

O. W. Qualley Log

University of Michigan Archaeological Project in Karanis, Egypt, 1924-25

(Revision, with additions, begun 15 August 2014)

## **A Diary of Seven Months in Egypt, 1 October 1924 through 30 April 1925**

### 1 October 1924

After calling at the Express Office we went to the Museum. Boak has letters to a couple of the men there and some business with them relative to the Expedition. While he saw the one who was in I looked around at the first part of the collection. It is a wonderful exhibit. I shall have to do it piecemeal and expect to go back several times while we are here. At present it isn't open after one in the afternoon. The Museum's material illustrates the art, sculpture, life, etc. of Egypt from the earliest period down through the Roman period. Relics from the time of the Arab domination are kept in the Arabian Museum. From our hotel the Museum is less than ten minutes' walk distant.

In the afternoon the American Express Company's guide, that is their chief of staff—the Express co. has over a dozen Egyptians for that sort of thing—took us around the Southeast quarter of the city. This fellow is very reliable and so much more intelligent than the average. He knows a great deal more about things too. We engaged a carriage for the afternoon in order to cover as much ground as possible and also to save ourselves. When we have this guide for another half day we shall have covered the Arab or native part of the city pretty well.

The guide took us into several places where the ordinary tourists do not go, especially in the native quarter. He showed us what is known as the Golden House from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was built by a rich merchant of Cairo. The Sycamore woodwork is carved in the very finest design and the ceilings throughout are worked in a gilded pattern—hence the name. The harem was well provided for. Of course it had to be if there were 17 in it as the guide said. In the native quarter the streets are so narrow that the balconies of the houses often meet.

Passing through the native quarter is very interesting. Vehicles of every description from the donkey cart to the automobile were trying to make progress through the crowded street. You can realize just what a hoodlum exists when all the drivers shout to the pedestrians to look out and get out of the way. The terrific shouting in the streets is one of the marked differences between Cairo or any Egyptian town and our cities. We seemed to be as much of a curiosity to the natives as they were to us. The shops all along the way are horribly dirty. How anyone can buy food there is beyond me.

We entered three of the finer mosques and have two left to visit, one of them the Mohammedan University. The Blue Mosque which we visited yesterday is a branch of the U. and has some of the younger students. Getting into it is like being in a madhouse. All the younger students learn is the Koran. With them all studying out loud it must be easy to learn a lesson and fun for the teacher. No wonder they are ignorant.

The Mosque El Mouyaid is interesting. Outside at the gate are a lot of bolts and pegs sticking out. The sick or those with an ailment come there to be cured. In passing they kneel there or put their face to the wall. Taking a piece off from the bandage covering the sore and tying it to a peg effects a cure, they think. The place was crowded when we passed.

Mohammed Ali's Mosque about 100 years old is one of the very finest in Cairo. Built of Alabaster stone it was patterned in almost every detail on the famous church, Saint Sofia at Constantinople which has of course been converted into a mosque by the Turks. Around the large central dome are four half domes and at the corners there are four full domes, though smaller. The effect is beautiful.

The mosque is built on the citadel of the city. Passing around behind the mosque we had a magnificent view of Cairo and its environs. I am told it is one of the very finest in the world. Below us stretched the panorama of the City of Cairo with its countless domes and minarets. To the west of the city flows the Nile now at its height. Some miles beyond the Nile the pyramids caught our eye, massive things they are even at a distance of nine miles. Beyond them are the Libyan and Sahara Deserts. It is an impressive sight.

The Blue Mosque is interesting. Originally all its walls in the interior were covered with blue porcelain brought from China in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Napoleon and his army took most of it from the walls and shipped it to France when he invaded Egypt in 1798. Many of the mosques were used as stables by him and yet he pretended to be friendly to the Mohammedans. Enough of the blue porcelain remains to give one an idea of how beautiful it must have been when intact. All the mosques have washing places for ablution. The Mohammedan must wash certain parts of his body 3 times before he prays 5 times a day. We saw several performing the ablution.

We expect to make a visit to the Pyramids, perhaps next week. Boak is thinking of taking two or three days. Then we will get our first camel ride and shall probably camp out on the desert as it is so much cleaner than the places one gets into out there. We shall have this guide if we do that. He is exceedingly good.

I have just gotten back from a visit to the American University of Cairo. Telford gave me the name of the President, Mr. Watson. He was very nice to me showed me around the buildings and took me back to the hotel in his car. I am going to look up a couple of others whose names I have in the near future, one man at the American Mission, near Shepherd's Hotel.

Have I told you that there is a large American Presbyterian Mission School at Assiut? I am glad as we shall see them. It's a big American colony there, Watson told me.

#### 2 October 1924

After I finished your letter on Wednesday I went to the American Mission to look up Rev. Jordan who is engaged to Telford's niece. I got into the President, Dr. Alexander's office in my search. The latter is a fine old man who has put in nearly his whole life here in Egypt. He was very interested in our work and he knows Kelsey well. He introduced me to his wife and a Dr. Hutchinson of their mission near Alexandria. I was invited in to have tea with them. Wasn't that kind? There I met Dr. Pollock and his wife. He is another American physician connected with the Presbyterian mission work and is in charge of the American Hospital at Assiut. I was unusually glad to meet him as I know to whom to go from Maabda in case of any trouble. They extended invitations to Boak and myself to spend a weekend or any other time we have at their home. It developed that he was a classmate of Telford's at the Seminary so I have a sort of link with him. He is the finest kind of man too.

There is a colony of about thirty or 35 Americans at Assiut. It will be like getting home to visit there. The Presbyterian mission has two colleges there, one for boys with 800 students, and one for girls with 400. They are doing a great work here in Egypt. Services are held in English at the mission here on Sunday afternoon at six. If Boak doesn't suggest anything taking us away from Cairo I intend to go.

After the tea Gordon was on the scene. He is a modest young fellow but a fine chap. He took his college work at Nebraska. He said he would look me up here. There was a call for me here last night. By the time I got to the phone the connection was gone.

I am very thankful to have made contact with so many fine people here. I know that they would do everything for one. The best part is that we are joined by a sort of common bond. One realizes here what it means to meet Christian men and women.

Yesterday morning I bought a couple of Arabic books and intend to try to pick up some of it. In the P. M. we went out to the Zoological Gardens. The tramway out there crosses the Nile by way of Gezireh Island, the fashionable resort of Cairo—it is beautiful there—and runs south along the west bank of the river. We came back just at sunset. I caught a glimpse of the Pyramids in that beautiful pink afterglow. The palm trees in the foreground gave the picture a fine setting. The palms and houseboats along the Nile are a reality to me now.

The Zoo has a great collection of game animals, especially the bigger ones which abound in tropical Africa. The monster hippo got out of the water for his feed while we were there. He is a whale, believe me. The grotto is very well done. Running water in it gives one the feeling of coolness. I saw papyrus plants actually growing for the first time. There wasn't time to do things thoroughly. We may go back later on.

Last night Dr. and Mrs. Askren, a medical missionary of the Fayume where we had planned on working one site came to Cairo and had dinner with us. He has done a lot for Prof. Kelsey in purchasing papyri heretofore and also in making arrangements for this expedition to Maabda. He has some papyri now too. He's a man of about fifty, I should say, but very active and a fine sort of man. He will engage a cook for our party and perhaps go with us up the river. We are invited to make their home our headquarters when we go to the Fayume to take pictures week after next. We shall stay at their home and hire a car to the various points we want to visit. That will be fine for us.

This afternoon we are going to see a man, Nachmann, who has bought up papyri for the U. of Michigan. Boak will undoubtedly buy quite a few from him. He has one roll 60 feet long, Boak says.

Tomorrow we will spend the day at the Giza Pyramids. Boak wants some photographs. Next week we may move out to Helouan about 35 minutes out by tramway, a health resort. It will be cheaper and more quiet. We can run in when we want. Also we are invited out to spend two days at the Sakkarah Pyramids and the Necropolis or burial place at Memphis by the man in charge of excavations there.

#### 5 October 1924

If all the weeks were to be as this first one it would be too much of a good thing. In order to acclimate ourselves we have taken things easy. At noon we generally rest for an hour or so during the hot part of the day to settle our lunch. I have also learned to walk along leisurely without chafing. No

one walks rapidly here as it would be too fatiguing, in fact people walk as little as possible.

The heat doesn't bother me much. Every day there has been a fresh breeze which is cooling. Yesterday at the Pyramids the breeze was fine. My greatest problem is to get my stomach adjusted. My bowels do not want to move regularly. It may be that the effects of the sea trip have something to do with it. A pill or light laxative always does the business but I am hoping to get along without them soon. Boak is having the same experience.

Money here is very easy to use because it is used in denominations similar to our own. The piastre is the unit and it is equivalent to five cents in our money. The smallest piece is a millieme or half a cent piece, and the next is a half piastre or 2 ½ cents. The larger coins are like our own in amounts. 2 piastres = one dime, 5 = 25 cents, 10 = 50, 20 = \$1.00. The pound is theoretically equivalent to five dollars. The other day I got 107 ½ piasters for five dollars or \$5.37 ½ cents in Egyptian money. Some of their coins have only Arabic figures on them but I can read the Arabic numerals now. The date of issue given is 582 years later than ours. Mohammedan reckoning begins with Mohammed who was born 582 A. D., you see. Some of the coins issued by the English have our year e. g. 1917 on one side and the Arabic 1335 on the other.

The number of blind is astounding. Flies literally fill the children's eyes while they are small and the people do not know enough to brush them off.

Yesterday we were out at the Great Pyramids at Giza. It is nine miles or thereabouts from Cairo. We went by car. When we arrived the roadway on both sides was lined with camels. The natives were half wild to take us. Fortunately we had a guide to dispose of them, otherwise they are sometimes quite annoying.

On our way out we crossed a section which is flooded at this time of year by the Nile. The ground is entirely covered with water. Here and there the villages perching on their mounds form islands in the temporary lake. Boats are necessary for them to leave. Before the English put in the big dams in the Nile at various points, especially Assiut, the whole valley was under water annually for three months just like that small section we saw yesterday. That is why it was so interesting to me. It explains why the people didn't build around on various lots like we do. A mound or elevation was necessary for the flood period. They go out from their villages in the morning to work and return at evening. The houses are built of sunbaked brick made out of the mud taken from the Nile. The peasants made their houses in exactly [the same way] thousands of years ago under the Pharaohs. I expect that it was such bricks the Israelites were called upon to make. The bricks sometimes have straw to make them hang together. That is the purpose of the straw mentioned in the Bible. When a house falls down all they do is put up another to one side. Inside they are unspeakably dirty. Dirt floors are the general thing. I certainly am glad that we shall not need to stay in any. Of course you must remember that this is the peasant's or fellah's hut. The rich have fine houses.

The day at the pyramids was well worth while. There are three great pyramids and 6 smaller ones in this group in addition to the Sphinx. The pyramids of Cheops and Khephren are the largest of any found in Egypt. Besides the pyramids there are numerous tombs of the nobles, so-called mastabas, from which the form of the pyramids developed. In several of these we saw the hieroglyphics and relief work picturing the life of the people of the period. Each of the larger pyramids had temples on their east side where the people deposited their offerings and worshipped the dead. These, however, are all in ruins.

