The Anglo-Saxon-Branch of Berlin School.*

The war-correspondence (1914-1916) of J.H. Breasted (1865-1935) and J.P.A. Erman (1854-1937)

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(PLATES V–VI)

Nella biografia di suo padre, Charles Breasted descrive un processo di allontanamento (politicò) di J.H. Breasted dai suoi colleghi tedeschi e pure dal suo Maestro A. Erman, a partire dalla Guerra Boera (1899-1902) quindi ancora più durante la Prima Guerra Mondiale (1914-1918). La corrispondenza tra Breasted e Erman, pubblicata in questo articolo, mostra invece fortí le tendenze germanofile nella visione del mondo di Breasted e mette in discussione il quadro tracciato da suo figlio nel 1943.

Already on the occasion of J.H. Breasted’s death in 1935 German as well as American Egyptologists began to discuss his affiliation to their respective nationalities. Being of Dutch as well as Danish family background, Breasted had studied under Erman \(^2\) at Berlin (1894), \(^3\) where he got his doctoral degree \(^4\) and became subsequently one of the most eminent representatives of the so called Berlin School \(^5\) — publishing an English translation of Erman's

* This title refers to a paper, presented at the Disciplinary Measures Conference held in London, 10\(^{th}\) to 12\(^{th}\) June 2010, which focussed on British Egyptology and thereby raised the question for the US-American one.

I am most grateful for the kind support, fair comment and particularly the correction of my English by Dr. Lindsay Ambridge, who has recently completed her PhD on Breasted, being entitled History and Narrative in a Changing Society: James Henry Breasted and the Writing of Ancient Egyptian History in Early Twentieth Century America, Michigan 2010. All remaining mistakes and peculiarities, both in content and style, are entirely due to my own shortcomings.


4. His thesis being entitled: De Hymnis in Solem sub rege Amenophide conceptis; Breasted proudly pointing out that there was "but one other American before" him who has cum laude from Berlin; cf. Breasted, Pioneer to the Past, p. 57.