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

**Brief von Arthur Edward Pearse Brome Weigall an Adolf
Erman**

Weigall, Arthur Edward Pearse Brome

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Langdale House
Park Town.
Oxford

Jan 7. 52

My dear Prof. Erman.

Thank you so very much for your letter, and for the books which you so kindly sent me, and which I shall read with the greatest interest.

I wonder whether you have a copy of my "Guide to the Antiquities of Upper Egypt." If not, I will send you one with pleasure, for I see four or five spare copies on my book-shelf before me. All my other books are of a more popular kind, and will hardly be of use to you, except perhaps my fat "Life and Times of Cleopatra," but I don't know whether I can get hold of a copy of that.

Thank you for sending my request on to Schaefer. Please give him my kind regards.

As a matter of fact I did have the honour of meeting you once, but you would hardly be likely to remember it. It was in 1900, when I was still a boy, and I think some German friends introduced me to you

I remember you gave me some helpful advice!

Davies has gone to Egypt with his wife, and is at Luxor; but if there is no hurry I can keep anything here and give it to him on his return. I think his house here is let.

It is funny how differently the war affected Egyptologists. Davies was a very violent patriot, and breathed fire and smoke from his nostrils all the time, and therefore regarded me, I think, as rather a weakling, because my fire was not so red nor my smoke so dense. As a matter of fact I wrote some rather violent articles in our London journals at the beginning of the war; but I became more sober later!

Gardiner, throughout, lived on a very lofty plane of thought, and kept repeating that he had no country & no fellow countrymen except those who saw life from his point of view. At first even I was shocked by his attitude, and he seemed to breathe

not smoke and fire but milk and sodawater.
But on the whole he was right, and he
remains one of my best friends. Hunt
(of "Greenfell and Hunt" fame) dropped all
his Greek papyri and rushed into the
army. He was a fine type of exalted
and self-sacrificing soldier, doing what he
believed to be his duty. Griffith, as always,
was non-committal. Petrie, I believe, was
wildly savage, and rather reminded me of
Fritz von Bissing, who, at the beginning of
the war, wrote to us in Oxford trying to
make us shake in our shoes by telling
us that England was to be utterly destroyed,
& Oxford razed to the ground, and advising
us all to fly for our ~~lives~~ lives, as he
and his friends were going to slaughter
man, woman, and child, or words to that
effect! I do trust he has recovered
by now, as he was always so very kind to
me at Munich and in Egypt.

Ah well! - it is all over now, thank

God! Men will always rush to defend their homes, and I think that we are now all beginning to see that each country honestly thought itself to be on the defensive.

But I have no right to be wasting your time in this manner; and I dare say it shows some bad taste on my part to be able thus to smile in this superior way! But I think all of us want to smile, if only so that we shall not weep.

Yours very sincerely

Arthur Weigall

