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

Brief von Francis LI. Griffith an Adolf Erman

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Ashton-under-Lyne, 25.03.1901

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Beantw
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RIVERSVALE,

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

25. III 1901

Dear Friend,

I was very sorry to hear what a sad and anxious time you had last month. I hope that now your anxieties are over and that you yourself are quite recovered. I wonder if there is any chance of your coming to England and visiting us this summer. The Oxford appointment is made, and I shall go to reside there in October. My wife is very much tied here by attendance on her father; but I hope she will be able to spend more time in Oxford than she has been able to give to London. At Oxford I just saw A. H. Gardiner who means to spend much time at Berlin after the summer, when he will take his degree ^{at Oxford} and marry. I do not know what field for teaching I shall find at

Oxford. The students will not want much
Egyptology, and when they have taken their
degrees, if they wish to pursue the subject, will
go to you, if they are wise; but there will remain
~~be~~ some who cannot go to Berlin and others
wanting to know some principles and results
without specialising. I have to give at least
3 hours a week to lecturing and teaching.

The London class was beginning to make itself
useful, and I hope that ^{even} if Grim will
not continue it, Walker and the others
will keep it alive. I will tell you about my
domestic aims — Owing to the great differences,
paleographic and linguistic, amongst the
texts, we want a thorough edition of each
long text with grammatical sketch and
full glossary. My Khannas stories will soon
be complete: Thompson is at work on the
"Gnostic" texts, and Walker, if he is not
fully occupied with the Dictionary and
with teaching, will probably do the Rhind
Bilinguals. Spiegelberg I believe intends to
work on somewhat similar lines. He talks of
a domestic dictionary, but that seems to
me at present impossible to realise until
the great texts have been edited. The cost

elaborate
of autographed glossaries should not be more
than £25 to £30 apiece which means
charging about 10 shillings at most for
a copy. The publication of each as soon as
it is ready will be a great help to the
workers, and to compile a ^{grammar and} dictionary
ultimately from such glossaries and from
the smaller texts will be an easy matter.
I hope that Spiegelberg will join in fully
on these lines; possibly also Boesen
might do so; I hear that he is working
hard at demotic. Krall has probably
too much other work to do, and that is
certainly the case with all your people.

I am wondering whether you contemplate
anything of this kind in regard to hieroglyphic,
i.e. the issue of elaborate glossaries or
indices of certain great texts - pyramid
texts - middle kingdom stelae - XVIIIth
dyn. inscriptions etc. The Dictionary itself,
as an exhaustive publication, seems so far
off: such indices would be good exercises for
the final work, besides their extreme value for present
needs. The Book of the Dead especially seems to

require elaborate editing - far more than any
domestic text! - ^{as a monograph,} before it can be made use of
scientifically for the dictionary. No doubt you
have thought of all these things before, and
experience too often shows that things that are
desirable are impossible; but I hope that
you will, as usual, triumph over difficulties
and give us more - much more - than we
feel entitled to expect.

You have heard of Petrie's great success
jewellery of the first dynasty besides
the expected harvest of scrappy inscriptions.
I hope Abnash has yielded well this
year.

My sister at Ridgmount Gardens
asked ~~me~~ to ~~be~~ remembered
kindly to Frau Erman.

Ever yours

F. U. Griffiths.