

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY. TEMPLE OF SETI I. ABYDOS
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
AND
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

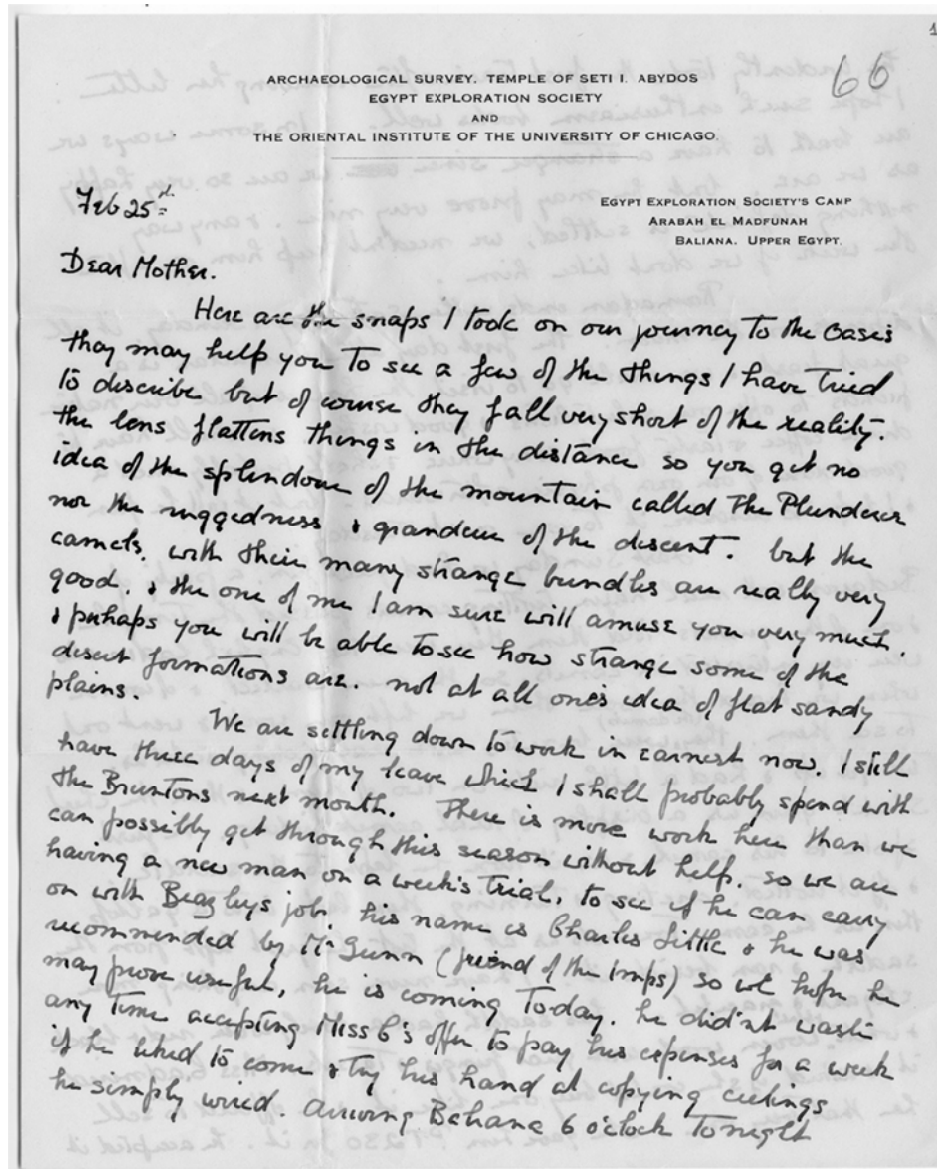
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP
ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
BALIANA. UPPER EGYPT.

Feb 25th [1930]

Dear Mother.

Here are the snaps I took on our journey to the Oasis they may help you to see a few of the things I have tried to describe but of course they fall very short of the reality. the lens flattens things in the distance so you get no idea of the splendour of the mountain called The Plunderer nor the ruggedness & grandeur of the descent. but the camels, with their many strange bundles are really very good, & the one of me I am sure will amuse you very much, & perhaps you will be able to see how strange some of the desert formations are, not at all one's idea of flat sandy plains.

We are settling down to work in earnest now. I still have three days of my leave which I shall probably spend with the Bruntons next month. There is more work here than we can possibly get through this season without help, so we are having a new man on a week's trial, to see if he can carry on with Beazleys^{sic} job, his name is Charles Little & he was recommended by M^r Gunn (friend of the Imps [= Reginald Engelbach]) so we hope he may prove useful, he is coming today. he did'nt^{sic} waste any time accepting Miss C's offer to pay his expenses for a week if he liked to come & try his hand at copying cielings^{sic} he simply wired, Arriving Baliana 6 o'clock tonight



he evidently took the first train after receiving her letter. I hope such enthusiasm bodes well. In some ways we are loath to have a stranger since ~~we~~ we are so very happy as we are. but he may prove very nice. & anyway nothing definite is settled, we needn't keep him on after the week if we don't^{sic} like him.

