

15 April 1945.

Dear William:

I was perturbed to learn recently from Ben Dor that you had long been ill this winter. I am terribly sorry, and hope that you have long before this fully recovered. I like to believe that your letter to Ben Dor means that you were already then well on the road to recovery. I can imagine that you have been swamped with letters and more important matters which you had to postpone attending to during the period of your illness. When you have time, I shall be happy to hear from you.

You will know more than I do about my book THE JORDAN. I had a long letter about three weeks ago from Rev. Trinterud, telling me that the Westminster Press wanted to publish the book, was prepared to print 104 plates alone in a book of some 320 pages, which would sell for about \$3.00 to \$3.50, and which they wanted to publish some time this fall. However, they asked me first to revise the last two chapters, saying that they thought they did not measure up to the rest of the book. When I read over those two chapters, after not having looked at them for about 6 months, I found myself in complete agreement with them. I immediately sat down, and radically revised the last two chapters, incorporating the material into one chapter, and making it conform, I believe and hope, to the rest of the book.

In response to a question put in his letter by Rev. Trinterud, I replied that I would agree in advance to any editorial changes in the manuscript which you approved of. I trust that you will not be burdened too much. After all, I had already entered practically every correction and change which you had suggested in your previous, extremely careful reading of the original manuscript, so there ought not to be much that they should bother you with. Thanks a million in advance. I sometimes wonder how you ever have time to do all the scholarly work you do while answering the correspondence of a host of scholars and other friends, reading their manuscripts, and discussing their problems.

I shall await with much interest what Rev. Trinterud and his associates have to say with regard to the revised section I returned to him. I gathered from his letter that it was only a matter of receiving that material before he sent me a contract for the book. Any terms that you think are all right for such a contract, are certainly all right with me. I don't care whether I make any money out of the book. I shall be happy to see it published. I think that that collection of photographs deserves publication. I hope that the Westminster Press can find the proper glossy, chrome paper to print the photographic plates properly. The only criticism I have of the new Bible Atlas is that the photographs seem to have soaked into the paper, and are not nearly as clear as they would have been had they used glossy or chrome paper. However, that is probably a matter of wartime exigencies.

My heartiest congratulations on the Bible Atlas. There is thus far only one copy in the country, which Ernest sent directly to Malsler, so I have had it in my hands for only a few minutes. I read your contribution, which forms a splendid first chapter to the book. I haven't had a chance to go through the rest of the Atlas yet. The maps are superbly printed. There are some things I do not agree with, such as the locations of Abel-meholah and Mahanaim and the territory assigned to Gad, but those are minor criticisms. I really haven't had a chance yet properly to check the maps.

I sit here with heavy heart today over the death of our President Roosevelt. It is one of the greatest losses of this entire war. God help us ^{in the future} in the year or two to come, when we so desperately needed ~~his~~ leadership, and grant that our new President may in some measure be able to rise to the needs of the time.

The weather has prevented all field work of any kind, and still does. It is a year, the like of which has not been encountered in living memory. So I have been

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sitting home, plugging away on preparing my pottery plates for part 4 of my Explorations. I am definitely able to insert for the Jordan Valley an additional period between Jericho IX and VIII and another one between VIII and VII. Ben Dor was here the other day and is in full agreement with my results. I have no idea whether or not you are going to use any of the T. Umm Hamad Sherqi material I had sent to you just before I left or perhaps just after I left Cincinnati this time. I shall not be unhappy if you have decided to postpone publishing it for the present. I have completely reworked those materials.

I am getting homesick again, or rather desperately lonely for Helen and our boy. In any event, the course of events is making me think of going home again, - sometime late this summer or early this fall. I think then I shall know what the immediate future is to be like, what demands are to be made upon me, and I feel that in all probability, insofar as I can foresee, I shall be able to remain home.

There is nothing I would rather do, everything else being equal, than remain on here for the rest of my academic career as Director of this School. I love this place, I love my work, I love this kind of life. I am deeply rooted and at home here. However, everything is not equal by a long shot. Aside from numerous considerations which do not depend upon me, I have obligations to my family and to the Hebrew Union College, which sooner or later require my remaining in America. I want my boy to go to American schools, and have my own American background. My wife has a right to continue her medical career in which she is so successful. I have promised to return to the Hebrew Union College.

A new Director of the School will therefore have to be thought about or chosen within the coming months. I should like to retain the title of Director of this School say till the end of 1945. I suggest that a new Director be appointed effective from the beginning of January 1946. I am writing to Millar Burrows that we can discuss the time to terminate my salary later. I think at the present moment that it ought to be possible to terminate it at the end of September 1945.

I think the new Director should be in Jerusalem about January 1946, although I am sure that it will not be possible to commence our normal academic work till the war with Japan is over. And I cannot see that ending till possibly somewhere in 1947. I hope I am wrong and that it ends sooner. In whatever interval, however, there may be between my eventual departure from here and the arrival of the new Director, we can all rest assured that the School's hotel and grounds and servant staff will be managed efficiently by Mrs. Pommerantz with the aid of her husband. She has repeatedly demonstrated her ability to run this place during long periods when no Director was present.

I am afraid the post-war years here are going to be difficult and dangerous ones. We need not only a competent scholar and archaeologist here, but a person who at the same time will be able to keep his head and steer the School safely through experiences which I am afraid are going to be similar to those we lived through here during 1936-40. I wish I could stay on. I make bold to think I could handle the troublesome situation as it may affect our School, which I think is going to develop. Forgive me if this sounds egotistical. It arises not from self-praise of my past here at the School but out of concern for the future welfare of the School.

It would be wonderful if you could come back here for at least a couple of years, and could be followed then by Millar Burrows. I should like to see Ernest Wright here sooner or later. If he can't come, I should like to see Ingholt here. Perhaps we have a commitment to Robert Engberg. I do not think he is of the same calibre as either of these last two, but if he is accepted, I shall be for him with might and main. I am deeply attached to this School. I owe it a great deal. I shall always want to serve it to the best of my ability in whatever capacity it is given me to work for it and the cause it represents.

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It is hard to think of the immediate future without the presence of our great President. God help America and the world.

With best regards to you and Ruth, and again with the hope that you are well and are taking care of yourself, as ever, yours,