To me the pyramids seem impressive to a great extent because of their bigness. One marvels at the mass of stone they managed to put together in such an early period. The date of these is 2980-2500 B.C. The Arabs destroyed what beauty the pyramids originally possessed by removing the outer facing from all the pyramids. It was a handy place for them to get stone without quarrying when they built mosques. Mohammed Ali took the alabaster covering from the second pyramid for his mosque, which, you remember, is an imitation of Saint Sofia, Constantinople and so on.

The plateau on the edge of the desert where the pyramids are placed affords an excellent view. We neither climbed on top nor entered the pyramids as both are strenuous and hardly repay the effort unless one is a specialist. We were satisfied with the prospect from below. To the south and west we looked off into the Libyan and Sahara Deserts and in the distance the pyramids at Sakkarah where we plan on going tomorrow or Wednesday loomed up. Cairo lay to the east across the Nile at the foot of the Mokattam Hills which have served as a quarry from the building of the pyramids to the present day. In the north we could see the beginning of the Nile Delta which branches out just to the north of Cairo. Luxuriant palm groves covered the landscape there. Below us was the floodwater of the Nile with the isolated villages in it—a great picture. Except for the city of Cairo itself one could have seen the same things thousands of years ago.

Before going back Boak presented his card at the house of Prof. Reisner of Harvard who is excavating some tombs to the west of the pyramids. We spent a good half hour with him. He has been in this sort of work for more than 15 years in Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine. He gave some very practical suggestions.

#### 6 October 1924

Here I had to leave off last night or yesterday afternoon to get ready for services. After we returned Saturday evening Prof. Cleland of the American U. whom Boak met on the way to England called and invited us to their home for dinner last night.

In the morning he and a couple of other young teachers (Cleland is about 35 perhaps) came for us and we climbed the Mokattam Hills. So now we have looked at Cairo from its various vantage points. Not many cities have so many places giving such wonderful views. There was a fine breeze on the hills. I did not mind the heat at all. I had on my heavy shoes. Though they are hobnailed I am not half as tired after a day with them as with my oxfords.

The services at the Mission were a real inspiration. The minister's name is Phillips and he is a preacher after our own heart. He preached the gospel like so many of them do not. The congregation at this time is made up of mission workers. During the winter, however, a great number of tourists are always present. The workers alone who were present must number 250.

At Prof. Cleland's we had a fine dinner, chicken and mashed potatoes and real ice cream, all more delicious than I have tasted since leaving home. It was great to get into a real home again. Half a dozen of the young professors were present. Mrs. Cleland is pleasant. They have a baby ten months old.

This forenoon Boak was out to get the prices on the papyri we looked at the other day. An antique collector has been buying up some for the U. He has some dandies but his price of \$10,000 is dandy too. I don't think the U will be able to take them all. I typewrote the list for Boak before he mailed the letter.

Boak saw Mr. Furth. His wife isn't back so we have decided to make the trip to Memphis and Sakkarah on our own hook next Wednesday. You will hear of that later.

This afternoon we intend taking a walk on Gezireh Island thru the gardens there etc. It's the fashionable resort in Cairo as I have told you.

When Boak and I were over to see the old antique dealer the other day we each bought a scarab from him. If what he told us is true they date from the XVIII Dynasty 1540-1315 B.C. They aren't so much for looks but genuine ones generally are not, you know. They have hieroglyphics on the back. He brought them from the bank and made us a special price of ten dollars each. He wants 25 for any we get for our friends, he says.

There was a letter from Kelsey this morning. Enoch was going to London with him. In a couple of weeks I ought to hear from him.

Miss Butler wrote a note saying they were having a good time in Paris. Haven't replied to her first one yet.

#### 8 October 1924

This has been a wonderful day in every respect. Our trip to Sakkarah was the finest we have had here. Our guide's arrangements were perfect.

We left on the 8:30 train this morning. One goes to Bedrashein by train. Our guide had engaged camels beforehand. There were two dandies waiting for us at the station. He himself rode a donkey.

On our way out to Sakkarah we passed through ancient Memphis which was the capital of Egypt during the Old Kingdom (Ancient Empire) down to about 2300 B.C., I believe. You see the history of Egypt is divided into the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom or Empire which takes us down to Alexander the Great. During the Middle and New Kingdoms the capital was at Thebes now called Luxor. It was while the capital was at Memphis at the time of the Old Kingdom that all the Pyramids were built. All that is left of the once flourishing city of Memphis is the ruin of an ancient temple and three huge statues, two of Ramses II, supposed to be the oppressor of Israel, and a large Sphinx. Boak took a picture of it.

We passed some very fine palm groves. This section has the most extensive groves in Egypt and the large number of young trees show that the limit has not been reached. They are a beautiful sight. Most of them were loaded with fruit too. It was interesting to see the natives picking the dates. They use a strap like a telephone climber behind their back. Then they have a large board or a basket shaped like a turtle's shell which they raise and lower with a rope. The man in the tree ties it underneath the cluster he is picking and gathers the dates into it. One of the cards I am enclosing will show you the man in the tree. For drying the dates the natives make enclosed courts by cutting the corn or maize which grows to a height of 12-14 feet and setting them very close together. The dates are laid on boards within and exposed to the sun to dry.

From Bedrashein to the Necropolis or burial place at Sakkarah is about five miles. We were there at eleven o'clock. It contains several Pyramids of which the well known Step Pyramid is the most interesting. Originally kings as well as nobles were buried in mastabas which had the burial chamber below the earth and a structure something like this shape above. The Step Pyramid is the oldest in existence and shows how the idea of the pyramid developed. King Soser put on several steps on the mastaba like this. I think there are seven in all. The next step in the pyramid construction was to make the surface smooth without showing the steps.

The tombs or mastabas of Ti and Ptahotep are particularly fine. So much of the relief work remains on the walls in its original state, illustrating all the activities of the people from carpentry and shipbuilding to the making of jewels and from milking, butchering, fishing etc., to the harvesting of grain. The Serapeum where the sacred bulls were buried strikes one with wonder. The sarcophagi or coffins were all hewn out of a single slab of rock. Each one is 16 ft. long and 6 ft. high and made from granite which had to be brought down the river 500 miles. One alone must weigh over 100 tons. How they got them down into the curved passages is beyond me.

The guide had a dandy lunch along. Shortly after that we started back but did not take the same route. Instead we crossed the desert from Sakkarah to the Giza Pyramids where we were last Saturday. It is about eleven miles and took us better than two hours. Boak and I both enjoyed it very much. Enroute we passed the Pyramids of Abusir and Abu Ghurab but these are in such poor condition that we did not stop. The sun set just before we reached Giza. Now I have seen a sunset on the desert. It was great. From Giza we caught a bus and got to Cairo at 6:30.

The sun sets at 5:30 or a little later. There is no twilight here somehow. As soon as the sun is down it is dark at once. I can't get used to it.

The moon is so beautiful now. I love to go out on my little veranda and sit looking at it, dreaming of my sweetheart. It shines right in through my door at night too as I keep it open.

The temperature has changed quite perceptibly since we came. It is much cooler. Today neither of us noticed the heat at all even though we were in the desert all day. I think we are tanning though. Being high up on the camels gave us a good breeze too.

The camel's gait is fairly comfortable when one grows accustomed to it. At first I thought it was awful. The shuffle, halfway between a walk and trot is very smooth and you hardly know that the beast is moving. Those natives earn their money. The owners trot behind all day thru the sand and heat.

I have one of those woolen bands which I wear around my waist now. They are to keep one's stomach from being chilled. Though I feel fine and enjoy life I want to take every possible precaution. It is fine here now.

Yesterday we visited the Museum and walked some more on Gezira Island in the afternoon—found the Aquarium which we missed the day before.

9 October 1924

The ninth, tenth, and eleventh are holidays in Cairo. It is the anniversary of King Fuad's accession which is being celebrated. The Museum was closed and will be the rest of the week. Boak had business to do at the Consulate but it too was shut up for the today. Even the Express Office was closed so there was no chance to learn whether we had any mail come in yesterday.

This forenoon we went over for a visit with Dr. Alexander, the president of the Mission in Egypt. He spent sixteen years at Assiut so he is quite well acquainted with that district. He is a very interesting old man and a well versed fellow too. He has picked up some papyri fragments and he had Boak busy trying to decipher them. Boak can do it if anyone can.

We took some books along and went over to Gezireh Island this afternoon. After walking through the gardens and the grotto we sat down for a while and did some reading. I was learning to count in Arabic. Certainly wish that I had some of it now. Anyway I have gotten enough to tell the native beggars, of whom we are beginning to see more now, to beat it. "Imshah" means "get out of here." "Ma feesh bakshish" is one way of saying "there is no bakshish or gift for you." "Moush Awez" is what I tell all these birds who come around trying to sell me stuff. It means "I do not want anything." I would like to learn enough to be able to get along if thrown on my own resources some time.

The gardens are very fine. In all the gardens here which are kept up one sees luxuriant roses growing. They are in full bloom now and they do have wonderfully fine large blossoms. Palms of every description are found in the garden which we were at this afternoon, from the date palm to the Coconut. Boak took pictures of a couple of them and also one of a beautiful minaret across the river. He also got a couple of houseboats in the foreground on that one. I hope it turns out well and I shall get one.

Forgot to tell you that I saw the things from Tutankhamen's tomb at the Museum the other day. Some of it is very fine indeed. I may go up to Luxor for two or three days after we return from the Fayoum if things work out that way. We shall have to wait for communications, however.

#### 11 October 1924

Yesterday was a big day for me. Besides your letter I heard from Enoch [Peterson, a friend and colleague of Qualley on the Luther College faculty. Enoch Peterson was also working on a Ph. D. in Classics at the University of Michigan and was very active in archaeological projects of the University. He later served many years as director of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan.]

Enoch was on his way to Norway for a month's rest before going back to Edinburgh. There he expects to put in a month and then he will study this winter at the British Museum on the history of Antioch in Pisidia, the site which they have been excavating. This will serve two purposes. Enoch may work a thesis out of it and it will be invaluable if excavations go on again next summer as planned.

Enoch visited Rome in company with Prof. Kelsey and put in some very enjoyable days. They met the Butlers and Miss Brittain and it was of that Miss Butler wrote me. Enoch visited Venice, Milan, Florence enroute and expected to spend a couple of days at Frankfurt am Main with Chris Ravndahl [Luther College graduate]. He is American Consul there.



I certainly am glad that Enoch is having this fine opportunity to travel and rest. He needs it after the strenuous summer. We will have a big advantage in being acclimated before work begins. Enoch asked about Lady Pip and sent greetings.

Miss Butler's notes are regular bulletins on what is going on. I think she will keep me posted on things. Prof. Kelsey expressed surprise, she told me on the q. t., because we had left so early. That is amazing in view of his express orders for us to be here Oct. 1.

This has been a great day for holiday. King Fuad celebrated his accession anniversary the ninth. Last night was the Mohammedan Christmas, Mohammed's birthday. All the minarets were lit up. Those on the Mohammed Ali Mosque were particularly beautiful in the dark. Three straight holidays have kept us from the museum and from doing much business.

