

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

CABLE ADDRESS: MONUMENTS

Sept. 29, 1932.

Professor James A. Montgomery
President
American Schools of Oriental Research
Germantown, Philadelphia.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

I was glad to receive your letters of Aug. 31 and Sept. 3.

A number of changes have occurred here since I wrote to you last on Aug. 8. In the first place I have dispensed with the services of the housekeeper. She was receiving ten pounds a month for half time work, and really spent only about a half an hour a day here on the average. Mrs. Beaumont, the housekeeper, was engaged a few weeks before my coming here. She is an excellent woman, but had too many outside interests for an efficient housekeeper. Her primary interest was her own Pension. She had also stipulated that she was not to keep the accounts of the hostel. I found that there was actually very little which she really did for us. So we parted ways, - quite amicably. The secretary keeps the hostel accounts now, - which, I think, a more satisfactory arrangement anyway. I have impressed my wife into service as housekeeper, and her hospital training is standing her in good stead. She arranges the menus, sees that the buildings are kept clean, and checks the linens and other household supplies periodically. Some permanent arrangement will have to be made next year, when Dr. Albright returns.

Mrs
Beaumont

The apparatus of running the School has been enlarged more than necessary, and I am proceeding to reduce it to its proper proportions. I know that Dr. Albright approves. I have found that the servants had too much free time in the afternoons, so I have given them all the house laundry to do, and let the washwomen go. The School saves about three pounds a month in this way. In our small budget every little sum counts. I propose to spend on books whatever sums I can save through the more economical running of the School.

I wonder if it would not be advisable to insert a notice in the Bulletin, that the School hostel will be glad to provide quarters and board for visiting archaeologists, and all those who are affiliated with scientific institutions. This promises to be a lean year for the hostel.

Professor Cumming and his son arrived Sept. 13. He is a very delightful man, and I am looking forward to a very pleasant year of work with him. His son is a pleasing, alert, well brought up lad, who is going to learn much from his stay in Jerusalem. Two of the new students have arrived. Another is to come in a few days. Dr. Stinespring and Mr. Detweiler complete the list of those who will be with us most of the coming year. When the term starts officially next week, I shall send a roster of the students.

I attended a meeting of the Archaeological Advisory Committee recently. Mr. Starkey was given permission to excavate at Tell Duweir. He had been associated formerly with Flinders Petrie. The excavations at Shilo have commenced under the direction of Hans Kjaer and Aage Schmidt. We are co-operating with them and have loaned them a good deal of our

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equipment. The Tell Beit Mirsim Expedition had borrowed a good deal of equipment from them, so it is a give and take affair. I have been going out to Shilo occasionally. I find that all the pottery they had excavated from the lower level they are now working in belonged to the Middle Bronze period, and corresponded to the E level pottery of Tell Beit Mirsim. I am anxious to find out what Pere Vincent and Dr. Fisher will have to say about this pottery. Now that Dr. Albright has gone, they are the only other real pottery experts we have in Palestine. I am afraid, however, that the Shilo expedition will come to an untimely end this season. Inspektor Kjaer has become very ill again, and is now in the hospital, and Dr. Schmidt is not competent enough to direct an excavation. I am going out there tomorrow to have a conference with Dr. Schmidt.

Dr. Albright left for America Sept. 7. He had been staying with us in the Director's house, and we were sorry to lose his company. It is splendid that he will be able to return as the permanent director of the School. It was a privilege to be able to work under Dr. Albright again this summer, even if only for the first half of the campaign. Dr. Kyle, with his incurable optimism, is already planning another campaign two years hence. I am now attending to the division of the finds made at Tell Beit Mirsim this summer. Mr. Iliffe of the Department of Antiquities spent the morning with me selecting materials for the Museum, and we are to continue the division two days from now.

I wrote to you about a vacation for Dr. Fisher at his suggestion. In the light of what you say it does seem superfluous to set aside a fixed time for his vacation, in as much as his time is largely his own anyway. He is still engaged in working on his Corpus, I am happy to say. I shall visit him on my way back from Shilo tomorrow, and tell him that you have taken up the matter of subsidy for work on his Corpus with Dr. Breasted. I note what you say with regard to my duties as ranking officer so far as the School is concerned in all field work, as well as in the School. I assure you that I shall not hesitate to exert authority in Jerash, whenever necessary, and that I shall keep tight hold of the expedition's purse strings. I suggest that the money for Jerash be sent to the School, - but then I imagine that such has always been the procedure. With regard to the Jerash expedition, which is to be conducted this coming spring, I feel that the work should be limited to the surveying, drawing, photographing, and studying intensively the ruins which are now above ground. In order to facilitate this procedure, it will be necessary to employ about fifteen laborers for the period of the campaign to clear debris from these ruins, to enable the surveyors and architects to do their work properly. Dr. Fisher has presented a budget to me, which I consider impossible. I shall not transmit it to you, because I cannot O.K. it at all. He has made provision for his secretary, Adib Ishak, and for two of his Egyptian foremen, - all of whom I consider unnecessary for the kind of work to be done at Jerash this coming spring. I had a number of conferences with Dr. Albright about Jerash before he left, and I have also discussed the matter thoroughly with Dr. Stinespring, who is acting as the representative of Yale. We have worked out a budget, which I herewith present to you.

