

<1936>
Arabah. April 14th

Dear Mother.

I have heard from Cooks^{sic} that there is a long waiting list for berths on the S.S. Strathmore, the next boat is my old friend S.S. "Ranchi" she is due to leave the day after the Strathmore but takes three days longer over the journey, arriving at Tilbury May 8th if I cannot get a berth on the Strathmore I will try to come by the Ranchi. I will probably know by next mail.

I spent Easter Sunday with the Roches at Nag-Hamadi. I drove over in Joey with Sardic & one of the soldiers. They were most hospitable & provided me with a gorgeous bath on my arrival. which was most welcome. We have a hot spell on now. (average 105 in the shade.) We had a most terrific lunch. Sheeps^{sic} liver to start with. Then cray fish. Then the "piece de resistance" a sheep roasted whole, brought in on a bed of flowers it really was a ghastly sight. M. Roche carved it with a huge pair of scissors, cutting through the

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rib bones as if they were matches. The meat was perfectly cooked & tasted delicious & I really enjoyed it very much. We had asparagus & fruit to follow. The table was decorated with eggs (hard boiled) of every colour & during the waits we played a game cracking them, like the boys do with the conkers for the Chestnut trees, I do not know what happened to the eggs afterwards I suppose the servants had them. There was another guest, a French war correspondent^{sic} from Addis Ababa. I asked him a few questions but he was very reluctant to talk about it. He seemed very glad to come away. He was very interested in our work & had been to the temple some years ago, he could speak English fairly well but said he had not spoken it for so long that he had forgotten it all.

I have a guest to-day, an Oxford man who has been working on excavations in the Sudan. He is on his way home. Mrs Griffith wrote to ask if I could put him up here so that he could see Abydos as it is his first time in Egypt. He is very nice & full of enthusiasm about everything.

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I am glad to hear they have been to fetch Lady Godiva, I did not know that they were going to fetch the batteries from the Vale Garage. when they bring her back will you ask them if the batteries are all right, or if they will need recharging before I ^{can} use the car, if they say they will need recharging, will you ask George to fetch them, & have them charged all ready for my return May 4th or 8th I can let you know the date later.

I enclose an amusing cartoon from the Egyptian Gazette we have been having the Cairo newspaper sent out here, just to keep in touch with things

This is rather a short letter this week but having a guest does not leave much time for writing.

Lots of love to you & father
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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