This morning we went out looking for cheaper quarters to live in on our return from the Fayoum. We found a place near here for 70 piastres (\$3.50) a day or 4 pounds, that is \$20, a week. Two archaeologists from the U. of Chicago who will be at Luxor this winter are staying there and like the place.

This afternoon we went out on the Nile in a sailboat for an hour. It was delightful and only costs us 40 cents apiece. After that we strolled thru the lovely gardens on Gezireh Island.

When we returned from our walk yesterday afternoon Prof. Leete of the Am. Un., a graduate of Penn. State was here waiting for us and kindly asked us to dinner after services tomorrow evening. For tea another young couple teaching at the U. named Eddy have invited us.

#### 12 October 1924

This morning Cleland, Boak, and I walked to Old Cairo. That part of Cairo is the oldest and was started back in the Roman period. For some reason the Romans called it Babylon. On our way there we walked the length of Rhoda Island which is to the south of Gezireh Island. It's not nearly as pretty or as interesting. At Old Cairo we saw the remains of an old Roman castle and gate. A fine Greek Church is built right on top of the Roman castle remains. Services were on at the time but we went right in. It was communion. Just as at the Roman Catholic Church the Greek Catholic doesn't give the members the wine or bread.

The old Coptic church in that quarter is very interesting. There are three rows of pillars forming four aisles or naves. All have come from different places and so have different capitals, bases, etc. The woodwork is fine. The museum in connection has some rare specimens of Coptic bibles. We got a fine view of the Giza Pyramids from there.

This afternoon I was busy getting my trunk in order for moving again. We will take only grips to the Fayoum but our stuff must all be packed as our trunks will go to the Express Office. One always acquires more stuff even if careful. I'm all fixed now. I'll be glad when we get to the field so I don't have to fool with that for a while anyway.

We had tea at Eddy's this afternoon. Mr. Nelson of Beirut College in Syria and Prof. Allen of Chicago U. who will work at Luxor were there too, as well as some of the young U. professors. They are fine

people. I would have liked to attend services but Boak didn't make any move to go so I didn't feel like going off alone.

#### 18 October 1924

Today we are sort of changing our program. After two strenuous days of sightseeing and photographing we are staying around the house today looking over Dr. Askren's collection of papyri and other articles. He has a great assortment of scarabs, glassware, pottery, etc. from the Greek-Roman period and he has collected them for Prof. Kelsey to a large extent. Prof. Boak is reading some of the papyri now.

Dr. and Mrs. Askren are lovely people. They are keeping us right here at their home and doing everything possible for us. It is almost like being at home. I do enjoy being in a home again. The food is so good that there is grave danger of over-eating especially after being out in the desert air.

The Askrens have six children. The youngest boy, five years old, is at home, two boys are at Alexandria taking their grade work under two girls who came out from Muskingum College, Ohio this summer. Then they have two boys at Andover, Massachusetts taking their Academy work and a girl at Muskingum College at New Concord, Ohio. It's a Presbyterian college. Telford graduated there.

Our first day here we went out and visited the ruins of old Crocodilopolis which lie just outside the city here. Crocodilopolis means the city of the Crocodile or the city where it was sacred. It was the most important city in the Fayoum and must have had a large population judging from the extensive remains. Not many years ago the mound was very high but it is disappearing rapidly because the natives carry away the *sebakh* as it is called for fertilizer and sell off the old mud brick which are left as well as manufacture new ones everywhere in the ruins. Boak took a picture of the natives making mud brick. The ancient and modern mud brick with the straw to hold it together is just alike. Sometimes of course it hasn't any.

It used to be possible to make out the lines of the city streets but they have been pretty well obliterated now. House walls were plain in places. Though we didn't find any unbroken pottery yet we got a very good idea of the types to be found in Graeco-Roman sites.

In the afternoon Dr. and Mrs. Askren took us in their car to two of the pyramids on the edge of the desert at Hawara and Illahun and we had tea out there. These pyramids are late and not remarkable. The trip took us over the east side of the Fayoum so we saw what it looks like.

Yesterday Dr. Askren again took his car and we visited three of the Graeco-Roman sites on the west side of the Fayoum. They are on the desert beyond the cultivated area, especially the last one. Dr. Askren wasn't up on all the winding roads so he took one of his old drivers who is in the Irrigation Dept. and knows all the ground.

In two of these places the walls are left standing and the street lines are very clear. It was so interesting as it really was my first impression of an old ruined site. We saw the old lake. It was so pretty. We had our lunch in the shade of the Ptolemaic temple at Kasr Karun (Ancient Dionysias) and got back here a little after five. In all we covered something over 60 miles.

Last night Rev. Galloway came over after dinner. He is a brother of William Galloway in Waterloo, the gasoline engine maker. He has been 10 years as a missionary in the Fayoum. Next Monday we are going with him to the n. east part of Fayoum.

#### 19 October 1924

Just finished my afternoon nap. Everyone else is still quiet and I am so glad because it gives me such a fine chance to visit with my sweetheart.

Yesterday afternoon we went out for a walk. Boak took a couple of pictures, one of the waterwheel turned by an ox. I want him to get one of a water peddler with his goatskin on his shoulder. I saw so many of them filling their skins at the canal yesterday.

Mrs. Askren took us along to Arab services this morning. The minister of this church is a native trained at the Presbyterian Seminary in Cairo. Although I could not understand anything except stray words yet I was glad to see what fine services they had. There were about 110 present. The men and women sit on separate sides and are shut off from each other by a partition. The men were more intelligent looking than the average. Of course I could not see what the women looked like.

The Americans gather at Rev. Galloway's for services on Sunday evening. I expect that we will attend. I will be glad to anyway.

Dr. Askren has so much stuff collected here that it would take some little time to look it all over carefully. His glassware and coins are especially interesting. This forenoon I identified quite a few Roman coins. He has quite a few good books on our field as well.

The doctor gets to work by eight. Breakfast is served at seven. I am growing to like six o'clock as the rising hour now but I don't think it will require much effort to sleep later when I get home.

Servants do everything for one here. This morning Mrs. Askren had one come in to clean up our shoes. I'll be quite spoiled, I'm afraid, when I return. Mrs. A. surely handles them.

The folks are all up now. We expect to go back to Cairo on Thursday. Until then I shall be pretty busy but will write then.

#### 21 October 1924

While Boak is copying an inscription I'll sneak a little time for a letter to my lover girl. The mail leaves from Alexandria on Thursday so I ought to get this away from here tomorrow morning at the latest.

We are getting on splendidly still. Yesterday we went with Mr. Galloway as planned. In all we visited four sites. Two of them were especially interesting. The last one had three-story houses and the parts of ancient stairs were visible. On one side of the temple the floor of the house is above the temple level, on the other side it is below. That shows that the low house is older and the one on the high level newer than the temple. If a house fell in the natives built on top of the ruins. The temples were generally made of stone or some more durable material and lasted longer. That explains how the level

of the temple and public buildings was sometimes way below the level of the houses. I picked up a bit of an old wooden comb at the last place we stopped.

On our way out we passed a fig orchard. The trees here are small and could almost be called bushes. In Greece they grow as large as a small apple tree. At Askrens we have had fresh figs several times. I didn't like them very well at first but they taste better now. There were several fine rice fields along the way. Mrs. Askren had made a dandy lunch for us.

This afternoon the doctor and Mrs. Askren will take us to Tebtunis on the south side of the Fayoum. At Tebtunis Grenfell and Hunt found a lot of papyrus wrapped around mummified crocodiles. The main bulk of Michigan's papyrus collection comes from Tebtunis but I guess the mound has been pretty well carried away. We are anxious to see what is left.

Mr. Galloway has invited us to have dinner with them this evening. Boak took a couple of pictures of his house and school building this morning.

After the Christian Endeavor Meeting at Galloways Sunday Evening we drove around the town and saw the natives in their element. The doctor had one of the native girls dance for us down in the red-light district. It wasn't very elevating to say the least.

#### 22 October 1924

We had a pleasant evening at the Galloways and a big high meal including real apple pie. They have a fine new house.

Tebtunis is pretty well covered with sand. It would not be good for excavating.

This morning we are going out to have a look at some papyri.

#### 24 October 1924

The Askrens certainly are grand people, too generous for their own good, I believe. Boak and I intended to buy a couple of scarabs from his collection. I had picked out three from which to select and Boak had a half dozen in front of him. When we asked the price they gave us the whole lot. Not only that but Mrs. Askren had put on our dresser two beautiful little Graeco-Roman black vases to take with us as souvenirs. The doctor gave me a small Roman vase of heavy glass. A couple of pieces of a wax tablet and stylus for writing on it which I had picked out, to take back to our Museum he insisted on giving me for nothing. Although their value is not great it shows what kind of people they are. The tablet and stylus will be of interest to the boys and will help in teaching. Both date from the Roman period. I wrote Ot [Adolph Rovelstad, then professor of Latin language and literature at Luther College] today asking him for authority to buy a few papyrus fragments and other things which I may be able to get hold of at a small price. Such things make the boys interested and help the teacher. Boak has said that he will help me get some papyri and pottery if we find any.

I must not forget to tell you that Dr. and Mrs. Askren gave me those things to take back for my best girl. I will too.

The last day at Askrens was very interesting. Boak bought two lots of papyri from people in the Fayoum. Those who dig at the mounds of the various ancient sites for fertilizer have no right to the antiquities discovered. Generally the native government guard is in "cahoots" with the diggers so the stuff is smuggled out. They always ask tremendous prices for their papyri. Boak got it for 2/5 of the original price. The interesting feature is that they are parts of the big rolls which Nahmann in Cairo has. Kelsey wired to take them so the U. of Michigan will acquire a big thing, really worth the trip to Egypt alone. Boak is going to the Museum to have them O.K.'d tomorrow. Nothing can be taken out of the country without it.

The trip in yesterday was very dusty but not without appeal. It gives one a view of all the pyramids of importance in Egypt. Seeing them is so much more interesting now that I know the history of their development.

There was a communication from Starkey at the American Express. Prof. Kelsey and he had had a consultation in London, and Prof. Kelsey agreed to let Starkey engage another of Flinders Petrie's men. This fellow Yeivin and Starkey have been out before and know each other well. Yeivin speaks Arabic. Now we will be a party of four so we should get on fine. Starkey states that they will arrive here 28 October. He wants to go right on to Maabda to commence work on building the camp. Whether we will all go for that is a question. I am hoping that I can go to Luxor then and drop off at Assiut on my way back to wait until things are ready. Natives do all that work, you know.

After a trip to town this afternoon—I mean to the Am. Ex. etc., Boak dictated and I typewrote our second report. We finished it after supper but we had started yesterday. It's ten thirty now so I shall soon turn in.

At the Museum this morning I looked around in the Greco-Roman room and found some vases very much like the ones Mrs. Askren gave us, only I think ours are prettier in design and finer workmanship.

