

" Aunt of Asela

March 21st 1939

Mrs. Felix M. Warburg
1105 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mrs. Warburg,

I have waited for a rather long time to write to you again because there has been nothing particularly pleasant to report. Now, however, I have something more cheerful to write about than I could have previously. After a very difficult pregnancy, during most of which Helen was confined to bed, and which at one time caused me to be summoned precipitously from Transjordan, Helen has now given birth by Caesarian operation to a fine boy, whom we have named Charles Jonathan. She has had a very difficult post-operative week, but now, thank God, is much better and definitely on the mend. The baby weighed almost nine pounds when born, and has gained a little weight since then. It looks more like an Iglauer than a Glueck, but will be a big fellow like his father. I am enclosing a photograph of it made when it was eight days old. Helen will probably have to remain in the hospital for another fortnight, and the baby is remaining in the children's ward. Mother's milk is being purchased for it because Helen has none.

Here conditions remain as tense as they were before the London Conference, or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the situation here has become more serious than it was previously. The American Philosophical Society had just made me another grant to conduct the second season of excavations at Solomon's sea-port of Ezion-geber near Aqabah, and I was all prepared to go off yesterday with my staff to Aqabah to commence work there. I was planning to return about once every two weeks in order to see Helen and the baby. Suddenly, however, as if by signal, and it is undoubtedly either a German or an Italian signal, or both, disturbances have flared up throughout Transjordan, which during all the years of the troubles in Palestine has been absolutely quiet. You know that during the years I have been here, I have been wandering throughout the length and breadth of Transjordan, accompanied only by one Arab, sleeping wherever night fell, and without even the slightest harm ever being threatened. About two days before I was ready to set off this time for Transjordan, the Office of the British

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Resident in Transjordan phoned through to me and requested me please to postpone the excavations for the present. So perforce I am remaining here. In a way I am relieved, because it enables me to spend the first weeks with Helen and the baby. On the other hand, the disturbances which are now beginning in Transjordan may be the precursors of a long period of unrest there which will render archaeological work in Transjordan as impossible as it has become on the whole in Palestine. However, the authorities there are proceeding against the troublemakers with an energy and thoroughness which, had they been adopted in Palestine early enough, might have prevented the present impasse in which Palestine finds itself. I am hoping, however, that peace will soon be restored again to Transjordan, and that I will be able to resume my work and bring the excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh and my archaeological explorations in Transjordan to an end. Peace in Palestine depends of course on the entire world situation, as indirectly does that of Transjordan.

I still have another year before my present term expires as Director of the School. Dr. Morgenstern, the President of the Hebrew Union College, has refused to extend the period of my leave of absence, and I feel honour bound to return to Cincinnati. I cannot help confessing to you, however, that as much as I like Cincinnati and my work at the Hebrew Union College, and as grateful as I am to Morgenstern for his continuous kindness to me, that I shall return to Cincinnati with great reluctance. I love my work here, I believe I have been doing a fairly competent job, and I think, if I may say so, that just by my being here and working unobtrusively and quietly in a completely neutral fashion, devoted solely to the direction of the School and to the prosecution of archaeological research, that I am serving my people in a better way than I possibly could in any other position. Helen too feels much differently about Palestine than she did originally and would have been willing now to remain here more or less permanently.

Helen joins me in sending our love to you. Please remember us especially to Edward who, I am delighted to see from the newspapers, is devoting so much of his time to the interests his father gave so much of himself to.

As ever,
sincerely yours

NG:IR