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

**Brief von Battiscombe Gunn an Adolf Erman an British  
Museum / Department of Egyptian Antiquities (London)**

**Gunn, Battiscombe**

**Saqqara, El Badrashein, 06.12.1925**

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6. Dec., 1925.

Department of Antiquities,  
Saqqara, El Badrashein,  
Upper Egypt.

Dear Professor Erman,


I am most grateful to you and to Dr Lange for sending me a copy of your most interesting book Papyrus Lansing. I am very pleased to possess it, and have read it through carefully. In doing so, a few points came into my head which I allow myself to communicate to you:-

P. 17, bottom. Surely with all manuscripts the red points were put in "erst beim durchlesen". It would have given an unnecessary amount of trouble to lay down the black-ink pen, and to take up the red-ink one, at the end of every phrase!

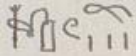
Same page, top. I question whether we have the right to say that the fruit b-n is "eine nicht existierende", because it replaces b-d and because we do not know of the word elsewhere. I feel that textual corruptions should not be dismissed as devoid of lexical or syntactic value, merely because they are corruptions; and that <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ scribe, when he did not understand his Vorlage, usually tried to preserve some sense in what he wrote down.

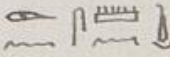
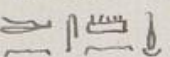
P. 32, Vorbemerkung. I feel very strongly that (as I mentioned in my Studies, p. X) hieroglyphic transcriptions of

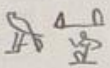





hieratic texts should follow the disposition of signs of the original as closely as possible, without any regard to the aesthetic qualities of the result! I think that the effort to make a transcription from hieratic resemble the appearance of a hieroglyphic inscription is unnecessary, and even misleading, and that a more faithful reproduction inspires greater confidence in the reader; and I must confess that I feel  in a transcription to be an Unding!

P. 33 (1/2). "Follower" is the meaning of im<sup>2</sup>-ht rather than "Genosse", surely?

P. 35 (2/1). I should have thought that  would be "writings" rather than the verb "to write", and that the passage meant "let writings be in your fingers all day"; but I do not know an Egyptian would say m db<sup>c</sup>w-k instead of m art-k in such a case.

P. 37 (2/4). It seems probable that  is an error for .

P. 46 (3/4). Is not  instrumental here? "(Though) you are compelled by me to listen, you neglect my teachings".

P. 50 (3/10). I would read: "I say to you all day: writing, what is it like? (sw m<sup>1</sup> ih) .... your leart". The  under  perhaps misread from .

P. 57 (5/3-4). R dd n-f binw, perhaps "to say bad (i.e., angry) things to him".

P. 59 (5/7). Hrw, with its primary meaning of "away from" possibly means here "andererseits", rather than "nur".

P. 60 (5/7). "Auch dieses ein harter Beruf". If this



is the meaning I should expect t<sup>3</sup>j ktj m i<sup>3</sup>t n<sup>h</sup>tt; but this is a small point.

P. 60 (5/9). In sw h<sup>c</sup> hr s<sup>h</sup>wt.f we have the idiom h<sup>c</sup> hr "to attend to" which ~~ix~~ first pointed out, I believe, by Golénischeff in his Conte du Naufragé (Bibl. d'Etude), and which occurs quite frequently. Similarly, perhaps, in 5/3.

P. 65 (6/8). Here h<sup>c</sup> hr <sup>again</sup> (hr omitted as in h<sup>3</sup>c <hr> i<sup>3</sup>wt<sup>n</sup> in the same line): "He spends a period of 8 (hours?) attending to the cultivation".

P. 67 (7/1). Mini<sup>3</sup>, pseudoparticiples, is surely past: "has landed" rather than present: "lands". The expression mini<sup>3</sup> hr mryt is perhaps only figurative, meaning that the scribe is in a secure or comfortable situation.

P. 70 (7/5-6). Perhaps "you should take warning by the (condition of the) peasant; you are not too learned to do so". Swd<sup>3</sup> ib meaning "to give news" may be used here reflexively in the sense of "learn, take warning". R in the next phrase, bn iw.k r<sup>n</sup>(t<sup>3</sup>) r i<sup>3</sup>rt.f, may well be preponderative "too wise"; or is it merely abusive and should we read "you cannot do it" ?

P. 76. (8/4-5). Idj.k w<sup>3</sup>t r p<sup>3</sup> <sup>3</sup>bw, surely, as we say in English, "you give way to dancing", i.e., you give yourself up to it.

P. 80 (9/1). W<sup>3</sup>ntw for w<sup>3</sup>nt(i) pseudoparticiples? if so, surely "indem du frei bist" rather than "wenn du schreitest".

P. 8<sup>3</sup> and foll. I do not understand why you translate w<sup>c</sup>w by "Offizier". Surely, Calice's article (ÄZ 52, 116 foll.) had established that the real meaning is "common soldier"; and the description of the w<sup>c</sup>w's life given in the Lansing Papyrus



seems to me to give the most decisive confirmation of this.

P. 91 (10/6). "Er stirbt bevor er sie erreicht hat". I have not got the facsimile of the papyrus here, but the dot over the m is ~~surely~~ doubtless a  $\overset{\cdot}{m}$ , and even if this is not so, there can be no doubt that the original text had  $\text{Je } \overset{\cdot}{\Delta} \overset{\cdot}{\epsilon} \text{ } \ddagger \epsilon$ .

P. 92 (10/7). Can  $\overset{\cdot}{\Delta} \overset{\cdot}{\epsilon} \overset{\cdot}{\Delta} \overset{\cdot}{\epsilon}$  be a miswriting of  $\overset{\cdot}{\epsilon} \overset{\cdot}{\Delta} \overset{\cdot}{\epsilon}$  "the deserters" ?

P. 95 (10/9).  $\overset{\cdot}{\text{Sd}} \cdot k$  for  $\overset{\cdot}{\text{sd}} \cdot \text{tw} \cdot k$  by assimilation ?

P. 96 (11/1). "Another communication to my Master" ?

P. 108 (12/5). It seems easiest to take mini here as pseudoparticple: ~~are moored~~ "are moored".

P. 111 (12/7). M tnw nb perhaps "in every kind" (tnw = "kind" as in Piankhy/110).

P. 127 (to 14/7). "Viele Mannschaften" or "eine zahlreiche Mannschaft" ?

Please do not trouble to answer this letter if you are too busy; it is a very long one.

With best greetings, and <sup>a</sup>again thanks, I am

Yours sincerely,

Bathiscombe Gunn