I haven't told you, have I, that I blew myself just before going away and bought a linen crash suit. Boak bought two. It's near the end of the season so we got bargains. The suit cost us only \$12.50. At that I wouldn't have bought it but I needed a change for my other suit. It was getting dirty after four weeks of wear in this dust and needed cleaning. I'll wear this one now and save that because this one is cheaper. My other suits are entirely too heavy so far at least. What I should have taken was two light suits instead of two heavy.

#### 26 October 1924

This morning we made a second trip to the zoo. On our first visit we got there too late to see everything. The birds are very beautiful and so are the flowers. They have some real crocodiles out there too. Boak and I even went through the reptile house today. We wanted to be acquainted with any we might see. There aren't many in Egypt. On our way out we saw the biggest banyan tree. It drops roots from its branches and a new tree springs up. This one must have what looks like a dozen separate trees and yet they are all parts of one.

I had an interesting half day at the Museum yesterday forenoon getting acquainted with various Egyptian gods. How they could conceive of the divine existing in the cow, crocodile and so forth is

beyond me. That they worshipped the sun, moon, and Nile in Egypt is not surprising when one knows Egypt.

Boak went out with Mr. Nahman, the papyrus man yesterday afternoon and came back with a wonderful Oriental rug which was a present from the old gentleman. The old fox knows that Boak helped him to get rid of the papyri and of course appreciates it. He couldn't have paid \$75 for a rug as a present if he hadn't made a handsome profit on the papyri. I'm glad to see Boak get it though. He is a fine fellow and considerate at all times.

#### 29 October 1924

When I wrote you that card this morning I wasn't sure whether there would be any time to write today or not. Now Boak and Starkey have gone to see the British officials on some business so I am taking time out. The mailman at the Express told me that a mail will be made up tomorrow night. That will give me a fine chance to finish this tomorrow when the rest are gone.

There was another letter from Enoch yesterday written from Christiania. Poor Enoch is very much worried over his connections with Luther. Kelsey wants Enoch to continue in archaeological work and Enoch has splendid opportunities for advancement if he can stay on. Enoch, as I told you before, has done very well. He feels it means a lot to himself personally as well as to Luther to continue. He wonders whether it would be right for him to resign so Olson could get someone permanently at once. I don't feel like advising him but I shall tell him that he owes it to Luther not to resign. I just wrote him but shall have to reply to this letter soon. He is lonesome, I can tell it, and not enjoying his vacation as he should. His boat for Scotland sailed Oct. 25. There were greetings for you again.

I am glad Starkey is here. He is full of business as can be. Mr. Yeivin speaks Hebrew, Russian, Turkish, Arabic, French and English so we ought to get along anywhere with him.

Tomorrow morning Starkey, Yeivin, and Boak leave for Maabda. Dr. Askren joins them on the way. They will spend Friday at the site and make arrangements with Starkey's native foreman to build the camp in case they have not changed their mind after seeing two of the Fayoum sites which they will see on their way back. Boak and I liked the Fayoum site, Karanis, very much. What Starkey says will go as he is in charge. Anyway both places have been applied for. If Maabda proves unsatisfactory we can shift.

While the camp is being built Boak and I will go to Luxor next week for a few days. Starkey has business in Jerusalem.

I shall not be lonesome while they are away. Starkey has some typewriting for me to do and I want to run into the Museum a couple of times yet.

Yesterday afternoon we went over to Nahman's and Boak made the papyri selection for me to send back to the college. He picked out nine pieces with writing on and one little one tied up and sealed just as perfectly preserved as can be. The written pieces illustrate the types of writing from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cen. A. D. thru the fifth Cen. And two of them are complete pieces, one a receipt—I haven't made out the other yet. He gave us the lot for five pounds, about \$23.50 which we both thought very reasonable. I expect to have them O.K.'d by the Museum and sent before going up country. The Am. Ex. is making a box for me.

Starkey has looked over our scarabs. I have the oldest in the bunch, a 9<sup>th</sup> Dynasty one (2200 B.C.). At that time they were rare and not common like later on. It is rather pretty too, I think. I was lucky to get that one without knowing it, wasn't I? Starkey says he would have bid on it, and he knows all about them.

I have bought a Greek New Testament now and hope to do some reading in it off and on to keep up my Greek and get some of my requirements off. Then too, the Greek of the New Testament is quite like that of the papyri and will help me in that respect also.

### 30 October 1924

Askrens gave us corn on the cob twice. When they get out in the country they just get out of the car and pick enough for a meal. It surely tasted good too.

I am enclosing three of the snaps which Boak took the day we were sailing around on the floodwater near the Pyramids. The one of the three pyramids with the village and boat in the foreground is very good, I think. Can you make out the donkey, and the men sitting on the sand. One of the others will give a good idea of the way the water surrounds the villages and the thatch on the roofs. Boak gave them to me to send to my girl.

### 1 November 1924

I had planned to start a letter to you last night but I got started on one to Enoch in reply to his last one, and it wasn't so easy to write quickly. I told him that it would come to a showdown sooner or later and he would have to give up Luther or continuing in the field work. In my opinion, I said, the breaking off with his present work would grow harder instead of easier. Some of the things I said may hurt Enoch a little but I wanted to be frank. Personally I hope he can continue for a couple years but I would like to see him back at Luther in the winters anyway so that he doesn't lose contact with things there. He may get away from it. As for me, it's back next fall, that's all. It is different with Enoch. If I didn't want to get back as soon as possible to marry my sweetheart, maybe I'd feel as Enoch does.

Yesterday I typewrote the material Starkey gave, invoices of the cases which are coming. It was a terrible job because the writing was so hard to read. Then I took the typewriter over to have it cleaned and overhauled so as to have it in shape for the coming months.

In the afternoon I got your Christmas present ready and mailed it through the Express Company. It may reach you some little time before Christmas but this is my only chance to get it, you see. What I sent in the box was six napkin rings, two vases, and a plate. All of it is brass work made over in the Mouski as the Arab quarter is called. The napkin rings did not impress me so much at first sight but I liked them more as I looked at them and had them around. The design on most of them is the lotus flower which was so common in ancient relief work. The interesting part is that the silver has been hammered in. I thought the vases had nice lines and hope you will like them. The pair will go together quite well, I think. The plate is beautifully worked—I want that to be Mother's. Of course there is nothing particularly grand about any of it but I wanted you to have something which is typically Egyptian and made here by hand by the natives. The napkin rings do not stand quite even but no one will notice

that. I had lots of fun over in the Mouski bargaining for these things. The native likes to bargain and I did bargain away at them.

This morning I was at the Museum for a couple of hours. I have been doing some more reading lately and that makes all the remains mean more. Apart from any historical aspect some of the jewelry from the XIIIth Dynasty is marvelous for its delicacy and beauty. The necklaces and pectorals made from precious stones are about the most beautiful I have seen anywhere. Saw Tutankhamen's relics again. The throne chair certainly is a beauty.

Worked at my accounts for October and have them ready to mail to Kelsey now. My typewriter works fine after being cleaned. I keep track of where my own money goes too now. It's easy once I got started and sometimes keeps me from spending for unnecessary things.

### 3 November 1924

Boak didn't get in until last night and Starkey and Yeivin are still in the Fayoum. The Maabda site did not look particularly good. It is also hard to get at. When Starkey saw Karanis, Kom Ushim as it is now known, he was struck on it at once and decided then and there, says Boak, that we would excavate it if we can get the concession. I told you before that it has been applied for, didn't I? So now it looks as if we might be working there after all. Personally I much prefer it. Boak feels the same way. It really is pleasant out there. Starkey and Yeivin are waiting for the foreman to come around so they can show him where to build the camp. He couldn't come yesterday because of illness. Of course he cannot start work until notified by wire that we have the concession.

At the Museum yesterday I thought that I was at home for a second when two ladies passed me talking Norwegian to beat the band, very fine Norwegian too. One of them said she had not been at the Museum for ten years. What they wanted to see yesterday, they said, was the Tutankhamen find. I felt like speaking to them and probably would have had they been men. They must have been about 40.

Gezira Island was very pleasant yesterday. I went over for an hour before lunch. The green grass, fresh flowers, and variety of trees are a welcome sight to me after the dusty streets of Cairo. I heard so much French spoken round about me by the children and others that one might almost imagined it to be France.

### 4 November 1924

Yesterday at five Boak and I went down to the American University for official opening of the new school year in the School of Oriental Studies which is a special department of the University. Though other Oriental languages are taught Arabic is studied by the greater number. It was organized by the Am. Mission to prepare the Missionaries. Every new-comer spends two years there before going into the field. When the Am. Un. was founded the Mission turned the work over. One of last evening's speakers, Sir William Wilcox, has been in Egypt over 40 years. He is an English irrigation expert and supervised directly the construction of the big Assuan dam and the Assiut Barrage—a fine old man.

There has been a lot of excitement here the last few days in preparation for King Fuad's return from Alexandria. He always spends the summer there. I viewed the royal procession from the Express Office



window this forenoon. The Arab horses used in the King's bodyguard are beautiful and the men who mounted them were nicely dressed too. This evening the King was to have tea in the square. Everything is brilliantly lighted for the occasion and really looks fine this evening.

Yesterday evening we were surprised by a fairly heavy shower of rain—quite an unusual happening in Cairo. It lightened not so little too. Don't suppose we shall see many rain storms before leaving. It is so hard for me to realize that it is growing quite cold at home now because there doesn't seem to be much difference here.

Mohammedan marriage and funeral processions are a common sight here. The coffin is carried aloft on the men's shoulders. The women who accompany lamenting so loudly are not the relatives of the deceased but hired mourners.

I'm certainly glad that our marriage customs aren't Mohammedan. The bride and groom meet each other only on the wedding night. Think of the happiness we would have missed without knowing each other through our engagement. Instead of looking forward to our wedding with misgiving and apprehension as they, especially the girl, often must, we are awaiting ours impatiently with complete assurance that we will be happy.

I heard from Enoch. He is back in England by now. Poor Enoch is very much discouraged. It is quite evident that he got a raw deal out in the field. What is worrying Enoch half to death is that he hasn't made any progress on a thesis. Enoch worked like a slave out at Yalovatch a part of the time but most of them didn't appreciate it. Except for Robinson's (Johns Hopkins U.) selfishness—he insisted on publishing all the inscriptions, even where Enoch interpreted things he could not—Enoch could have had a thesis out of that. Now he is afraid that his work this winter may not turn out either. He feels that everyone at Luther will think he is no good if he returns without a finished thesis. It's too bad he should let such things worry him as he does but I can tell how it is eating on him, knowing him as I do. No less than four times he wishes I were with him and I would like to be long enough to have a good talk with him. I must write him now to tell him that we don't give a hoot whether his thesis is done or not.

#### 5 November 1924

I just got back from town where I mailed the papyri. Early this morning I took it to the Museum and had it O.K.'d. The box was so much larger than I ordered it that I wrapped my two little vases in cotton batton and put them in too. I am asking Olson to let Ot take care of the package so he can pick them out. I'm glad to have it off my hands.

I also bought my ticket for Luxor and will leave at seven tonight, arriving Luxor 8:00 A. M. I expect to be there Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning I will leave and come back as far as Assiut. There I shall stay until Monday or perhaps Tuesday. I called at Dr. Alexander's yesterday afternoon. His son-in-law happened to be in Cairo so I met him. I am to let him know when I will arrive and he will see to it that someone is on hand to meet me. I didn't expect to be waited on in such fashion.

