

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 describe un processo di allontanamento (politico) di J.H. Breasted dai suoi colleghi tedeschi e pure dal suo Maestro A. Erman, a partire dalla Guerra Boera (1899-1902) quindi ancor più durante la Prima Guerra Mondiale (1914-1918). La corrispondenza tra Breasted e Erman, pubblicata in questo articolo, mostra invece forti 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,<sup>1</sup> Breasted had studied under Erman<sup>2</sup> at Berlin (1894),<sup>3</sup> where he got his doctoral degree<sup>4</sup> and became subsequently one of the most eminent representatives of the so called Berlin School<sup>5</sup> — publishing an English translation of Erman's

\* This title refers to a paper, presented at the *Disciplinary Measures* Conference held in London, 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

1. L. BULL *et al.*, *James Henry Breasted*, in « JAOS » 56 (1936), p. 113; J.A. WILSON, *Biographical Memoir of James Henry Breasted*, in « National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Biographical Memoirs » 18 / 5 (1936), p. 95.
2. CH. BREASTED, *Pioneer to the Past. The story of James Henry Breasted. Archaeologist*, Chicago 1943: « The greatest Egyptologist of Germany, and perhaps of the world, in his day — and certainly one of the kindest, most benign spirits of his generation — Adolf Erman, of French Huguenot extraction, short-statured, black-bearded, thick-besppectacled, infinitely good-humored, and loyal unto death »; cf. B.U. SCHIPPER (Hrsg.), *Ägyptologie als Wissenschaft. Adolf Erman (1854-1937) in seiner Zeit*, Berlin 2006.
3. BREASTED, *Pioneer to the Past*, pp. 39-57.
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.
5. Cf. H.G. BARTEL, *Der Beitrag Berlins zur Herausbildung der Ägyptologie als Wissenschaft*, in « Dahlemer Archivgespräche » 7 (2001), pp. 125-66.