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

Brief von Caroline Ransom Williams an Adolf Erman

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602 Tennyson Place
Toledo, Ohio
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My dear Friends:-

I have been silent altogether too long, especially in view of the fact that I have not yet acknowledged Frau Erman's charming and interesting gift-book Friedrich der Grosse. Potsdam. It came along about ten days after the letter saying you were sending it, and I do indeed value it, enjoying the pictures and all the memories they bring up. Thank you many, many times for your kindness.

The month of January has been a busy one here for me, with several unusual things going on. For instance we have had in this city an Exhibition of Persian art got together by one of the curators of the Toledo Museum. Incidental to the exhibition, Dr. Richard Ettinghausen, formerly of Kaiser Friedrich Museum, so I have been told, has been here. He impressed me pleasantly because of his modest bearing, and I suppose he must be scholarly since he was once connected with your great Berlin Musam, though I am incompetent to judge his scholarship being unversed in his field, the art of Moslem Persia. He has lately married a young American woman who was here with him, and we had the young couple to dinner. If I recall rightly Dr. Ettinghausen said he had oncelived in or near Dahlem, and that he has a brother now living in Oxford, England, and teachang German there. Do you happen to know him personally or by reputation? He and his bride have now returned to New York where they live.

Then in the Detroit Institute of Arts, there is a much more outstanding art-event in progress, a Loan Exhibition of some fifty paintings by Franz Hals, most of them from private collections. You probably know that Dr. Wilhelm Valentiner, a grandson of Richard Lepsius and authority on Dutch art, is Director of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Back in my day in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, before the World War, he was also there-as Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts. Things are looking up a bit with us that this Hals Exhibition could take place. For only recently Dr. Valentiner was away from Detroit on a payless year's leave of absence.

Thursday last in Toledo, the Oriental Institut^e's moving, talking picture "The Human Adventure," was shown and was seen and enjoyed by capacity houses. The inclosed publicity sheet will give you an impression of the way the film was put on here. In most places an admission has been charged to cover costs, but that is not the Toledo way. The public response was overwhelming, and the hall was crowded at each of the showings, beyond anything I have seen here in all the eighteen years I have again lived in Toledo.

Also in January there was a luncheon of the Foreign Policy Association when Louis Adamic was here; at that time he and a Dr. Josef L. Kunz, formerly of the University of Vienna as professor of International Law, so it is said here, debated publicly the question whether or not Jugoslavia will fall apart. Both said not, but their points of view were utterly different. Adamic was more winning in personality, but Dr. Kunz presumably comes from a more cultivated level of society in the Old World and is highly trained. At an earlier luncheon when he was the sole speaker, he gave what seemed to us a masterly, impartial presentation of the European situation with its status-quo and revisionist groups. He impresses some Toledoans, however, as arrogant and bad-mannered. I have only listened to him, never met him; *he is now on the faculty of our municipal "university."*

Then we have had a lecture in French recently by one Philippe Soupault said to be a leader among modern French writers. I do not keep up with such writings, but I regarded it as a treat to listen to an address in French; such an opportunity is a rare thing in this city, although there are enough teachers of varying degrees of ability trying to impart a knowledge of French to the young.

We have a great many symphony concerts throughout the winter season held in a beautiful and conveniently located hall of the art museum, one probably unexcelled in its acoustic properties. Yesterday we had as guest at Sunday dinner Mlle Charlotte Ruegger, a violinist, who was European born and bred. Her mother, so others have told me, belonged to one of the small reigning families of the old days and married beneath her rank a Swiss physician. Yesterday she observed a picture of Lake Geneva on our walls, one taken not far from the city of Geneva, and remarked "I was born there close by." She went early in life to Brussels to live where she had her musical education; she also studied with Joachim in Berlin. She is very much a woman of the world and a delightful, keen-witted companion, but leads too busy a professional life for me to see her often. With it all she is constantly doing good to others and is much beloved in the city.

All the foregoing will tell you of the varied things that have taken me away from Egyptian studies of late. I miss contact with others interested in ancient Egypt, not having been in New York since April, 1932. I have moments of thinking it ^{SP15} for me to try to do anything further in so exacting a field as Egyptology, but I hate to leave the Metropolitan Museum in the lurch on work begun for them long ago and shall try once more to concentrate on the task outstanding and see if I can keep clear of distractions until it is completed.

Thank you again for your gift and please take care of your precious selves.

Ever affectionately yours,

Caroline R. Williams

