Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

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

Brief von Francis Ll. Griffith an Adolf Erman

Griffith, Francis Ll.

Oxford, 14.11.1902

Pleasant
25/11

Old Headington
nr Oxford.
14.XI.02

Dear Friend,

I have heard rumours of Legge's paper but have not yet seen it. Presumably it will come with the next Proceedings.

Legge is a well-meaning man, interested in Egyptology, who reviews Egyptian books in many papers. His knowledge I imagine is almost nil; unfortunately he is not aware of this. He has no influence I imagine on real Egyptologists or on the rising generation for instance in Oxford, but it would be well to gently set him right in some of his misstatements. Perhaps I may see him one day and drive home any remarks

You may make to him in reply to the pamphlet. Would you write a short reply to be printed in the PSBA? ~~or in the Athenaeum?~~ ~~Tragge~~ himself is hardly worth powder and shot, but he represents the feeling of a good many amateurs and semi-Egyptologists. For such your grammar is too difficult unless carefully taught, and they have no patience for serious study. Still they are useful as subscribing, buying books and occasionally making some useful discovery in archaeology. The idea that "Berlin", and I myself, write ~~Rameses and~~ all proper names without vowels ~~the like~~ in writing for the public ~~has~~ taken a firm hold on ~~them~~ some of them so that

they are quite blind to facts. Perhaps they require a formal denial in printer's ink to cure them. Really it does not seem to me that it matters what they think. Hall of the British Museum by the way has just written me him, in a letter to me, and I believe he fully accepts your system. As long as the rising scientific generation receives the truth we need not trouble about the remainder. It is strange to see how completely France is unaffected by your work — sublimely indifferent! Perhaps however there is really some change going on even there.

Yours always

F. Ll. Griffith