

October 31, 1932

Dr. W. F. Albright
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U. S. A.

Dear Albright:

Your letters of October 1 and 12 received. I was glad to hear you got some rest on the way home. I have attended to the various items mentioned in your letters, and am eager to be of whatever service I can also in the future.

Enclosed find the photographs made by the Department of Antiquities, which desired to make them, rather than let the lion-censer go out of the Museum. The overlooked page of the Record Book has been delivered. The two weights were weighed at the Department of Antiquities. No. 2239 weighs 181.045 grams, and No. 2365 weighs 40.2 grams. Enclosed also find final statement of the T. B. M. account.

We are all glad the Annual is out. Heartiest congratulations. I am using it in my class here, and it is just the book for our needs. We are taking advantage of the T. B. M. pottery collections in the workroom, and are devoting a good deal of time to their study. When Fisher's Corpus is finished, Palestinian archaeology will have the two books on pottery on which it can rely.

I shall send in the account of the 1931-2 Palestinian archaeological work sometime in December.

The work here is going smoothly. The Thayer Fellow, Dr. Evans arrived, and he completes the list of fellows resident at the School, whom I mentioned in my last letter to you. Miss Bentwich and Mrs. Ben-Dor are also taking regular courses. We have been visiting all the excavated sites in southern Judah, and a number of tulul in their vicinity, with no original work whatsoever accomplished in connection with these visits. I find that despite my previous desire of turning over "die touristische Seitung" to Dr. Cumming, that I am compelled to arrange for the various trips, and accompany them. The group here is a nice one, but the individual students are more desirous of seeing the country, and getting its physical atmosphere, than doing anything else. Which, I guess, is legitimate on the part of those who have never been here before, and who will probably rarely, if ever, revisit Palestine.

The household is running smoothly. The reduced staff of three is functioning as well as when five people were working in the School, apart from the gardener and the director's maid. My wife is proving to be an efficient housekeeper, and the menus are very satisfactory, I think. I raised Shukri's salary half a pound a month. In servant salaries alone, now, a saving of twelve and a half pounds a month has been affected, which amounts to about sixteen pounds a month, considering that I am now personally paying Victoria's board bill, in addition to her salary.

Fisher's Corpus is coming along nicely. It will be finished, he is sure, before this spring. He has received a flattering offer from Princeton to continue at Antioch, and would like to accept. I encouraged his acceptance. He will have telegraphed to Montgomery long before their letter arrives, so you will already probably have been informed.

Last month Hucklesby, who did the survey work at Jerash last year, came to me ~~recently~~, and asked to be permitted to continue this year, and immediately, because from March on he is engaged to work again on the Government survey of T. J.. I discussed the matter thoroughly with Stinespring and Fisher, and having received Fisher's and Detweiler's opinion with regard to his previous work, have made the following arrangements with him. I am giving him five pounds a month expense money, and am permitting him to hire two men to help him at not more than ten piastres a day. The five pounds are to be deducted from his regular salary, which is to be paid him, whenever the Jerash expedition begins. *He is living in the expedition building in Jerash, & is making very satisfactory progress in the work of surveying. Mr. Horsfield is in touch with him.*

