THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

April 8- 1930

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

Dean Mother.

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

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

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1930

Dear Mother.

I have two amusing incidents to relate in this letter. first of all I must give you Mahomeds message. he says May Allah increase your prosperity for sending him the gloves. I shall never eff forget the effect of his tall black robed figure with cream coloured turban going off wearing one large white glove & very carefully carrying the other. He came to sit for me again last Sunday afternoon, he makes a most perfect model he seems to know by instinct exactly what is required. I was afraid after the effect the camera had on him he would be stiff & rigid, or very self conscious. but he is'nt<sup>sic</sup> a bit. he sits perfectly naturally. & if I speak to him or call his attention, he turns his head for a moment to answer but gets back into the correct pose again at once. I rather expected he would dress himself up in his fine new blue & white striped galabia. But I was relieved when he came for the first sitting in his picturesque black one that has faded to a nice purplish blue & is a splendid foil to the rich browns of the skin & the cream turban. I forgot to tell him to wear exactly the same next time, so imagin: my horror when I came back on the donley sunday afternoon 16 see him waiting out side the garden gate in the rished stripes!

I got my paints reverything ready realled him in - refyou please he had brought his old black gate hie with Aven a had put it on over the other one. To all was well.

I had a lovely afternoon's work a have got an excellent likeness. Mahomed had never seen such a thing done before, a was worden struck when I told him he might come a see himsely.

The other amusing thing is as Jollow - Should About Washed's Two dang this have made us each a doll. This is a himade nature to emplans as a rule. There dolls an most curious. Their shape is somethat wind o they have no Jaco. some allat alone can achieve perfection it is presumplin for malab to attempt it. so no Hosten con allempts is make a complete representation of anything living. (what Christians do does not concers them its then both orle of they been for their sins oftenwoods) So Miss 6 31 made as English doll to give in return. The body was made out of shell hid gloves, the face painted with hig blue eyes 2 penk a still complexion. The bolled hair was some of The yellow dyed sheeps wood. I made knicken opeticist in pala limon cupi de chere trimmed with lace or high pinte selle pock , a cute little black which hat. Should A.W. hought fathma to the tempt to receive it then very great rejoicings. I the dignified old Sheith coming every detail with quest cam, even to litting up its skirts stooking

same next time. so imagine my horror when I came back on the donkey Sunday afternoon to see him waiting out side the garden gate in blue & white stripes!

I got my paints & everything ready & called him in – & if you please he had bought his old black galabia with him & had put it on over the other one. so all was well.

I had a lovely afternoon's work & have got an excellent likeness. Mahomed had never seen such a thing done before, & was wonderstruck when I told him he might come & see himself.

The other amusing thing is as follows – Sheikh Abdu Wahid's two daughters have made us each a doll. This is a tremendous favour. These people do not make gifts of an intimate nature to Europeans as a rule. These dolls are most curious. Their shape is somewhat weird & they have no faces. since Allah alone can achieve perfection it is presumptive for mortals to attempt it. so no <good> Moslem ever attempts to make a complete representation of anything living. (what Christians do does not concern them. its their look out if they burn for their sins afterwards) So Miss C & I made an English doll to give in return. the body was made out of white kid gloves, the face painted with big blue eyes & pink & white complexion. The bobbed hair was some of the yellow dyed sheeps<sup>sic</sup> wool. I made knickers & petticoat in pale lemon crepé de chené<sup>sic</sup> {crêpe de Chine} trimmed with lace. & a light pink silk frock & a cute little black velvet hat.

Sheikh A.W. brought Fathma to the temple to receive it there were great rejoicings. & the dignified old Sheikh examined every detail with great care, even to lifting up its skirts & looking THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

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ARABAH EL MADFUNAH

very intently of the lace on the knicks;

Imagine our joy of this !!! We did

have a laugh afterwards. in wonder of he imagines we are dusted like that under rest. !!!!

The doll has caused a let of from.

Well Sandie , old Ahmed played will it. at believe they would love is have

Containing still another glove. I think this will be queli crough of present thank you very much for sending sem. The Home formal has also arrived

I think this is the last you had belle send as we hope to be able to be able in thay the second week in thay Much born to you both Your affectional Typithe.

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very intently at the lace on the knicks! Imagine our joy at this!!! we did have a laugh afterwards. we wonder if he imagines we are dressed like that underneath.!!!!

The doll has caused a lot of fun. both Sardic & old Ahmed played with it. & I believe they would love to have one of their own.

Another letter arrived today containing still another glove. I think this will be quite enough at present thank you very much for sending them. The Home Journal has also arrived I think this is the last you had better send as we hope to be able to leave here by the second week in May

> Much love to you both Your affectionate Myrtle.