

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

55B

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

Jan 20th 1930

Dear Father.

Sardic has brought me a spindle, I looked out all the bits of wool that Mother has sent at various times. & he pulled it out & started spinning straight away. he is delighted with the English wool, it runs through his fingers like lightning in such a fine thread. he began to enquire the cost per kilo & price of postage from England. I got Nannie to talk to him & she found out that he would like some to make himself a long sort of vest that they wear under their gallabias. he also would like to make me a shawl in coloured wool according to his own ideas. So I think it would be very nice if I could get him the material for both. Will you please talk to Miss Collins nicely about this for me ~~please~~. & tell her that I should like

About 4 lbs fine white wool. washed ready for carding (for vest)

Some red. (two shades) green, yellow, & white in about equal quantities about 3 lbs all together, I enclose the samples of colours. also ready for carding. (for shawl.)

If this makes a big bundle, it would be best to pack it in calico, as paper only would get torn, but I am sure you will make an excellent job of this. address it to me care of

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Thos Cook & Son, Cairo, & let me know when it is despatched so I can give Cooks instructions to clear it through the customs.

Would you please pay Miss Collins for it & I will settle up with you on my return. unless either of you prefer a cheque on my Egyptian Bank, (swank) if so, please make out the bill in piastres. 1 = 2½^d I have many thousand of them & feel very rich & longing to spend. Also let me know the price per lb & cost of postage to Egypt in case Sardic wants more another time

It will be rather fun to see how he will use the coloured wool, most of the Bedawin Tent patterns are stripes with curious triangle designs. in any case it will be an interesting exhibit for one of the Eastcote shows. & I shall probably use it as a cover for the chest or table in the studio.

I have not told him that I am writing for it, he thinks I am bringing it out with me next winter, but I cannot wait such a long time, it will be such fun to see him spin it & I am anxious to compare the same workmanship in the two sorts of wool. Also, possibly it would be worth while bringing some more with me if I come again, getting the natives to spin it all & bring back with me for Miss Collins to use in her weaving. Any way, all these are just ideas, & may be very foolish when more thought out. The first thing is to get the wool out here & let Sardic get busy -

I hope Miss Collins wont mind sending some of her wool for the Arabs to spin. I expect she will agree with me that it is an exciting experiment. Sardic's tribe has worked with wool for many generations he spins as naturally as a fish swims. Lots of love from Myrtle.

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