

1938?

Aqabah, Transjordan.

Dear Mrs. Warburg:

We are near the end of the first season of excavations at the site near Aqabah which is called Tell el-Kheleifi. It is to be identified with Solomon's port city, Ezion-Geber, whence his ships used to sail to Ophir. The location of the site is beautiful. We are practically on the shore of the Gulf of 'Aqabah. Every afternoon, after work is over, we race down and plunge into the sea. I can't tell you how pleasant it feels after a long day in the dust and heat of the excavations. I have a good staff with me, composed of members of our Jerusalem School.

The finds thus far have been of much importance. We have discovered an elaborate smelting works, composed of a block of about fifteen rooms, with interconnecting flues. There is also a number of inscriptions, which I have hardly had time to look at. My staff is too small to permit us to do more than get everything recorded and arranged by 8:30 P.M., when we go to sleep. We get up at 5 A.M. I shall not be able to complete the excavations this season, and will have to attempt to finish them next year, if the funds can be raised. (This is not a request for money.).

Helen and Hadassah Samuel were here for about ten days, and I think had a good time. They went sailing and fishing every day. We have fresh fish whenever we can induce some of the local people to fish for us, and bring the fish in. They are a lazy lot. And we haven't time to go fishing.

I have asked Dr. Morgenstern to give me a fourth year's leave-of-absence to remain as director of the School. His answer must be in the mails by now. I hope it will be in the affirmative, because I sorely need a fourth year to finish the work I have started. Helen is assisting in the Hadassah hospital, but unfortunately is not allowed to do as much work as she would like to, and used to do in Cincinnati.

I keep thinking as I am writing to you also of Mr. Warburg. He would have enjoyed hearing of the progress of the excavations of Solomon's smelting-plant.

The tragic events in Palestine have but faint repercussions here. Were it not for the weekly post, one could almost believe that Palestine was a land of peace, and all well with the world. Our only connection otherwise is through the police telegraph-station in Aqabah, which we are permitted to use.

Please give my regards to Edward. My warmest greetings to you.

As ever,

sincerely yours,

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