Ramadan ends either Saturday or Sunday. it all depends on the moon. the first day after Ramadan is a great feast & we shall go to visit the houses of all our native friends to offer our salutations & good wishes. we shall have to drink coffee & taste food everywhere & shall probably need a good dose of our own physic afterwards. but it will be fun & I hope to describe it to you next Tuesday.

Last Sunday we had great fun. a party of Bedawin with real hajin trotting camels passed the temple & one of the guards told them there were two English ladies who were very interested in camels, so the men waited, & of course when we heard they were there we left our work & went out to see them. they were beauties with real riding saddles. we got up & had a little ride on two of them, & then the chief Sheikh gave us a display of real camel riding. he just spoke to his camel, & as it rose he leapt to the saddle, & off it trotted, circling & turning. then broke into a gallop then as he came towards us at the trot he just leapt from the saddle & ran beside it. I have never seen anything more elegant & graceful. his saddle had a lovely cover red & black & white woven wool with great fringes & tassels. Miss C. admired it & asked if she could buy one like it, & he offered to sell her that very one. she gave him P.T 230 for it. he accepted it

he evidently took the first train after receiving the letter. I hope such enthusiasm bodes well. In some ways we are loath to have a stranger since ~~we~~ we are so very happy as we are, but he may prove very nice, & anyway nothing definite is settled, we needn't^{sic} keep him on after the week if we don't^{sic} like him.

Ramadan ends either Saturday or Sunday, it all depends on the moon. the first day after Ramadan is a great feast & we shall go to visit the houses of all our native friends to offer our salutations & good wishes. we shall have to drink coffee & taste food everywhere & shall probably need a good dose of our own physic afterwards, but it will be fun & I hope to describe it to you next Tuesday.

Last Sunday we had great fun, a party of Bedawin with real hajin trotting camels passed the temple & one of the guards told them there were two English ladies who were very interested in camels, so the men waited, & of course when we heard they were there we left our work & went out to see them. they <(the camels)> were beauties with real riding sat/<d>dles. we got up & had a little ride on two of them, & then the chief Sheikh gave us a display of real camel riding. he just spoke to his camel, & as it rose he leapt to the saddle, & off it trotted, circling & turning, then broke into a gallop then as he came towards us at the trot he just leapt from the saddle & ran beside it. I have never seen anything more elegant & graceful. his saddle had a lovely cover red & black & white <& blue> woven wool with great fringes & tassels. Miss C. admired it & asked if she could buy one like it, & he offered to sell her that very one, she gave him PT 230 for it, he accepted it

66 2
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TEMPLE OF SETI I, ABYDOS
 EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
 AND
 THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP
 ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
 BALIANA, UPPER EGYPT.

& handed over the saddle cover saying "This is a gift. The money is a mere nothing" We now have this gorgeous thing spread over our lounge chair in the dining room.

There are great preparations being made for the Queen's visit next Thursday. a special road has been made to the Osirion, & a new flight of stairs fixed for her to go down by, instead of the plank that ordinary tourists use. M. Baraise the Chief Inspector of Monuments arrives tomorrow to see all is in order for her. he will probably be here for lunch & dinner. there will probably be a bit of fuss & palaver as he is a Frenchman.

I am afraid this letter is rather tame after the two previous ones. still one can't have adventures all the time. & I certainly don't think I have missed much.

Lots of love to you both. also to Pat & any other friends who happen along.

Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TEMPLE OF SETI I, ABYDOS
 EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
 AND
 THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP
 ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
 BALIANA, UPPER EGYPT.

& handed over the saddle cover saying "This is a gift, the money is a mere nothing" We now have this gorgeous thing spread over our lounge chair in the dining room.

There are great preparations being made for the Queen's visit next Thursday. a special road has been made to the Osirion, & a new flight of stairs fixed for her to go down by, instead of the plank that ordinary tourists use. M. Baraise^{sic} {Baraize} the Chief Inspector of Monuments arrives tomorrow to see all is in order for her, he will probably be here for lunch & dinner, there will probably be a lot of fuss & palaver^{sic} as he is a Frenchman.

I am afraid this letter is rather tame after the two previous ones, still one can't^{sic} have adventures all the time, & I certainly don't^{sic} think I have missed much.

Lots of love to you both. also to Pat & any other friends who happen along.

Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.