

Arabah el Madfunah.  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1930.

Dear Father.

I am so sorry to hear you have got lumbago, & I hope by the time this reaches you that the hinges of your back are working as usual.

We had quite a social event yesterday. King Fouad came to Nag Hamardi<sup>sic</sup> {Hammadi} to open the new Dam, & M<sup>r</sup> Ellison (the chief engineer) gave us an invitation to see the ceremony & have lunch with them, so we arranged to make that day our day off; Of course we went over in Joey, dressed in all our best, white gloves in our pockets & linen dust coats to protect our finery, Sardic sat in the back with clean white turban & galabia, so you see we were all very smart.

We arrived at Nag Hamardi<sup>sic</sup> {Hammadi} about 10 o'clock, a magnificent tent had been put

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for the King to give his address in, it was made of lots & lots of different coloured material sewn together in elaborate patterns, inside was a gold throne for the King & rows & rows of gold chairs for officials. Of course the address was in Arabic, so we just had a look at the tent & spoke to a few people we knew, & then went out onto the Barrage with Mr & Mrs Ellison, in a little while the King & his many retainers arrived, & then he proceeded to move the lever that raised one of the sluice gates & declared the Barrage open. That important part of the ceremony being concluded he then embarked on his private yacht that was awaiting him, & passed through the lock. I think every one felt very relieved that the affair was satisfactorily over. We then went to the refreshment tent & drank Mr & Mrs Ellison's health in champagne, there were all sorts of good things to eat & the Egyptian were having a good tuck in, but our little party preferred to reserve our appetites for a quiet

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lunch on our own. We then had a little walk round, & watched some of the native entertainments that were going on. dancing horses. nabout stick play & the like. but it was hot & dusty & we were soon glad to go & sit on the cool veranda of the Ellison's house & rest until lunch was ready. We left for Baliana soon after, as we had to get a parcel of photographic plates packed & sent off by the night train to catch the air mail the next day.

When you are feeling like wood work again & have an odd hour or so to spare, would you make us some wedges for leveling the cameras, we should want them in varying sizes from  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch ~~at thick end~~ <sup>at thick end</sup> to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches <sup>at thick end</sup> four to five inches long & from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide this is the sort of thing.



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← 1" →  
 [ ↗ ] thin ones to taper to a point

← 1 1/2" →  
 [ ↗ ] thicker ones can be blunt.

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could we have six, each being  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch longer than the previous one. that is to say the first  $\frac{1}{4}$ " the second  $\frac{1}{2}$ " third  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch & so on. & we should need a pair of each size making 1 doz in all.

These will be a great help in taking photographs of walls that have shifted out of true. The camera has to be adjusted to the same angle of error & this is not easy on a high scaffold & on boards that have warped badly in the sun.

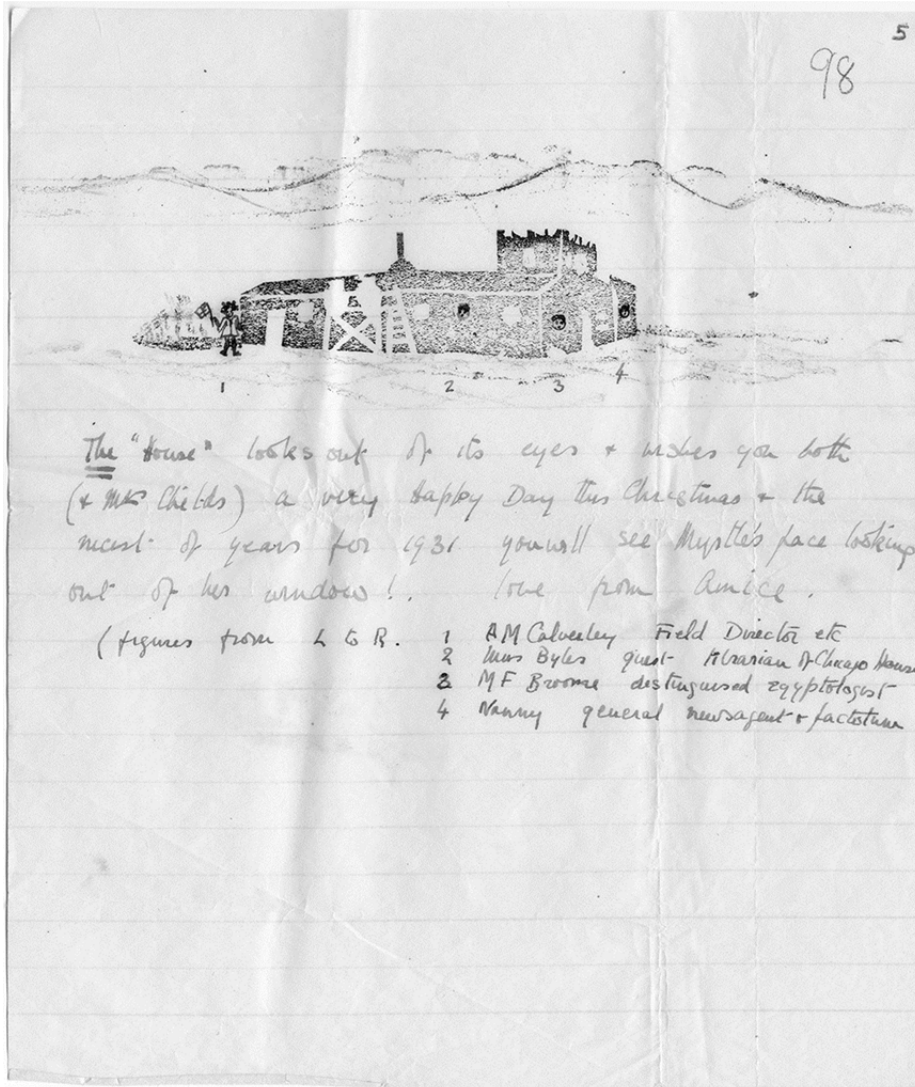
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to you both.

Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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The "House" looks out of its eyes & wishes you both (& Mrs Childs) a very happy Day this Christmas & the nicest of years for 1931 you will see Myrtle's face looking out of her window!. Love from Amice.

(figures from L to R. 1 A M Calverley Field Director etc  
 2 Mrs Byles guest Librarian of Chicago House  
 3 M F Broome distinguished Egyptologist  
 4 Nanny general newsagent & factotum

[ ₹ ]

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