In my last letter I wrote to you about the request of the Danish Committee to resume work at Shilo in Kjaer's place. If you have surmised difficulties with Schmidt, you have not erred. In addition to the telegram from Denmark, I received a letter from Dean Ussing, -a copy of which I am sending to you. Upon my application the permit was granted to me immediately, but my request that Schmidt's name be included in the permit was turned down, - luckily so -, because the Danish Committee had also telegraphed to the Department of Antiquities, and proposed only my name. There was a delay of a week getting the permit through the acting High Commissioner's office. Meanwhile Schmidt was making life miserable for me, by demanding that we begin digging again without a permit. I refused, whereupon he said he would begin anyway. I could not send a policeman after him, but Dr. L. A. Mayer, the acting director of Antiquities, with whom I kept in close touch, informed me then unofficially, that if any digging was done, I would be held responsible. I immediately sent a special messenger to Shilo, and forbade Schmidt in strong language to do anything till I received the permit and could be present on the site. The day after, last Wednesday, the permit came. I got Dr. Cumming, and we immediately drove out to Shilo. Schmidt met us, and announced that he had decided suddenly not to permit digging in the earlier levels, but despite his former agreement with me to devote all the rest of the time and money to working on a church on the site. That was contrary to my instructions from Denmark, and my own interests and competence. He was going to permit me to dig a ditch here, and a hole there in the part of the hill where Kjaer had been digging, but forbade me to touch this spot and that wall, and so on. There were two courses left open to me. One to exercise my authority, have the man thrown off the premises, and work my own way, and in accordance with my instruction. That was impossible, because the man has moral and personal and property rights in Shilo, and he would have gone raving mad, literally insane. The other was to close the dig, -which I regretfully did. I returned to Jerusalem, and discussed the whole matter with the Director of Antiquities. He applauded my action, and unofficially requested me to keep the permit in my name, till the division of the finds previously made had taken place, and till some sort of a report had been written. He said he could not and would not have any dealings with Schmidt. I agreed to retain the permit, and explained clearly to Schmidt that no more digging was to go on this year. Meanwhile I telegraphed to the Danish Committee, and to Dr. Ingholt of the American University of Beirut, who is their representative in Palestine. Dr. Ingholt came down from

Beirut, approved of my actions, and said that if I had gone ahead and dug according to my own judgement, which Fisher and Vincent had agreed with, despite Schmidt, the Danish Committee would have backed me up. All the money has been placed in Ingholt's and my name, and as soon as the architect at Shilo, Schultz, is finished with the copying of some mosaics there, I shall bring the materials at Shilo here to Jerusalem.)

✓ When I examined the pottery at Shilo over a month ago, as I wrote then in a letter to Dr. ~~Montgomery~~, I found that most of it dug up from the N. W. wall which was being excavated, corresponded to our T. B. M. E-pottery. There were some E. B. sherds and a fair amount of L. B. sherds, but the main picture was 18.-17. cent. M. B.. Two scarabs found with them were adjudged by Rowe, to whom I showed them, to be Hyksos scarabs. Schmidt insisted, however, that all the evidence showed that Shilo was destroyed in L. B.. A couple weeks after that I took Fisher to Shilo with me, and he confirmed my judgement about the pottery, as did Vincent a few weeks still later when he went up there with Ingholt and me. ✓ The picture of Shilo, seems then to be as follows: There was some occupation during E. B. times, a considerable one during M. B., and a smaller in L. B.. The material from the previous campaigns completes the picture.

I was very glad to hear that there will be about a thousand dollars for El-Hamme or elsewhere. I shall do nothing now till spring. Nassif Bey wants a quarter of the antiquities for his share in return for permitting us to dig. I do not care to agree to such a proposal without authority from America. What is your opinion, please? As I expected, I could not raise money for the synagogue at El-Hemme. I told Sukenik that the various letters I had written for that purpose had resulted in negative answers, whereupon he informed me he had secured money here in Palestine. He no longer spoke of cooperation in digging the synagogue, however. I was a bit peened, but said nothing to him. I felt that cooperation should work both ways. I told Magnes and Schlössinger so a few days later, when at the tea we gave for Dr. Cumming, they broached me about cooperation between the U. U., H. U. C., and the A. S. O. R.. At their prodding since then Sukenik has written me a letter asking me to cooperate with him, knowing that I can't now. He is beginning immediately. I shall wait and see what the developments are, and keep you fully informed as soon as any plans materialize. Is there any other particular small site you would like to have me work on?

✓ I am enclosing a sheet of the lined centimeter paper, of which I find, we have a whole case in the cellar. ✓ If there is to be a campaign at Beth-Zur this summer, we already have more than a sufficient stock on hand.

With best greetings,

Very sincerely yours,

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