Boak and Starkey secured the permit for Karanis (Kom Ushim) yesterday so it is settled that we will work there. It will be at least ten days before the camp is ready for us to start working.

Yeivin left for Palestine Monday afternoon; Boak and Starkey pulled out last night. I would have loved to go to Palestine too but Boak was invited to stay with Yeivin's folks so I didn't want to butt in. I feel quite sure that I should have been invited but Boak neglected, or rather forgot, to mention that I would like to go at the time. They are going to look at excavations mainly. If I go I'm interested in a few other things too so it's probably all right that I didn't hook up with them. If it doesn't cost too blooming much I'll run up later some time.

At Luxor I know Profs Allen and Nelson who stayed here and have the names of another archaeological party. Dr. Alexander gave me the missionary's name and Starkey mentioned a reasonable hotel.

### 7 November 1924

Smoking to ward off the mosquitoes is almost keeping me busy but I'll do my best to get in a few words between drags. The mosquitoes are bad here just now. They have had a chance to breed prolifically while the land has been under water. They're the hungry kind and bite like sin too. One of the wretches paid no attention to my keep out sign—the mosquito netting—but came right in and paid me an unwelcome visit in the wee hours. I heard the scoundrel singing his war hymn and covered up as best I could but I guess he managed to satiate himself even so, judging from the bumps on my fingers this morning.

Coming up from Cairo was quite comfortable even though I did without a sleeper—it would have cost \$7.00. I managed to get an apartment [compartment?] all to myself. Except for being a little hard the benches make a fairly comfortable bed because they are just my length. I had my working clothes on so I felt more comfortable. Boak advised me to take an army blanket. I'm glad I did as it would have been a trifle cool without it.

Here at Luxor I am staying at the Thebes Hotel. Starkey recommended it to me as good and reasonable, and it is. As soon as I had cleaned up a bit and had breakfast I started out sightseeing and there has been no let-up since. Every minute has been taken either with actual seeing or with reading about the next excursion. Before leaving Cairo—perhaps I have told you already—I made arrangements with the head dragoman of the American Express Co. and he notified his friend here that I was coming. He met me at the station and has taken care of me nicely.

There is so much here that I can only give you a sort of resumé of what I have seen.

Thebes became the capital and most important city in Egypt in the XVIIIth Dynasty or New Kingdom as it is called. In the early dynasties from the first to the XIIth, and in the first six especially the seat of empire was in the north. Memphis was the capital city. It is natural, then, that the great memorial buildings of that period should be found nearby. These are the pyramids which line the edge of the desert on the west. The great monuments of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty are found here at Luxor, the ancient Thebes. As before the kings and their consorts were buried on the edge of the western desert—they conceived of the dead as going west with the setting sun so you see the idea behind the expression "gone west" is as old as the Egyptians—but they no longer built pyramids. Instead they had enormous burial chambers cut right out of the solid rock. The kings had one valley, the queens another, and the nobles and private people the rest.

But the tombs are not the only or most important thing to be seen here. The XVIII-XXII Dynasties were periods of great building activity. Practically every king wanted to leave a monument and this generally took the form of a temple. The number which still remain is astounding not to mention those which have perished.

Luxor is on the east side of the river so it was most convenient to see what remains on this side yesterday. In the forenoon I went with the guide to see the Luxor Temple as it is only a short distance from the hotel. It as well as the great temple at Karnak and most of those on the west side are dedicated to Amon Ra, the sun god. What amazes me about all these temples is their massiveness. It is quite impossible to give an adequate conception without a view of them.

Going to Luxor in the afternoon I had my first ride on a donkey and found it very comfortable, at least this particular one was easy riding. On our way out we passed the American Mission. They have a school for boys and one for girls here—a grade school.

The temple at Karnak is very interesting. Nearly all of the Pharaohs after the original builder added something, a pillared hall or gateway or something. Several points about the architecture interested me because they seemed to be prototypes of Greek and Roman styles. For example, you find the column that looks like the Doric type amongst the Greeks. Also, the great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak is the same style as the Roman Basilica from which the big cathedrals of today are developed.

#### 8 November 1924

Yesterday we started from the hotel at eight and ferried across. The donkeys had been taken over earlier and were waiting for us when we arrived. It was a strenuous day as we covered over twenty miles on the donkeys without the walking at various places.

We went first to the Tombs of the Kings about which we all hear so much. The best ones are elaborate indeed. All the ritual is there. The relief work is well done in those I saw and the preservation of the color through three thousand years and more in its original state is almost unbelievable. Of course it is to be explained by the fact that they have been protected from the weather. While in the tomb of Ramses VI I was directly over King Tut's resting place which is not open to inspection.

We made two other temples, Deir el Bahri built by Queen Hathsepsut with three colonnaded courts on different levels right against the front of the cliff, and the Ramesseum, before dinner.

There I looked up Mr. Emery whose name Yeivin gave me. He took me to several of the better tombs of the nobles. I am so glad I got to see them because they give such an intimate picture of the everyday life of the period. Fishing, sowing, harvesting, threshing, gathering grapes, etc. are all portrayed, and it's very much like the methods used today. Emery is all alone and seems to be a trifle lonesome.

Our next stop was the Valley of the Queens. I visited only two of the best ones as I was getting a bit tired. These are splendid for their relief work and coloring also but are somewhat like the kings' tombs.

I was anxious to get to Prof. Nelson's by tea time so I passed up the Temple at Medinet Habu for today and hurried on to their house. When I arrived Profs. Allen and Nelson were just going over for a short time in the car so I jumped in with them. Medinet Habu is the temple at which they will work this

winter, photographing inscriptions, and so on. I stayed there at the house so long after tea that it was dark when we got back to the river's edge.

On our way in we passed the two huge Colossi of Memnon, whose pictures you have so often seen. One of them was supposed to be musical in ancient days. There are numerous Greek and Latin inscriptions written on it by people who claim they heard notes issue forth from it in the morning, even the Roman Emperor Hadrian. This is the one Peer Gynt refers to when he said "Ekkaet bryder paa tysk" after he shouted at it in Norwegian.

Coming back across the Nile by moonlight was delightful. The Luxor temple is very impressive in the light of the moon. The water was so calm and the sky so clear that it was almost like day.

Yesterday I planned things so that I found out where everything is situated at Karnak. When I went back today all I took was a donkey boy so I got by for \$1.75 today. I had dinner with the Nelsons and went over some of the more important things more carefully. All I care for these guides for is to show me where things are. I don't give much for what they know. The trip will cost me about \$40 without hotel bill but the Un. pays that. I guess it's worth it, though, at that. Now I'm through spending money sightseeing in Egypt.

#### 10 November 1924

Rev. Thompson has a meeting with the treasurer of the Mission now so I am making myself at home in his study, even to the extent of using the stationery which he so kindly proffered. Mrs. Thompson went to Cairo this afternoon to see her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Alexander, but the two boys, Jack (12) and David (9), are here. They are as cute as they can be.

My departure from Luxor was a bit hurried. How much you can gather from the fact that I put on my spiral putters after boarding the train. I left orders at the desk to call me at a quarter to five and to have my breakfast ready at twenty after as my train left at six. The order was bowled up and I got my first call at a quarter after when my breakfast was ready. My grip wasn't packed because I didn't want my suit to be in it longer than necessary. I had to omit a shave and some other things but I made the train with ten minutes to spare.

I travelled second class and found it almost as comfortable as first except that there are a few more people so I think I shall go on the rest of the way to Cairo that way. There was a difference of \$3.25 this far and it will probably be a bit more from here to Cairo. I may as well save it when I'm making this trip on my own.

I enjoyed the trip down even though it was a bit dusty. The sunrise was beautiful as it nearly always is here. Up this way the valley has been inundated to a large extent. With the fields just now turning green after the recession of the floodwater the country looks fresh and, in places, beautiful.

The train reached Assiut at 1:05. Prof. Thompson was busy with his sermon for the evening but a Prof. Owen met me and brought me here. Mrs. Thompson had lunch waiting. I have a grand room and am as comfortable as I can be.

The plant and buildings of the College here were a big surprise to me. I haven't inspected the buildings yet as the school people have a holiday on Monday but they have three dormitories, a fine science building, two other classrooms and administration buildings, and three or four fine residences for permanent faculty members. Now this plant takes care of what they call the College boys, which means the last two years in H. S. and the 1<sup>st</sup> two years of college. They number something over 400. Besides this the preparatory boys from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the College have a separate place and they are about as many. The girls' school is also separate and has over 400.

There are about a half dozen permanent men on the teaching staff of the College. Most of the instruction is done by seven short-termers, young fellows just out of college in America, who come out for three years, and by native Egyptians who have been educated here and sometimes abroad.

The College is doing wonderful work in the missionary field. Every day they have chapel, on Sunday, Sunday school and services. From the graduates of the college are recruited over 90% of the natives who attend the Seminary in Cairo and go out as native ministers.

The Americans here must total about sixty and form a community of their own, a sort of young America out here. They have a good time too. Last night, after having tea with the seven short-term young fellows, we attended services. Rev. Thompson preached.

This morning one of these young fellows and I went out of town and climbed the bluffs. It gave a fine view of the valley and the city which lies right on the flat. There are some rock tombs up there but they aren't of very great interest after one has seen Luxor. Tradition has it that one of the large ones was used as a granary by Joseph but it is highly improbable. On our way back to town we stopped to see ivory-workers and shawl-makers at work but I didn't like anything well enough to buy. We had tea at the Mission Hospital and I met the American doctors. With a native minister, who conducts chapel every day and services twice a week, and two native evangelist workers, a man and a woman, both of whom are blind, the hospital is doing a great deal for the spreading of the gospel as well as for the physical wellbeing of the people. The doctors took us all about the place and showed us their new operating table, as fine as any in America. They give hundreds of free examinations and give away hundreds of dollars worth of medicine free every year, and yet the hospital is self-supporting and growing.

One of the big events of the season here took place this afternoon. The Mission faculty men met the English people here in tennis. The faculty has three splendid courts and does a lot of playing to keep in shape. The faculty was represented by six men. They won handily against the English. The families turn out to watch. Tea is served and you ought to have seen the cake. It almost reminded me of a Ladies Aid at home or some such thing.

#### 12 November 1924

Boak went to the Museum to see the authorities after our trip up town this morning, so I shall finish my letter before lunch, because the mail goes out from Cairo this evening.

Visiting the school, or rather schools, yesterday morning proved extremely interesting and left an impression on me which will always remain with me, I think.

With Rev. Thompson I went through the Preparatory school and the Girl's School which are some little distance from the College proper. The instruction at the Prep school is done by Egyptian graduates for the most part. We were there just in time for chapel. I sat up in front with Rv. Thompson and some of the faculty. After seeing the average boys about the streets and country the expression and light of the faces of the Prep boys was wonderful. It is eloquent testimony of the results of the Mission's work. The dormitories are a little crowded but their cleanliness and comfort make them palaces when they are compared with an average fellah hut. After chapel Thompson asked me to say a few words to the boys. They do not understand English very well yet so I had an interpreter. First I gave a paragraph in English and then he would translate.

