

Aug. 7, 1938.

Dear William:

I returned from Transjordan yesterday, where Minnett and I had been exploring the upper stretches of the Wadi Zerqa. Our return was a hasty one, because a rider sent out by Harding found me after a day and a half with a message that I was to phone Helen, who was ill. We changed course and rode to Russean, on the Jerash road where there is a police-post. The line to Jerusalem was out of order. Fortunately, I had ordered Elias to meet us that day by the former bridge across the Zerqa. He intercepted him, and got back to Jerusalem in the afternoon. Helen is in the second month of pregnancy, and a lot of complications has set in. Dr. Sondak has ordered her to bed, from which she may not stir. There is a day nurse in attendance.

Our trip to Switzerland is off, and I may not be able to go to Brussels. I shall make every attempt to do so; however, because I am very anxious to talk to you about Tell el-Kheleifeh, and particularly to show you the drawings of our pottery. The photographs have yet to be made. Vincent was in the other day, and dated the pottery from the twelfth to the seventh century B.C. I am particularly interested in hearing what your reaction is to the copy of the Aramaic inscription is. The photograph I sent you is not as clear as I thought it was, and was familiar with the original inscription.

I am more than grateful to you for halting me in my rush to print, and saving me the embarrassment of back-tracking almost immediately after my first article. However, as you know, I am more than willing to confess to mistakes previously made, and correct them in public on the first possible occasion. I have no patience with people like Forezner and Dassaud, who simply will not admit errors, and stick their heads ever more deeply in the sands of their own dicta, however wrong their conclusions may be.

Now that the pottery is all out of the boxes and baskets, I shall begin to study it with my level- and record-books in hand. The situation is all the more complicated by reason of the fact that the first two levels in the area of the north slope of the mound are very poorly preserved, and were in fact only distinguishable, (aside from the smelter) when we began to get to the top of the mound, where there is a greater, undisturbed, or comparatively undisturbed depth. It is near this point that we had to call a halt to the excavations for the first season.

I have your letters of July 8, 12, and 20, and am keeping closely in mind the suggestions made. At the present, I am inclined to make the following correlations:

Levels

- I. (Edom) Solomon, Jehoahaphat.
- II. Edom, Independence from Joram. *Jehoahaphat*
- III. Uzziah.
- IV. Edom regains Elath in 738 B.C. The last Edomite city certainly continued down into the seventh, and may have lasted into the sixth century B.C.

Refinery.

- I.
- I A.
- II.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brussels, in case you should not receive it before sailing. With best wishes for a pleasant and restful trip and with many thanks for all your trouble and help with my first article, and with the dating of the Kheleifeh materials, as ever, sincerely yours,