

Bourg el Arab
Mariut.
Lower Egypt.
May 28th 1937.

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Dear Mother.

We are staying with our old friend Professor Oliver we arrived the day before yesterday, we had a lovely drive from Cairo by the desert road which goes by the Wady Natrum, it was very beautiful but not spectacular like the Eastern desert & Red Sea coast. we spent one night on the way & made our camp near one of the frontier police outposts. I had a pleasant chat with the Soudanis who were delighted to have our company, they made us tea in the morning & we shared some of our provisions with them.

Yesterday the three of us went down to the sea shore, & bathed & had our lunch there, we both got sun burnt on parts not usually exposed. The sea was wonderful, quite warm & felt like satin, after lunch we explored the ruins of a late Roman fort, it was built on a hill, we scrambled up what remained of a tower & had a glorious view of the sea shore & the desert behind it.

We have got the visas & necessary papers for our journey across Europe, Joey now wears E.T. & is a member of the Egyptian Touring Association, we had various repairs done in Cairo so he should be fit for the

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tour.

We have showed our sketches to quite a number of people interested in the Eastern Desert & we are being urged to do some serious work out there. In a few years that part will be more accessible, as it is part of the treaty that communications should be kept open between the Red Sea Coast & the Nile Valley, which means that a road suitable for ordinary motor traffic will be made in the near future. Hanafey has been trying different routes through the mountains, he hopes to find a way that a road could be made to serve the two ports instead of a separate road to each. so a book descriptive of that part might be popular. nothing has been done at all, other than a very scientific Geology of Egyptian deserts. Hanafey would do the geological side ^{in a way} that would be understood by unscientific readers, to explain the reason for the strange colours in our pictures, & we would get one of our archaeological friends to write about the Roman ruins. it ought to be a great adventure if we could pull it off. we would probably camp out in the desert for a couple of months making the various paintings.

My letters may be rather irregular from now on but I will send you a line when I can & will call for letters at the places I mentioned in my last letter we have no absolutely set route, our way will depend chiefly on the conditions of the roads, the first part will be through Greece & Yugoslavia & Romania.

Amice is waiting for me to finish my letter
Lots of love to you both
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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