

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

November 8, 1945

Dear Nelson,

Your letter of September 18, 1945 arrived here October 22nd, and the toxoid arrived soon after. Thank you very much indeed for it, and please thank also Helen from me. I hope it will stop my boils once and for all.

I am sending you in this letter the financial statements and the broken down accounts for October. I hope you received the last lot in order. I had included there a statement of your personal account which you ask for in this last letter. The Hostel is half empty, and I think, is going to be like that until next spring. Prices not only do not go down, but in some instances rise. There are still no imports whatsoever of foreign foodstuffs into Palestine, although I see in the papers that cars and radios are soon going to appear.

The OSJ and Burrows' book are selling very slowly indeed. If in a month or so I see that the sales do not budge, I might again take up Aronsohn's offer to have sole distribution rights. A number of people want to subscribe to our Publications (BASOR, BA, AASOR). Could you find out from Dr. Burrows at the December meeting what he would like me to do about it; refer them to him directly, or let the order go through the School here, subscriptions being paid to me. In case he prefers the last, I am going to open a separate account in our books for these subscriptions.

The Hebrew OSJ is coming out this week or next week. I told Gordon to send you a copy as soon as they can. I told him of your idea to have the plates printed in America, and he is quite willing to deposit the necessary money with me in advance, only he says he would like to know approximately how much. I do not know whether the Mosad Bialik can afford to have all the photos which will appear in the English text printed in the Hebrew edition. Perhaps you can find out approximately how much it is going to cost per plate?

I have received a form from the Income Tax people here, to be filled out within thirty days. This form also includes your salary as Director of the School, rent-free house etc. I have tried to stall them off, and wrote to them saying that you were in America and were coming back in January. I hope it works. I also telephoned the American Consulate, asking them about the position of Americans in Palestine whose salary is paid in America, but they said it was a matter for the Government Income Tax Office. I explained to the Income Tax Assessing Officer that your income was paid in America, from American funds etc., but he insisted that as the institution itself was situated in Palestine, and the money was in part used by you here, it was taxable. Perhaps you can bring with you when you come some kind of declaration about the source of payment of your salary.

I have had the remaining water pumped out of the cistern which was contaminated last summer, and the cistern cleaned. I hope it will be all right now. When Schmidt leaves (inshallah) I plan to convert his room into an ironing room, so as to leave the present ironing room, next door to the kitchen, as a room for the servants. At present they have nowhere to sit. Schmidt affirms that he is going to stay in Denmark only one week, as he is too busy here with the publication

of his book, (I believe he is also writing a book against the Jews). He thought he was just going to lock the door of his room and return after a few weeks. Under the pretext of whitewashing, I got him to put his papers into some packing cases which I provided, but he is pressing me for a definite promise that he can come back here. Of course I am not going to give him such a promise, and I am going to talk to Miss Egblad and ask her to write to Denmark about him, suggesting that he is not fit to be in Palestine on his own, which is only too true.

Sukenik had to eat his words about his "lamentation over the death of Christ". Hamilton made him issue, together with himself, a denial, which is really nothing but a snub. The name Jesus does occur in a three word Greek inscription, but malicious people say Sukenik read Jesus Oivavoi where there is nothing but the Greek genitive ou. I had an airmail letter from some clergyman in Washington (which by the way took only 12 days) asking me very urgently to send him a photograph of "the urn showing the crucifixion of Jesus".

I imagine that from the newspapers in America you might think that the country is on the brink of riots. Actually, no feeling of tension such as there was during the previous riots exists at all. The foreign correspondents sitting here have nothing to do, and to justify their existence, send out telegrams about tension. During the Balfour Day Arab strike, for instance, a great many Arabs went to take the air in Jewish quarters and sat about in Jewish cafés. It was more in the nature of a holiday for them than a political demonstration. I think

With best regards from both of us,

yours sincerely