At the Girl's School I didn't have much time. There are three elderly American ladies in charge and seven young short-term girls from America besides the Egyptian women teachers. The doctors at the Mission hospital can tell every time they get into the home of a graduate. She keeps the house clean, knows how to take care of her babies and so on.

I was shown around the College buildings by Pres. Russel and by Prof. Hickman who took me through the Science Building and Museum. Pres. Russel took his degree at Chicago in 1914 and knew Tingelstad there at the time. I must write and tell Tingel. I visited chapel at the College too. Exercises there were in English yesterday. Later on in the morning Prof. Hickman took me in one of the two College Fords to see the Barrage.

Rev. Thompson took me to the station. He even fixed a lunch for me to eat on the way down. Such kindness and interest as he and all the others showed can come from no other source than a common service and love for the same Lord.

Though the train was a little late getting in last night I was here in time for dinner—ate at a quarter of nine. The last fifty miles I sat alongside of an Egyptian woman for the first time. The family was of the better class but had a family of six though the woman was comparatively young.

Boak got in at 10:30. He wasn't feeling very chipper but is well again today. He had an interesting time, he says, but they didn't go to Galilee. I wouldn't want to go unless I could visit there too—at least that's the way I feel now.

#### 14 November 1924

Don't worry any more about me, dear heart. Egypt is really a very nice place to be and healthy too. The sun isn't half bad even in the middle of the day now. At Luxor which is over 400 miles south, and consequently quite a bit warmer, I was out all day without minding it at all. It gets quite cool in the evenings and more so still in the Fayûm, and that makes sleep refreshing. We have plenty of clothes to keep warm.

Starkey and Yeivin left Wednesday evening. Boak and I will leave when they send for us, sometime next week perhaps.

Yesterday I was busy on University business. In the forenoon I was up town ordering some supplies for the camp and attending to some of Starkey's freight which he bought in London for the camp. I typewrote a fairly lengthy report in the afternoon. Boak and I went out to call on the Clelands last night

but they were out. This morning I did some more running around for things we want trying to find out where they can be had.

We made another trip to Old Cairo this afternoon. A young Copt from the church there showed us the old Roman gate and wall. We saw much more of it this time than before. One gateway is in a remarkable state of preservation. The place where the portcullis was let down can be seen very clearly. The whole thing gives me a good idea of what a Roman gate and towers were like.

#### 15 November 1924

I want to add another installment before turning in tonight. At the Post Office today I was told at the information bureau that boats leave regularly on Fridays and one on Monday or Tuesdays. These two go every week. There are others but they are not regular. That's why I want to get my letter ready for tomorrow.

This morning I went out to the Survey Dep't, which is on the way out to the Pyramids, to get a gov't map of the locality of our site. The streetcar line crosses Gezira Island and runs south along the Nile. That trip with its beautiful scenery never fails to charm me. Many of the wealthy Egyptians have their homes along the way. Their yards are perfectly lovely with fresh green lawns and fine variety of flowers. I've never seen such gorgeous roses as grow here with hardly any care. At Assiut Rev. Thompson had beauties out in his yard, and he said that they give them little attention.

This afternoon we went for a walk and then had tea at Groppi's, the place where everyone goes for tea. There we ran into Rev. Gordon, Telford's niece's man—can you get that straight. By the time I get back I'm liable to be a confirmed tea drinker. I really like it if I can't taste the tea.

#### 16 November 1924

I just want to say "hello" before going to the Museum this morning. If possible I want to get into the library and find a book which a man named Butler has written about the Roman fortress which we saw in Old Cairo the other day. It was called Babylon by the Romans, that is Old Cairo. New Cairo didn't exist then.

#### 18 November 1924

Poor Enoch is back at Edinburgh now and has discovered that Sir William has worked up the history of Antioch so that subject is excluded. At present he is marking time waiting for Kelsey to return from America. It worries him so terribly. I must write him. He had gotten out for opera a couple times and enjoyed Aida especially.

Sunday afternoon we hiked on Gezira Island and then got ready for services. I liked Watson's sermon. The Clelands had several of the young teachers in for dinner. We had ice cream there again and the tastiest chocolate syrup. Cleland is treasurer of the American U. and one of the big guns over there.

Boak is busy packing up his rug for shipment. He discovered at the American Consulate that there is a duty of 55% on all rugs whether old or new so he will almost pay for his rug after all. In the forenoons

he is working on the papyri from Kom Ushim which the Museum has. I was down Sunday morning and read what Butler had to say of the Roman fortress in Old Cairo. It was in much better condition when he wrote 30 years ago.

I'm getting over a little ground in my Greek Testament, have covered about 120 pages now.

It feels much cooler here now than it did last week. I can wear my heavy grey suit without discomfort in the middle of the day and it feels fine in the evenings—the light suits are too cool.

I think the life in the open will be better for us than this. We will get more exercise and not so much dust. The Fayoum is one of the most charming spots in Egypt. We shall be just across the last canal on the edge of the desert, all to ourselves. There isn't a thing to worry about. If any of us should happen to get ill, which we do not anticipate, there is a telephone right there thru which we can get in touch with Dr. Askren, and he will come right out in no time, about half an hour. In fact Starkey made use of that service from here to talk to his foreman, before he left Cairo. So you see we will be as well off there as here, if not better.

It wouldn't do any good for you to write me oftener—I mean mail the letters—than twice a week because boats carrying mail come regularly only twice a week. I don't know what our mail arrangements will be at our site. I hope that I can get mail off twice a week, you'll soon know, won't you. Anyway we're sure of it once each week.

#### 20 November 1924

I wanted to write another installment last night and finish today but we decided to go out and see a French game *Le Pelote Basque* which everyone talks about so much here.

It is played on a court with two end-walls and one side wall. The equipment consists of a hard ball—wood, I believe—and each man has a sort of racquet made of wicker-work and reinforced with skin, hollowed out to form a pocket. In it he catches the ball and shoots it back. The game resembles handball somewhat. One man strikes the ball against the wall within a certain area—not too high or low—so that it comes back within the court. Then his opponent must catch it, on the fly or on first bound, and shoot it back. If he fails it is the opponent's point. I couldn't get the details but those seem to be the elements. It requires a lot of skill and bodily control to play well, but it's not so very thrilling to watch.

Yesterday morning I was at the Museum most of the time looking over Roman and Coptic objects. Coptic is the term used to designate Christian Egypt, about 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century. The Museum has a sizable collection of glass from Kom Ushim which I looked over quite carefully.

Yesterday afternoon we trailed around with a dragoman who thought he knew of some papyri. He took us to several places but we saw nothing else than fragments, all in bad shape. One fellow had two little pieces which Boak would have bought at a reasonable price—about a fifth of what I got from Nahman. The crazy dealer wanted 20 pounds (\$100) for them. Boak says that he leave him to rot with them. He offered a pound. This dragoman is the most garrulous sort I ever heard. I thought he'd drive me wild with his incessant chatter. It was a surprise to have him shut up while we looked at the papyri. We may go with him to Giza today as he declares he really has something worthwhile out there.



Just after dinner last night there was a call from Starkey—he was in at Askren's. He wants me to come out on Saturday morning to help do carpenter work. Yeivin and he are doing their own carpenter work because they were unable to get native. Can't you imagine what a whale of a carpenter I'll be? Anyway I'll be glad to go out and get into action for a change. Boak is working on the Museum papyri so he will not go out until next week. They will meet me at Fayoum and take me out. If they should not be there I'll go to Askrens. The Mudir or governor stopped them from laying bricks because they didn't have a permit with them. We know it has been O.K.'d but it hasn't been mailed to us yet so Boak had to rush to the Museum this morning to have the head man call up the governor and tell him that it is all right.

### 23 November 1924

A man is going to Fayoum this morning so I'll drop you a line to let you know that I got here in fine shape.

Askren met me at the station. I had lunch with them. He had arranged for a driver. Mrs. Askren rode out and had with her some cake and vegetables for us. She certainly is fine.

The boys have been held up in building the house. The governor stopped them from going ahead. They have been using the men to good advantage building a road to camp.

It is snappy mornings and evenings. I slept warm with my four blankets. My tent is fine. I have one all to myself. Yeivin and Starkey are occupying another. I told Boak to buy and send me up a heavy bathrobe to wear around morning and evenings. The cook is efficient and knows his business. We had roast turkey last night—a present from the headman of the neighboring village.

It's fresh and snappy here but I feel fine and dandy.

### 24 November 1924

We haven't had regular Egyptian weather—or at least I had never heard of it before—these two days I have been in camp. Yesterday it was cold and windy all day, and last night it began raining about two o'clock and continued all the morning. It keeps blowing from the west so I suppose our rain is coming from Lake Birket el Kurun. Along with the rain it has been rather raw and chilly today. Starkey says it is the worst day he has had in Egypt. We had to lay the workmen off today on account of the rain. We certainly are fortunate to have such good tents. All this rain hasn't made them leak at all. I am dressed warm with a woolen jersey and my V-neck sweater underneath my jacket so the cold isn't worrying me any. And at night my blankets keep me nice and warm. I sent down to Boak and asked him to get me a heavy bathrobe. One needs something like that to put outside sitting around in the evenings after the sun goes down. Starkey and Yeivin both have them and I can see what a lot of comfort they get out of them. It will be cooler later on so I'll need one then too. I'm sorry I didn't know enough to take my own. When I get it and my trunk, which hasn't come through from the Fayoum yet, I'll be pretty well fixed for the present.

We have seven tents here in camp. Starkey and Yeivin have one, I have one, and we have one for eating and assembly. These are the three new ones Boak sent. Then the old Egyptian headman has

one, the cook has another, and the workers have two more. As soon as the house is built Starkey, Yeivin, Boak, and I will stay there. It would have been fine if it were finished now.

The cook really does very nicely. He knows how to cook. We haven't suffered at all but there will be more variety when Starkey's canned goods from England come through. The turkey was a whole, awfully fat and nice. Starkey thinks the weather turned cold just to keep the turkey for us. You'd never guess that butter could keep absolutely hard here in Egypt right in the cook's tent without any ice whatsoever, would you? We have our tea every afternoon between four and four thirty. I'm glad I've learned to drink it because it is very refreshing. One needs liquid and doesn't care so much for the water uncooked. We have a new filter which will grow better later.

It's funny to see these natives dance when a white man calls them. We have a boy as special handyman around the camp. He shines our shoes, brings us water for washing in the morning, etc. At night he fastens my tent flap down when I retire. I never expected such service out here.

A man was sent to Fayum yesterday. With him went your letter and one to the Post Office in Cairo telling them to forward my mail in care of Daira Agnelli at Tamieh. Tamieh is about seven miles from here but a Decanville train runs from there right into the mound for seabk-hauling.

The manager is an Italian and very accommodating. He has sent up all the stuff so far, and will bring up our mail. I think it is better that you keep sending my mail to the Post Office because it will only mean a couple extra days, and if we should happen to move I could just notify the P. O. If they follow orders I ought to have mail from my lover girl in a couple of days now.

