

Arabah.
Nov 27th 1934

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Dear Mother.

We had a grand day last Saturday, but unfortunately poor Erica had a bad headache & could not come, so as we were five with Sandie we all managed to get into the Ford & Joey stayed at home. We took lunch with us & picniced by the side of the road under some trees, we arrived at Kena about 2 o'clock we went to the National Bank of Egypt & found our friend Mr Purr was still there, so we left our coats & other belongings with him & parked the Ford behind the Bank & proceeded on foot to see all the fun of the fair. It was very much the same as on our previous visit, young men were rushing about on camels all in their best robes & their camels decorated with paper flowers & bells, & whole parties of them rode madly

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round the mosque in the centre of the town,
there were sellers of the gaily decorated pots
for which Kena is famous, & the absurd figures
of camels & riders, I had to purchase two more
just to show I had been to the muled.

(by the way, "muled" means birthday of the
Sheikh whose tomb is in the mosque there.)

We stopped to listen to a group of native
singers & among them I recognized our
strawling player who comes to sing us the
songs of Abu Zaid, & play the native fiddle,
he was delighted to be noticed & came to
shake hands with us, & he has promised
to come to Abydos to sing for us again,

there were jugglers & sword dancers etc.

we walked about among the people for
a little time & saw all the mahmals, that
had been brought on camels to grace the
procession in honour of the Sheikh's birthday.
("mahmal") is the covering of a holy tomb, usually
spoken of as a holy carpet.) Then we returned

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to the bank & had tea with M^r Purr & sat
on his balcony to see the Procession.

The King had sent a special mahmal & this
was escorted by two sheikhs wearing green
turbans who were direct decendants of the
Prophet. all the others followed & all the
camels, horse men, sword dancers etc.

by then a dense crowd had collected, & the
mudir scattered handfulls of newly minted
small copper coins among the people & violent
scrambles ensued.

We waited until the crowd had
dispersed & then started on our homeward
journey & arrived in camp soon after 8 o'clock
very dusty & hungry

Sorry to hear of so many delays in
the home repairs. Here, we have built one
soudani house of two rooms, one annexe
to our house with three rooms, made one table
one settle, two corner cupboards, two washstands
two towel rails, various shelves, in three weeks
at inclusive cost of £20. Love to you both.
Myrtle.

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