

Aug. 29, 1936.

Dear William:

I returned Saturday, the 27th, from another TJ trip of exploration in the area south of the Zerqa. With the exception of the immediate es-Salt area, and the Jordan River valley, I have now completed all of the territory of Sihon, which is as far as I shall be able to carry the third part of my Explorations. I have finished about half of the text for this third part. Winnett and I were out for the first four days in this month, and then were compelled to return because of a summons from Helen, who is in her third month of pregnancy, and was about to experience the same accident that terminated her previous pregnancy. A rider sent out by Harding found us after a day and a half, and we got back to Jerusalem as fast as we could. The abortion had fortunately been averted. Helen felt much better about a week after I returned to Jerusalem, so I hid myself off to TJ again, this time alone, because Winnett was about to leave for India to join his family there. The trip was interesting, and the same historical results that have previously been obtained apply to the territory as far as the Zerqa. Particularly in this area rich in EB III sites. I found one, for instance, overlooking the Beq'a from the west, which is 300 metres long, and the outer wall of which can still be traced. I do not remember exactly, but I believe we found about eight EB sites along and immediately south of the Zerqa. I did one site north of the Zerqa, and it seems to me that there were several EB sherds. If that is true, then the Zerqa may prove to be the boundary line of the gap between EB and EI. Conditions have become so aggravated recently, however, that I shall be compelled to halt my explorations for a while. A particularly brutal murder of some non-Jewish government surveyors on the TJ side of the Jordan occurred while I was not very far away.

Another reason that I shall have to stop for a while, is that upon returning home, I found that Helen had had a relapse. It is so serious, that as much as I hate to do so, I am compelled to cancel the trip to Brussels, which I was going to make primarily to see you and Morgenstern. We had previously given up the idea of going to Switzerland. In addition, the situation here has taken such a turn for the worse, that I feel also it would be better for me to be around in case anything happened. Fisher isn't here, but even if he were, I could not rely upon him to know how to act if a difficult situation arose.

I foresee the possibility of not being able to do much field work this year. This will not be all to the bad for me, because I have a great deal of research and writing to do in connection with the materials I now have in hand. It will of course seriously affect the schedule of work I had planned out for the next two years. I am very desirous of finishing the survey. If I can't continue working in northern Transjordan this year, I shall need a fifth year out here in order to complete it. One of the reasons for going to Brussels, was that I wanted to broach the possibility of one yet additional year's leave-of-absence, which would make the five that we had originally talked about.

Mainly, however, I wanted to go to Brussels to talk Tell el-Kheleifeh with you. With regard to your comparison of the mēm of the Aramaic inscription with that of the inscription from Tell el-Hesi, it seems to me that there is a good deal of difference between them. However, after examining the similar types of jugae and looking up the positions of where they were found, I can agree with your letter of July 8 that the first half of the seventh century would be a satisfactory date for it, with one exception

I am also not opposed to a date of 6-5 cent. B.C.

