

WILLIAM F. EDGERTON  
5600 DORCHESTER AVENUE  
CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

*ent. 28/Jan*

January 27, 1949

Dear Uncle George:

Thank you for your good letter of the 22nd with its much appreciated greetings. We are sorry to hear that Hilde was so much sicker than we realized, but also very glad that she can now be in her own home again. We deeply trust that her recovery will continue steadily and rapidly until she fully regains her health. It is always a joy to us to receive your wonderfully fresh, cordial and interesting letters, and we ourselves would write much more often than we do were it not that life presses too thickly upon us. We almost never write to anyone, even to our brothers and sisters. We regret this, partly because it leads to our not receiving as many letters as we should like to receive.

Your letter was somewhat delayed because you addressed it "5400 Dorchester Ave." Fortunately that address is served by the same postman as 5600, so the delay was not very great. At least, not very great on that account. I think it must also have been delayed by bad flying weather.

All of us can very well understand your wish not to have the MS of the *Koptische Grammatik* typed, and we also share your eagerness to avoid any new delay which can be avoided. We know, of course, that in Leipzig and other German cities there are (or at least, there were) printers who could set type efficiently in any alphabet and even in hieroglyphs, and ~~mm~~ of course your handwriting would have presented no problem at all for them. Unfortunately, American printers are accustomed to working only from typewritten copy: even good American handwritings are more difficult and more expensive to print from. American editors are slow to accept handwritten MSS, no matter how good the writing may be. In the present case, there is the added difficulty that the handwriting (though clear enough to anyone familiar ~~mm~~ with German hands) is "strange" to an American printer. And one cannot hope that the American printer would understand enough of the German language to be of much help in his interpretation of the handwriting.

Keith and I have talked about the possibility of having the book printed in Europe. We certainly are in no way opposed to the idea, provided it can be done as quickly and as well as the typing and printing could be done in this country. <sup>1)</sup> The first and most obvious difficulty is the time which would in any case be consumed in repeated transits back and forth across the Atlantic. <sup>2)</sup> Another difficulty is the slight but real risk of loss, during the period while the MS exists only in a single example. Further, we have a feeling which is very serious in our minds though we cannot cite chapter and verse to support it, that the printing industry in Europe (even in Western Germany and the Low Countries) may be encountering serious problems, like European economic life generally. Something less than a year ago I had a letter from Scharff asking if we Americans couldn't do something to make paper available for scholarly publication in Germany: paper seemed to be available for political publication, but not for Egyptology. This letter from Scharff was what produced John Wilson's motion which is printed in JAOS 68, no.4 (Oct.-Dec. 1948), p.215. I think that the situation may have improved somewhat in the mean time, but I am afraid this and other troubles may still be serious. I mentioned Scharff's request at the time to a friend who had spent two years on General Clay's staff in Berlin with the rank of Major General, and his only comment was "You should see the paper ~~General~~ General Clay writes on!"

Keith and I also discussed the possibility of asking Mrs. Smither to write out

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the entire Grammatik for reproduction by planagraph or some similar process. At the moment, this seems to me a better idea than typesetting anywhere in Europe.

If your final decision is to have the MS typed, I understand that Diederika is prepared to do the typing. You would of course have opportunity to read the typescript in order to correct any mistakes. With such light as I now have on the matter, I really think this is the best plan. I think the people in the U. of C. Press are properly ashamed of their non-performance last summer, and that they will therefore exert themselves to do the job with reasonable speed if they are finally called upon to do it. Mr. Wieck has not been in town recently, and his assistant (Mrs. Pattullo) tells me that the process of estimating is still going on and will be completed early next week. Mr. Wieck is also expected to be in Chicago early next week. Keith and I will then look further into the matter and will of course write to you again.

We have also thought about the possibility that Erichsen might write it out. We do not know whether he would accept if asked, or not. I will confess to you in strict privacy that his former close association with Grapow ~~him~~ gives me a perhaps totally unjust prejudice against him.

Jean joins me in cordial greetings and best wishes to you and Tante Lise and all your family,

As always,  
Billy