#### 25 November 1924

The man came with my trunk yesterday afternoon and that put a stop to my writing. Afterward Starkey and Yeivin came from a nap and we played cards until bedtime to pass the time. One retires pretty early out here, generally before ten o'clock because work starts at sunrise, about six-thirty. So far we have gone out to see them started right and then come back for breakfast at eight – eight thirty. Whether we shall be doing that when excavations start I do not know.

The permit to go on with the construction of the house came thru this morning so we have had the natives busy carrying bricks from the mound for our house. To keep them at work while waiting for the permit to come Starkey had a road made up to our camp and excavated two rooms of old houses which will be used for lavatories.

Today Starkey, Yeivin, and I have been getting ready poles for the roof of our house. These will be covered with matting which in turn will have a coat of mud plaster. We also cut up all the boards for window frames and got a few of them nailed together. They will be needed when the bricklayers return tomorrow.

It has been fine all day, so warm that I could shed both my coat and sweater. We felt quite cheerful. Tonight it is cold again and is looking rainy, in fact it has started a little already, so it looks as if we might be in for another nasty night.

According to our present plans one of our men will go to Tamieh on Thursdays and Mondays for mail, etc. I shall try to write a little at least each time.

I have been over top of the mound a couple of times. We expect to start work on the temples. It certainly is going to be interesting. In digging for the lavatories the men have found several pieces of pottery practically complete, coming from a late period. A few coins have also been uncovered in the dig but are so badly corroded that we do not expect to be able to identify them.

Boak expected to go to Alexandria on Sunday and return on Monday. We won't be ready for him here until the first at the earliest.

#### 26 November 1924

The bricklayer didn't come around this morning so we are sending a man to Tamieh today instead of tomorrow and the mail goes with him.

It didn't rain last night after all. And today it is warm already so it will probably be hot.

Believe me it puts snap into one to get up and dress in the morning and then step outside for a wash. I hardly mind it any more now because I feel so peppy after it's over. A cup of tea and a couple of cookies in bed just before crawling out helps warm us up inside. Most people wouldn't believe that one needs four blankets at night to keep warm in Egypt.

#### 27 November 1924

For me Thanksgiving Day has been just like any other day as far as the routine goes. It is strange to go right on with regular work on Sundays. If one doesn't keep track Sunday will slip by without notice.

There was no mail from Cairo yesterday. Our man went in again today as this is one of the regular days. I got a short note from Boak. He has sent the bathrobe.

The Cairo Post Office hasn't acted on our request to change our address. It is rather aggravating to be kept waiting for my letters from you, when I know that there are at least two there for me. Now we shall not have mail again until Monday unless someone has to go unexpectedly.

The bricklayer got here this morning. The brickwork progressed satisfactorily today and we got four window casings set in the wall. Our windows won't have glass but will have screens. Tomorrow we are looking for a couple of more bricklayers. If they come the house ought to be finished in four or five days.

We finished making the windows yesterday. Today we have been busy on some other framework and with supervision of the natives, especially when the windows were put in. One has to stand over them all the time. Starkey took some pictures of us at work yesterday and we took of each other's tents. If they turn out I'll send along a copy.

29 November 1924

We got two new bricklayers yesterday. The work has been progressing very satisfactorily yesterday and today. Tomorrow we shall have the five bedrooms on the west side finished with the exception of the roof. Meanwhile we are also going on with the other walls more or less. Four—tomorrow five—bring the bricks from the mound where our men are digging them out. It certainly has kept them humping today. For mortar we use a sort of clay and water which the natives use in building mud brick walls. My room will be 9 – 14. In all there are six bedrooms—two spare ones—a workroom for drawing, typing, etc.—24 x 12, a dining room of like dimensions, a store-room, bath, kitchen, and bedroom for the cook. Although I do not mind living in the tent it will seem good to get into the room because we can take out our things and get settled.

It has been warmer lately in the daytime and not so cool at night, at least it hasn't seemed so. This life in the open is great, as healthy as can be. Getting up at 6:15 (daylight) and working around until after 8:00 gives us a great appetite for breakfast. I'd hate to let you see all I eat. The sun sets about five and it is dark soon after. From that time until 7:30 when we have our dinner we read or write or chew the rag. After dinner we play a couple hands of cards sometimes and then retire. Funny I don't mind undressing in the cold a bit now. In the morning it makes me feel more snappy to dress and then wash in the cold.

Our setting here is very picturesque. We are just in plain view of Lake Berket el Kurun. The sun setting on it is beautiful and now the moon is new. I am anxious to see the reflection of the moon on the lake's surface.

Starkey is going to Fayûm tomorrow to meet a Miss Thompson who is from his college. She is out on a preparatory trip and will locate not far from here. I will send this with him instead of Monday to Tamieh.

1 December 1924

We have made satisfactory progress on the work yesterday and today. Yeivin and I have been directing affairs. Starkey left for Medinet in the morning and got back in company with Miss Hughes and Miss Thompson just in time for lunch this noon. After ascertaining that it is possible to drive from our camp across the desert to her site they all went back to Fayum. They and the Askrens are dining with the Egyptian governor of the Fayum tonight. Miss Thompson is probably about 35, very capable and well able to take care of herself.

Our camp building will look something like this, or have I shown you before?

Work Room	N	Dining	Storeroom
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Mine			Starkey
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Bedrooms	Court		Storeroom
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			Bath
--	--	--	------

Kitchen

Yeivin

Cook's and Boy's bedroom

South

The five bedrooms on the west side are all finished as far as the brickwork goes and we have one of them plastered. The roof of palm leaves and mud remains to be put on. We are coming on well with the brickwork on the north part where the dining room, work room, etc. are and got some of the windows in there today. Tomorrow the rest of them will go in as they are the right height. The court will be nice and warm I believe as the wind generally blows from the north here. Don't you think we'll have a swell place? You must pay us a visit as we can well take care of you with our two spare bedrooms. There won't be any doors but I don't think it will be too cold. Anyway it will be a great improvement over tents.

I certainly am growing proficient at talking with my hands these days. I have the greatest time trying to make these fellows understand what I want when Yeivin is not around but it is remarkable what one can do. One has to watch these fellows all the time or they will do something wrong, even the best of them.

I learn quite a few Arabic words from our boy by pointing to things and asking him what they are. It is so comical when we stop to think about it. His name is Sherban, the Arabic word for soup. About all the verb forms I know are imperative. That will show you what a domineering sort I'm getting to be. You can gather how these fellows are ordered around from the fact that I learned three different words for hurry up almost at once.

Pay isn't very high for native labour here. Our regular men get nine piastres (45 cents) a day and the boys 5 to 6 piastres. Still they manage to save. Today was market day. On the average a man spends 15 - 18 piastres a week for his board but we would starve on their grub especially if we had to work on it. Their clothes cost practically nothing and they wear no shoes.

Our men are a pretty decent sort. They have been with Petrie for several seasons and are very loyal to him. Whatever they find in the dig is always brought in. They prepare their own grub, our cook works only for us.

I have gotten my own Christmas present for myself already and then some. The bathrobe Boak bought for me came today. It is a beauty, entirely too fine for this sort of wear, with braid along the edges, etc. It is marked 375 P.T. which makes it over \$18. I wouldn't have bought anything as expensive myself but I'll just have to let it go and try to take good care of it.

As a result of Sir Lee Stack's murder of which I wrote you from Cairo the English have pretty well taken charge of things here in Egypt. English troops patrol in Cairo and English battleships have been at Alexandria and Port Said. But everything is quiet and peaceful everywhere. You can tell that the governor of the Fayum feels all right or he wouldn't have invited Starkey and the women tonight. I'm glad to be here out on the desert because the people like to have us around and are good about everything. If anything does happen it's only in the big cities and then to English only. And you can bet your boots that's over too now. The Egyptians had to pay 500,000 pounds (\$2,500,000) indemnity so

they will be careful not to let it happen again.

### 3 December 1924

Starkey returned from Tamieh, I mean Fayûm, yesterday forenoon. The Askrens, the ladies, and he were nicely entertained by the Mudir. He promised to come out to see us during the course of the winter. A \$100 donation to him on behalf of the U. of Michigan for a secondary school he is erecting rendered him very favorable. Starkey brought with him another fine cake from Mrs. Askren. It came in real handy for tea today. Miss Thompson and Miss Hughes stopped in here just at that time. They left some of their stores here and then went on for another look at their site.

Four rooms are plastered now and the brickwork on the middle section will be pretty well finished tomorrow. We set all the windows today. I'm having lots of fun ordering the men around with my few words though I acquire a few each day. I can order the cook and boy around in pretty good shape now.

Yesterday we had our first find of any consequence. While digging the bricks from the walls of a room on the side of the mound a nice bit of papyri turned up. It's about the size of this page and is written on both sides but in different hands. The one side is in a fine hand, I think literary, which is very valuable, if it really turns out to be so. Later on someone in need of paper wrote an account or some such thing on the back side. The page of the literary is, or seems to us to be, the last of a series of pages. I can make out several words but not enough to get the general sense yet. That will perhaps remain for Boak.

This afternoon a caravan of nine camels passed here. Starkey went down and hailed them. The train proved to be three young women from the States and their equipment for a six-day trip by camel, Cairo – to Fayûm – to Cairo. They are camping just a quarter of a mile away from us here tonight. Two of them came along after tea and we showed them our house and took them for a trip across the Kom. One of them comes from Delaware, the other from Georgia. They must have oodles of money to be travelling with such a train. They also intend the Nile trip by boat which also costs a-plenty. They have been travelling since June and intend to be out until May. Anyway, it was nice to see Americans again.

Just before sitting down to write we made a hurried trip over the top of the hill into the Kom. Starkey thought he heard someone there and we were expecting to find a bunch of illicit seabkh-diggers to round up. On their second night out here Starkey and Yeivin caught a big bunch of them in the Kom with their donkeys at two A. M. They captured the donkeys and kept them until morning and only released them on their owners promising to keep away. We haven't seen any more of them since. They were scared pink so it's not likely they will return again. It would have been lots of fun to round up a few of them. Sebakh, you see, is valuable, worth 12 piastres for a donkey load.

It has been pleasant today, quiet and just the right temperature. It is the first day I have had here without a high wind and dust. Anyway wind keeps mosquitoes and bugs away.

The fellows advise me to have my mail sent direct. I'm afraid the P. O. is slow about forwarding so I'm going to have only you send direct, the others I can wait for—Send it c/o Daira Agnelli, Tamieh, Fayum Province, Egypt.

5 December 1924

There isn't time to write much tonight as it is already late. Starkey got notice in the mail yesterday that one of his boxes of stores is being held at Alexandria for want of an invoice. Making copies of them has kept me busy this evening.

I was quite disappointed yesterday when the man returned from Tamieh without any mail from my lover girl. It seems to take the P. O. people an awful long time to forward mail as I got one the day before from Enoch by one of the Sebakh-men, forwarded by the American Express. I am sure there was a letter from you by the same mail. Neither Yeivin nor Starkey got any either so we are all cussing the P. O. So I'm glad that I told you to send direct.

