your family. This is our last day in Madrid, and to celebrate the end of a most wonderful, if very short, tour in Spain we are appropriately motoring to Aranjuez in the afternoon! Tomorrow morning will find us on the homeward journey.

Yes, all through this winter my sole occupation (with the exception of one or two articles, like that for A2) has been the

printing of my Grammar. I think you know that I have had a special front of type made for the purpose. Indeed two fronts - for most signs are available both in 3-line non-pareil and in pica size, apart from the smaller forms required to supplement these. I quote so many examples that it would, I believe, have made the book of unbearable size if I had tried to print it in the Theinhardt characters, but I am afraid that you may find the small hieroglyphs trying to your eyes, clear though they are and in spite of the fact that the blank spaces of which you complain are absent from my printed pages. I have about 150 pages already set up, but this is only one third of the book. There is even more theory in my book than in Gunn's, but I hope it is sounder theory. In my opinion Gunn, though immensely stimulating and in some points really illuminating (e.g. \bar{e} and \bar{a} as the negation of e and a)

under the serious delusion that the Egyptians had special means of expressing all the nuances which we are able to express, in other words that he consciously understood

(e.g.) n sdm.n.f in  read ~~as~~ as "he can not speak." To me this seems absurd: it is quite true that n mdw.n.f may be translated in English as "he cannot speak" and that similar cases often occur, but I do not believe that the Egyptian ever had any sense of disability, impossibility while saying or writing n sdm.n.f. To discover exactly what range of ideas was covered by n sdm.n.f from the Egyptian point of view, hic labor, hoc opus est.

I am very glad you are going to review Gunn's book, and hope you will be kind enough to send me a copy of the review. As to my own book, I most earnestly hope it will commend itself to you. Of course I cannot expect, or even desire, that you will at once accept all its views, but even if my theories are wrong I am sure

they will prove useful as a stimulus to thought; and I have got together a great body of references which might be useful to students.

The article which I wrote for your Zeitschrift volume deals with the autobiography of Bekkmer. It is a publication of my copy of the long and difficult inscription published by Newberry plates VII-VIII of his volume. The text is full of holes and of difficult words, but is very unusual. I have only resettled about half of it. The rest remains to be done. I have also dedicated to you a short article in the Journal dealing with the $4 \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{11}$ of Weston; I hope to send you copies of this before long.

I can't remember Blackman's address, but if you write to him c/o Griffith the letter will be forwarded. They live quite close to me another.

I am absolutely delighted to hear that the finances of the Berlin Dictionary are now on a good footing.
Kindest regards and good wishes to the entire family Erman
Yours very sincerely
Alan Gardner