

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

35A

of 35

Oct 29th 1929.

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

Dear Eric.

Knowing you have an enquiring or shall I say an acquiring mind where unusual stamps are concerned I am sending you one that has just come my way. I hear it is to have a very short issue, so may be worth saying. I also thought you might like to have a sheet of our nice camp note paper.

My adventures so far are briefly as follows. Voyage very enjoyable. jolly day ashore at Gib. Two days at Marseilles, visited gardens Zoo, museum, bathing beach, Chateau d'If & an operetta. (was bitten by an unmentionable insect) Nothing else of interest until I arrived at Cairo, there I was drawn into the social whirl. I went to the consulate & was presented to the British Consul. Had several teas at Gezira Sporting Club, saw a thrilling game at Pilote, the most skilled ball game I have ever seen I think you would have loved it. I went to several luncheon & dinner party's & aired all my best frocks. Then, armed with all necessary documents & permits we came on here. 12 hours train & from Bahiana station a journey of 12 miles to our house in the desert.

The beauty of this place passes description, a great sweep of pale gold desert, rolling sand hills & distant limestone cliffs in one direction, in the other more desert fringed by a line of palm trees marking

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the cultivated area of the Nile Valley. Every hour of the day the colours change & morning & evening the shadows take fantastic shapes. & sunrise & sunset flood everything with rosy light. I have seen a jackal flit by at night & have seen the foot prints of wolves & hyenas. We have an armed guard stationed outside every night.

Our day is divided like this. get up 5.15 start work in the temple by 6.15. return for lunch 12. rest during the heat till 3. then work till sunset. The temple is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from this house & we go backwards & forwards on donkeys.

A few days ago I had my first camel ride. it was great fun. I don't know how I stuck on when it rose. back legs up first, then front. it sat down in reverse order. it was wonderful being perched up on such a great beast & the motion of its long strides across the sand was fine. but when it trotted!!! Anyway I am glad to say I conducted myself without loss of dignity.

If you would like to read a longer account of my life out here just call in at Avalon & ask Mother to let you read the letters I have sent her. I have also sent her the first lot of snaps.

Best wishes to you & your people

Yours
Myrtle.

PS. It really does know how to be hot here.!

P.P.S. Letters are much appreciated MB.

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