

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.

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April 8th 1930

Dear Mother.

I have two amusing incidents to relate in this letter. First of all I must give you Mahomed's message. He says May Allah increase your prosperity for sending him the gloves. I shall never 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~~ 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 isn't 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

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same next time. so imagine my horror when I came back on the donkey Sunday afternoon to see him waiting outside 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 presumptuous for mortals to attempt it. so no 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 wool. I made knickers & petticoat in pale lemon crepe de chené^{sic} {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 then were great rejoicings. & the dignified old Sheikh examined every detail with great care, even to lifting up its skirts & looking

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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.
With Sardin & 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.

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