

Arabah.
Dec 11th 1934

Dear Mother.

I think this is the Christmas mail so I must wish you both a very Happy Xmas & hope the turkey will be a good one.

The large carving knife that I brought out specially for turkeys has already^{sic} been used & proved very satisfactory, it has also been appropriated by Sardic as sacrificial knife. a ceremony we are careful not to witness but I feel the sharper the knife the better. I wonder what Grandfather would say if he knew the use his best carving knife was being put to.

I have been making small casts from some of the carved heiroglyphs^{sic} in the temple, everyone is thrilled about them. Amice wants to send some out to the University of Chicago & suggest they give me a commission to make a number for educational purposes.

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I say. one job at a time, I may send one to Professor Breasted later on, & I shall certainly make one for D^r Gardiner & perhaps D^r Junker.

We are going to keep our Xmas feast until New Year. as Amice & Truda Clark will be working at Chicago House making photographic enlargements during Xmas week. it is the only time the dark room & enlarging apparatus is free (so early in the season) as all the staff have five days holiday, as far as we are concerned it does not make any difference.

Mahommed Kheir is very funny. He has made up his mind that he is my soldier & when he is on duty in the temple he always makes a point of accompanying me home. I usually leave just, as I do not wait for tea, the others all have theirs in the temple but I prefer to go straight home & have half an hour to myself to work at my Arabic, & Mahommed always springs to attention & comes with me

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Two paces behind, but if I show the slightest desire for conversation the two paces are shortened to barely half a pace.

Then again, if I stay a little late to take moulds for my casts, Mahommed never goes with the others, but waits patiently for me. I shall miss him when he goes back to Sohag at the end of the month.

Amice wishes to send you her Xmas Greetings & I am enclosing a card from her made with a rubber stamp, she has not had time to tackle the box wood yet but looks longingly at the engraving tools.

Lots of love to you both.

Your affectionate
daughter
Myrtle.

Nannie asks me to send
her respectful salutations.

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