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Architect (Detweiler)	25.00	L. P.
Surveyor (Hucklesby)	25.00	
Draftsman (Labib Sorial)	20.00	
Food and House	30.00	
Drawing and photographing supplies	10.00	
15 workmen for 20 days a month	45.00	
Foreman	5.00	
Insurance	3.00	
Repair of expedition house	2.00	
Miscellaneous, emergencies	25.00	
Transportation	<u>10.00</u>	
Total per month	200.00	L. P.
Total for 5 months	1000.00	L. P.
Debt already owed American School	100.00	
Estimated further debt	100.00	
	<u>666</u>	
Total cost for five months	1200.00	L. P.

Dr. Fisher has more or less promised Detweiler the job as architect next spring. In my letter to Dr. Barton, written Aug. 20, I wrote at some length about Detweiler. I know that Dr. Albright was favorably impressed with him, and that impression was gained from close observation this summer at Tell Beit Mirsim. My own feeling is that he is an excellent young man, and merits encouragement. I have made arrangements with Mr. Detweiler, whereby in exchange for being the night man here, and doing whatever odd jobs I might occasionally ask him to perform, he was to receive his lodgings free. He is to pay for his board at the normal rate, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The supposition was that he would be employed at Jerash this spring. By the time you receive this letter, you will, I am sure, have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with Dr. Albright, with whom I had discussed the entire arrangement. I do not know Mr. Beidler. I do know Mr. Detweiler, and should like warmly to recommend that he be given the Thayer Fellowship next year. At the present time Mr. Detweiler is giving Dr. Fisher two days a week on the Corpus. In case the University of Chicago provides Fisher with funds for help on his work, I think that Detweiler should be payed for his services, - in which case I shall make a different arrangement with him here at the School. Detweiler returns every night of theseveral days a week he spends at Ramallah with Fisher, and is thus able to act as our night man without any interruption.

Mr. Hucklesby was the surveyor of the Jerash Expedition last campaign, and appears to be an excellent man. I have looked at his work, and his plans make an excellent impression. Several competent people have expressed the opinion after seeing the plans, that they are of the highest order.

So much for the present for Jerash. I am having the names in the Visitors' Book copied, and will forward them to you. I do not think that it will be of much assistance for the purpose of gathering funds for the School. Most of the visitors are professors of various universities, archaeologists, missionaries, and I am sure that all of them are therefore more or less impecunious. I am also sending you the duplicate cards of accessions to the library, which have been gathering here from previous years. The new duplicate cards will be sent regularly.

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I was sorry to hear for Dr. Kraeling that the Jerash mosaics had arrived in American in an exceedingly damaged condition. I have already taken steps to facilitate the securing of reimbursement from the insurance company for the work necessary to restore the mosaics. The mosaics were packed some time last year. The division of the small objects found at Jerash last campaign is to take place this November. I shall triple pack the share which is allotted to us before sending it to America.

The local branch of the American University Women's Association, is, with my consent, going to continue the practice begun last year under Burrows, and hold their meetings here.

I am sorry that there will probably not be sufficient funds for El Hamme. Very little will be required. Perhaps after Dr. Albright explains the situation some funds may be found to undertake a ~~small~~ small dig there. You see the reason I want to dig there this year is that the Hebrew University has permission to excavate the synagogue, which has been found on top of the little tell there, and I thought that when they were through it would be an excellent opportunity to investigate parts of the rest of the tell. There was an occupation there from Early Bronze times on. Dr. Albright has suggested that perhaps the rest of the Tell Beit Mirsim funds might be allocated to the prosecution of a small dig at Tell El-Hamme. The Hebrew University has no funds whatsoever to dig the synagogue, which has been found on Tell El-Hamme. They have turned to me, and asked me to try and help them raise the necessary funds. I have written to Dr. Morgenstern about the matter, and am waiting to hear from him.

El-Hamme has just recently been transferred from Transjordan to Palestine. One of the reasons I guess is that it is a valuable piece of territory, and perhaps it makes it easier to cope with the intensive hashish smuggling, which is going on in the vicinity. The borders of Palestine, Transjordan, and Syria touch in the immediate neighborhood of El-Hamme.

The water situation has finally been improved - for the present. We get water three times a week now, and so I am permitting the members of the School to take baths again. Sept. 12 we had an intense rain storm. The water flooded the parched ground, and for about fifteen minutes there was a severe hail storm. If I am not mistaken this is the first time in many years that there has been a rainfall in Jerusalem so early in the year.

With best greetings,
sincerely yours

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