


G.I.
LC(7) I

Extracts from mainly Personal & Camp life letters
1908

Bedrashen, 10 Feb. 1908. (Memphis)

.. I anticipate coming here the 1st week of Feb. each year, and doin[g] short work elsewhere in Dec. and Jan. ... On the north we look through palms across the wide space of the Ptah temple. We have now traced t[he] great wall of Ptah along all the south, half the west (all that remain[s]) and turned to the east. We cannot do more on Ptah till the water is lower. So I have<\>begun on what is most promising. A great lintel of a pylon was found in place last year deep in mounds just south east of the Ptah temenos [], it is of Merent<p>tah, and</>around it I picked up many handles of archaic Greek amphorae. All this fits to its being the foreign Aphrodite, in the traders quarters, said to be south of the temple of Ptah (due south is blocked by the serapaeum) and built about the time of Trojan war. If this be the foreign temple it is grand to work at, as the site is clear of great mounds, high and dry, and we can work it easily. This is the most important temple of all for history; and, if we have found it really, it will be great for us.


..... Plenty of small stuff, of amulets, ~~green~~ <green> gods, &c. comes in. There is a pottery Horus which is closely Buddhist in pose and drapery, and s/<st>ruck Schuler at once as Indian before I saw it. We may at last get the Buddhist link here, and the foreign quarter of Memphis (where this ~~oss~~<was> found) is exactly the most likely place for such a find.

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Bedrashen. 14 Feb. 08.

.... Today we got the first sculptures, blocks [of] Shabaka in very fine low relief. As there is part of a building by the [re] we may get more.

16th

Yesterday we found the first statue. It is half life size, head and feet gone; of the beautiful volcanic ash, grey and green, like the Nehtemeb coffins, a figure of Hapimu, brother of the father Nekht horheb. Best work of XXXth dynasty, highly polished, a fine museum piece.

Bedrashen 24 Feb /08

... We have just got down to inscribed stones in two of our diggings. Today I went over the big mounds 40 ft high at the north end, and found pottery of XVIII on the top. Mackay is to begin on them next week.

.... I shall try to come back early in May; but the end of the season is the all important time here. We have at present about 10 ft of water over the temple of Merentah.

Bedrashen 1 March /08

... I am getting on with the dealers here. Today I bought a fine scarab of Shabaka, A Roman ~~dashshund~~ cut in ~~e~~ crystal, a green ~~h~~ glazed woman's head with Greek coiled hair-dressing, and a face veil, a pottery Isis ~~nursing~~ nursing Bes, and several other things.

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