



Staats- und
Universitätsbibliothek
Bremen



Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

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

Brief von Caroline Ransom Williams an Adolf Erman

Williams, Caroline Ransom

Toledo, 04.12.1934

Nachweis dieses Dokuments im [Kalliope-Verbund](#)

[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-110664](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-110664)

602 Tennyson Place
Toledo, Ohio
December 4, 1934

Dear Friends:-

The Christmas season is here once more, and my husband and I wish to express to you our affection and good wishes. As bearers of them, we are sending two books of which I will say a word presently and also the inclosed little money order for you to use for something we could not think to get for you. You will have to be in a way your own "Santa Claus," inasmuch as at this distance we know so little what would be most welcome to you. (A few years ago the sum we gave out here would have brought above RM 100, but now--alas for us--exchange is different!)

To return to the books, the one addressed to Frau Erman, "Stories of the Foot-Hills," is an old one, long out-of-print and obtainable only antiquariat. The review I pasted on the inside of the front cover is informing and perhaps you will read it before you dip into the book itself. The stories are partially in dialect and picture conditions on the Pacific coast which have altered materially since the book was written; yet the underlying problem of water peculiar to our western lands continues today.

The book addressed to Professor Erman is one of this year's near "best sellers" and depicts about the same period of the last century as the other, and as it seems in memory to one brought up on the Atlantic seaboard. The author of "The Age of Confidence" is editor of "The Saturday Review of Literature" and Professor in Yale University. I am not advanced enough to follow him and agree in all that he says, but I found much nevertheless to enjoy in his picture of a small Delaware town of the eighties and nineties and in his analysis of the then attitude to life in its various aspects.

Now I am not offering these books as worth any great effort on your part to read if you have much to do crowding you, but only as affording further glimpses of this country if you have leisure for them. Pass the books on to someone else should you find that they do not interest you.

It is, perhaps, fair to inclose to you today a newspaper cutting giving Tesla's opinion of Adamik. I have been told that the Adamik book has been banned in Jugoslavia, and that the author's relatives have been persecuted. Even if some prejudice enters into his picture of the late King Alexander, I do not see how any thinking person can deny that Alexander and his supporters failed to treat the Croatian and Slovenian minorities in a statesmanlike way; they should have been given the local autonomy and voice in the nation's affairs they were promised when they voluntarily combined with the Serbians to form Jugoslavia; further, the exploiting of the natural resources (timber, minerals) of the land for the benefit of the king and foreign interests was unjust, and the break-down of the health organization under Alexander's dictatorship was lamentable. But as much as anything, Adamik's racy, competent use of English interested me, in view of the fact that he first learned it as an adult.

I wrote briefly last week to acknowledge your valuable gift to me, the book on Egyptian religion, and having mailed the letter in the morning, the afternoon postman brought me your charming letter about the eightieth birthday and the pictures which I scan so eagerly and which bring you both very near to me. The legend on the picture at the church door called to my attention that you had celebrated your golden wedding on October 12th. I grieve that I took no notice of the great occasion. I might have known of it through Mein Werden and mein Wirken, where the date of your marriage is given, had I retained that passage in memory. And have you indeed three grandsons? I recall only hearing of Joachim, Annemarie's boy.

over page

I wonder if you followed the English royal marriage service recently? (It was plainly audible by radio in this country). However that may be, apropos of your own anniversary, I am inclosing to you the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the young royal couple. What he so earnestly commends to them is what you two have so truly practised all your days, and you have that reward of happiness that transcends all outward circumstances. Please accept also our belated congratulations with the assurance of the honor and admiration in which we hold you.

Ever faithfully yours,

Grant and Caroline Williams