

Arabah-el Madfunah¹⁵⁶⁻¹
Baliana
Upper Egypt.

Dec 15th 1931.

Dear Eric.

Congratulations on both pieces of news especially the second. I hope you will be most awfully happy + realize what a joyous thing life can be. I am sorry I was not present to dance at the wedding & that I have no gift to send, but when I go down to Cairo I shall go through the bazaars & see if I can find something really nice for you both.

I am enjoying life enormously although I sometimes feel my luck is too good to last; since our work has gone to the printers & the proofs have been passed, we find we have made quite a small stir among the "Powers-that-Be." remarks have been passed on the uncalculable service we have rendered to archaeology etc which causes both Amice & I huge amusement, because we really feel that the poor old world would get on just as well if we grew turnips in England

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instead, however we are human enough to enjoy & swallow quite a lot of jam & we did have a gay time in Cairo. all the dear old Professors & buz fuzzes feted us, Nice D^r Junker who is head of the German Institute in Cairo gave us a regular banquet, & Prof Newberry took us out to dinner at the Continental, M. Baraise stood us lunch & D^r Reiser gave us a tea party. we had even more invitations but had neither the time nor the capacity for more meals during the two days we were there.

We drove here in the car. a long dusty journey of 350 miles. we had our servant Sardic with us complete with rifle to act as guard. & of course most of our belongings. we had such awful jolts that our luggage carrier broke & we had to find room for two large suitcases on the running board that already carried our seasons supply of oil & grease spare parts etc. but with the aid of straps we managed it. we even tied a holdall onto a front wing

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& arrived in camp without further mishap.

We are playing Badminton this season it gives us a bit of quick exercise after bending over drawing boards for so long at a time. We have made a court out in the desert by our camp. It is composed of mud bricks from Tombs about 5000 years old, they are laid in rows on the sand & cemented together with mud & sand. It makes an excellent firm surface. I am enclosing one of my home made cards to wish you both a Merry Xmas.

Amice joins me in congratulations
& best Wishes

Yours
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