

July 6th 1939

Dr. William F. Albright
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Baltimore, Md.

Dear William,

I am sending you a first preliminary report on the second season of excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh for the Bulletin, and as soon as possible I shall send you a second article. I shall deal with the pottery and the inscriptions in the second article, as well as attempt to reconstruct the history of the site. I still am unable to send you photographs of the ostraca which have been out of my hands for three weeks, with the result also that I have not been able to work on them. The Museum has agreed to photograph them for me, using a number of different filters, but thus far the photography has not been completed. I guess my stuff has to wait its turn, and there is no one else in Palestine who can photograph the ostraca as well as Schweig at the Museum, or who has the necessary equipment available. I saw him the other day, however, and he promised to push them through for me as rapidly as possible. With the present article I am sending you the following photographs: Nos. 76, 80, 84, 90, 123, 158, 165, 166, 167, 169, 207, 213, 215, 219, 469, and one looking north at main gateway. I believe I have already sent you some, and there may be some duplications. Those that you do not want to use, or do not want to keep you might return to me.

My architect, Pinkerfeld, left for Italy shortly after returning from Aqabah, and practically nothing has been done with regard to working out our plans in the various levels. Until that is done, I hesitate to speak about the dating of the various settlements at Tell el-Kheleifeh. I am inclined at the present, however, to the following tentative datings, which will depend largely upon the analysis of the pottery after I have examined it with relation to the level hook. There were several rooms which had considerable depth of deposit, and in which I went down very carefully gathering sherds from approximately every twenty centimetres down. Unfortunately, I find that in these rooms the pottery is considerably disturbed. Yesterday, for instance, while unpacking some of the pottery, I found the top of an elongated jug which had been found at approximately one metre below the surface, fitted on to the bottom fragments of the jug, which were found almost two metres below the surface. As a working hypothesis, however, and because of what I am sure now to be the upper and lower limits of occupation, namely between the 10th and 5th centuries B.C., I am thinking of these datings:

disturbed levels

I.	Solomon	}	tenth-ninth centuries B.C.
Is.	Jehoshaphat		
II.	Uzziah		eighth century B.C.
III.	Edomites after 735 B.C.		eighth-sixth centuries B.C.
IV.			sixth-fifth centuries B.C.

I shall be interested in receiving your reaction to my dating of Ezion-geber I to the tenth century B.C. on the basis of the main gateway.

Campbell wrote to me from Antioch, asking urgently for some one to give him some assistance. I sent him the Gliddens, with whom he is pleased. Now he is writing me urgently, asking me for an architect. His architect seems compelled to leave by the advent of the Turks. I note that the ACLA voted to grant the money for the purpose of a speech-recording apparatus, which is to be stored at the school in Jerusalem, and used next year by Harris. Does that mean Kelli Harris? I should like to point out that the Hebrew University already possesses a very elaborate speech-recording apparatus used by the recently deceased Dr. Lachmann. It seems to me that Harris might negotiate with the Hebrew University for permission to use their apparatus, perhaps paying a rental, and devote the funds at his disposal for other purposes during his stay in this part of the world.

In my cable to you announcing that we had arrived at Aqabah and that Iliffe was improving, I believe I also said: "Disregard last letter", meaning the letter to you in which I spoke of my desire for the extension of my leave of absence for a fifth year. That is the cable I referred to in a postscript to one of my recent letters to you, which you mentioned in your last letter to me. The decision which I communicated to Dr. Morgenstern not to ask for a further leave of absence weighs heavily on me. I do not see how I can complete what I have in hand by the end of next year, particularly in view of the fact that the lecture-tour is going to take up so much more time than I expected. I had expected to be away altogether, including going and coming, for a period of two months. It seems now that I shall have to be away about three or three and a half months. Another difficulty has arisen recently which makes me wish that somehow or other I could stay on for a fifth year. Sporadic troubles are being incited in Transjordan, which makes it impossible for me during certain periods to visit certain areas. In fact, although it has not been mentioned in the papers, troubles have again broken out in northern Transjordan, and I have just received a communication from Harding, requesting me at the instance of Kirkbride to postpone my explorations of northern Transjordan for the present. It is a shame to have to delay or stop that work now, when I am so near the goal of completing the survey of Transjordan.

It is because of the spreading fire in Transjordan that I was hoping that you and Burrows might be willing to make a third application for me to the American Philosophical Society to continue and finish the Tell el-Kheleifeh excavations next spring. I was not sure that I would be able to work this spring, and as you know, the government held me up for a time. If world and local conditions possibly permit it, the excavations ought to be completed next spring. It hardly seems possible that if there is no major war before then, conditions will be sufficiently peaceful after that to undertake any work at Ajlun for many years to come. One can also not tell how long it will be before not only northern Transjordan, but all of Transjordan becomes as generally impossible for archaeological work as Palestine has become. It is simply a matter of how much money outside interests are prepared to pour into Transjordan to stir up trouble. This year's campaign has done much to settle some of the problems with regard to the history of Tell el-Kheleifeh, but the answer is as yet by no means completely satisfactory. We may find nothing of additional importance in the third campaign, but I hardly believe that, because we have reached what should be the most important part of the mound, immediately behind the gateway. If you do not think the American Philosophical Society will be at all willing to make a third grant, perhaps the American Council of Learned Societies might be willing to make a grant. In any event, I shall be seeing you in Baltimore, as I am delighted to learn from your letter, and we shall have an opportunity to talk the matter over in detail. I shall be delighted to present a paper at the autumn meeting of the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

Helen and the baby left on July 3rd on the American Export, and will disembark at Boston. I put them on the boat, and got out of Haifa just in time before the bomb exploded and curfew was slapped on town. I probably could have got out anyway, because I go around armed with all kinds of travel and curfew passes. The white Paper has certainly brought no peace to this country. Conditions, if anything, are worse than they have ever been, and the situation is being further complicated by the appearance on the scene of irresponsible Jewish terrorists.

Fisher has taken Miss Carey's house at Ain Karis for the summer, instead of going to Cyprus as he originally planned. When the occasion presents itself, I shall sound him out, as you suggest, with regard to giving him some such title as "Archaeological Adviser" after his retirement.

with best wishes to you and Ruth,

I am, as ever,
sincerely yours

NG:IR