Enoch's letter was only a short one. He is still feeling pretty blue, and I know that hanging around isn't helping him a whole lot when he is in that condition. He said, though, that he intended to tell Kelsey when he returns from the states that next fall will see him back at Luther regardless of thesis or anything else. I can tell that this decision has taken some weight off his mind.

Starkey and Yeivin have been occupied most of the day with balancing the expedition accounts so the supervision of the work has fallen mostly to me. Don't know how many times I have shouted – "yalle," "igri" and sou – (hurry). You have to carry a cane around and threaten to use it occasionally in order to make them listen when telling them to snap into it. I can tell that they have to laugh once in a while at my primitive attempts at Arabic. Nevertheless I generally am able to get my meaning across to them.

Six rooms are plastered now and all the brickwork on the middle section is finished as well as some on the east wing. Tomorrow we expect to begin putting on the roof. For it Starkey has bought a supply of palm branches. These will be covered with cotton stalks and they in turn, perhaps with mud. We got another bricklayer today. We all think that the house is going to be pretty nice when completed.

We get lots of visits from the sheikhs and omdehs of the nearby villages, who are the whole show in the small towns. In many places there are two factions almost equally strong. First the leader of one faction succeeds in getting himself appointed by the governor and then the other. We have to entertain first one and then the other. Both vie for our trade and seem to be mainly interested in the other fellow down. We don't believe any of them because they're nearly all liars. Last night one was here who is especially crafty. He wasn't well at all so we gave him enough pills to lay out an ordinary man but it was just what he needed because he was much improved. What we don't like is that they come during the day and stay eternally. We always serve them Turkish coffee—that's the treat here, just the small cup, you know. Yeivin has most of the entertaining because he speaks Arabic like a native.

Both Yeivin and Starkey are all right to get along with. Starkey is quite a driver when it comes to handling the men. I wouldn't call him tight but he wants money's worth for everything expended, and that, of course, is right. He has been very considerate of me though and I like him. I have to laugh at him when he is bargaining with one of the natives on the price of eggs or milk. One has to do it here.

Yeivin isn't exactly the type I should pick for a running mate if I were out for my own pleasure. He is impulsive like the Easterner or Semitic and wants what he wants just when he wants it. He is also quite set. But I will say this for him that he knows his business as far as I can see anyway. And he is also quite generous. Knowing his type and peculiarities one can make allowances for them. I think we will get on nicely. He takes at least an hour for cleaning up in the morning.

### 7 December 1924

I had a card from Boak today. He says that our permit to dig will soon be signed. The minister of Public Works has stated his willingness to approve it. Boak will join us sometime this week. Starkey received notice from Cook's that all except one case had been shipped from Alexandria last Tuesday and would be here soon.

Tomorrow morning early the last two windows go in. In a couple more days now the brickwork ought to be almost finished, in spite of the fact that one of the bricklayers had a case in court at Fayoum and had to leave. The one from the nearby village hasn't felt very well today. Hope he doesn't have to stop work. All the other men have a lot of fun at his expense. We have to watch him all the time to keep him straight in line.

Yesterday it was very hot for December. This morning we had a regular Decorah fog. After the sun came out it was warm again.

Miss Katon Thompson and Miss Hughes had lunch with us today. They will start camp on Tuesday.

I have been playing the part of nurse these days. Starkey had a little sore on the knuckle of one of his fingers which became septic. I ordered him to put it into a sling because using the hand aggravated the sore so it covered his whole knuckle.

What beautiful evenings these are. The moon is almost full and it is light as day. Starkey and I walked to the canal after dinner last night.

### 9 December 1924

I have been on the jump the last two days as I have been alone on the job most of the time. Starkey and Yeivin went to Fayoum and Lahun yesterday forenoon and didn't return until lunch today. Everything went along smoothly with the work and both Starkey and Leivin thought we had made good progress. It is surprising what one can do with a few words of Arabic, but, of course, every word counts of the vocabulary I have. I went right on with the brickwork and plastering as not much could be done with the roof when I was alone. We expect to get most of it on tomorrow.

Starkey and Leivin expected to be back last night but they reached Medinet too late. I guessed as much and did not wait up for them at all. Miss Thompson brought them out in her car today. Ali Suefi, the foreman, so to speak, of our natives brought his two wives back with him from Lahun today. He will be with Miss Thompson out on the desert but his wives will stay here and make bread for the men and for us.

Boak came out to Medinet from Cairo today. He and Mrs. Askren drove out this afternoon. He seemed well satisfied with the house and the work. He also brought with him our permit to start actual excavations. He went back to Medinet to stay for a few days until things are more ready here. It would be quite crowded with another man here at present. It won't be many days now though. Mrs. Askren is feeling much better now and her asthma has left her. She brought out another fine cake for us. She



thought I looked well and happy and thought it was because my mail had come through. She is going to sew one of my shirts up for me on her machine. It ripped all along the sleeve.

Boak identified that largest piece of papyri I mentioned before as an excerpt or selection from Homer. In fact it says from Homer at the bottom. I knew the key lay there but couldn't quite make it out. The account on the reverse is 2<sup>nd</sup> cen A. D. so the literary part is earlier. Boak took it back with him to work out.

Our stores have reached Fayum and will be brought out on the Decanville tomorrow afternoon. We shall be all set as soon as the house is finished. We still have to let the men dig themselves in on the side of the hill.

#### 10 December 1924

Yeivin went to Tamieh for the stores this afternoon. We noticed after he had gone that he forgot to take the railway policy. One of the men who went with him came back a short time ago and said he couldn't get the stuff. Yeivin is staying over at Tamieh. One of the men will go in again tomorrow with it and I'll send this letter with him.

Starkey has business in Cairo and is leaving tomorrow afternoon for Fayume. He will be back here on Saturday.

One of the bricklayers worked a while this afternoon on the oven and finished it. I heard the man order his wives to make bread tomorrow. Believe me, I wouldn't want to be an Arab's wife, believe me.

Yeivin just returned now but he has left orders and arranged matters so that all that is necessary is to send the native in with the policy. In one way it is all right that we did not get the boxes today. Miss Thompson will pull out as soon as they are here. She takes all tents except the three for her work and Starkey has promised her one of them. By tomorrow night the men will have their place in the hill ready so we won't mind.

#### 13 December 1924

I meant to write last night but it turned out to be a full evening. Just after we had quit work for the day the Decanville train came in from Tamieh with our stores. We were busy for an hour taking care of it.

Just a few minutes before supper a car came driving up. It was Starkey returning. He brought Mr. Wainwright with him from Cairo so we are four of us now. After dinner we talked a bit and then had to go out to open the blanket box to find blankets for Mr. Wainwright. We put him up in our dining tent last night. Tonight he is in his own.

Mr. Wainwright has been connected with Antiquities work in Egypt for several years. He knows quite a bit about this mound and has published an article on the glass in the Cairo Museum, coming from this site. Kelsey has made arrangements for him to be out here for a while at least. Did I tell you that two years ago when he was here one of the temples was not visible at all?

Wainwright is quite a typical Englishman. He is not very robust. He was cold when he got here after their car ride. I had to laugh at all the blankets and pillows—they came in stores—he had to have. Today he caught a cold so he went to bed early this afternoon. I hope he is better tomorrow.

The brickwork on the rooms is all finished as well as all the plastering with the exception of two floors. All the rafters are in too and we would have had palm sticks on all the roofs over the rafters today but ran short. Hope to get them tomorrow. There's some work to be done yet getting the mud over the cornstalks and bullrushes. We also got started getting sand on the floors over the plaster. We have them sift out and use the coarser sand as that will not make much dust. Miss KatonThompson left today so we have left only two tents, mine and S and Y's. That meant the cook's moving into the kitchen and Wainwright into his room. The men are also occupying their place on the hill. Eating in our dining room this noon made it feel like getting settled. Tomorrow night I may be in my room.

There still remains some brickwork to be done on the dwarf wall in front of the court and a few benches or mastabas near kitchen and in bedrooms for trunks. We also need a place for the guard.

Starkey and Yeivin were checking the stores today while I was shagging the men. I have been on the roof quite a bit the last two days as well as running around watching other activities.

The evenings have been much cooler the last four days, it seems to me, but the days are warm. I got two more blankets last night and put them both underneath me. Without a mattress the cold comes up. I surely was warm last night. My bathrobe and sweater are great for sitting around evenings. One of my greatest comforts are the flannel pajamas I had the happy thought to buy just before leaving Cairo. I don't dread going to bed with them to welcome me. Now that I'm used to it I don't mind getting up any more than in a warm room. Still I can't say that I don't like the warm blankets.

Starkey certainly seems to have provided for everything, from flashlights, clocks, etc. to eggbeaters. He's a pretty efficient fellow and a good manager for this sort of work.

Boak came out to stay this afternoon. My mastaba or brick ledge for my trunk was just finished but I hurried and got sand onto the floor and moved in so Boak could have the tent tonight. His room is not ready. It will be in shape tomorrow and so will Yeivin's.

I know that my room will be comfortable when I get things arranged. I'll have the mastaba for the trunk and grip in one corner, shelves and hooks in another corner and a washstand along the wall across from my bed. I feel so fine tonight as I took a good sponge bath tonight after work.

Our palm branches came this P. M. so the whole roof will be covered by tomorrow night, I hope. My job tomorrow is to see to that.

Boak brought out three of the ducks he shot the other day. They tasted mighty good for dinner tonight.

Wainwright hasn't been up at all. He felt rather feverish so it was better for him to stay in bed.

Dealing with the natives is a rather aggravating operation. They promise to bring palm branches or milk, for example, at a certain price. The first thing you know they are back asking for more money. That has happened many times with our milk and the palm sticks as well as other things.

This is my fourth Sunday here. I feel more satisfied here than in Cairo because I feel as though I'm really doing something.

#### 16 December 1924

Everyone has turned in but I want to start a letter tonight as the mail will go in the day after tomorrow. I am a wee bit sleepy so what I write may be rather muddled like our "Soup's" head was when we just woke him up. We wouldn't have roused him at all but he had two lanterns burning. He just couldn't come to and kept talking when he got up. He declared he wasn't "sakkaran" out of his head but we told him we couldn't believe it when he put his shoes on the wrong foot.

Everyone has moved into the house now except Starkey. Boak and Yeivin are pretty well fixed. Yeivin took nearly the whole day getting his place ready and Boak has had some time too. I have been busy every minute the last two days looking after the men, and on the roof especially. We finished everything as far as the mud today and expect to start that tomorrow. All I have in my room so far is a shelf Boak put up for me and an empty box I appropriated for a wash-stand. In a day or two I'll be all set though, I hope. Anyway there is no hurry.

Beside the work on our place we finished up the place for the women built up a few courses above ground and put a roof on top. We have the shelves in our workroom and sand on the floor. It's quite a nice place. Today the bricklayer built up two sideboards of brick in the dining room.

Boak has boarded up his window and has the flap of one tent in front of his door. So far I like it with the wind going thru. Of course I'm not making any promises that I won't change my mind later on.

I like to fool around with the men and watch them. It's great fun to hear them say "Kattar Kherak" (thank you) in their long drawn out fashion whenever you put on a little iodine or something.

Wainwright is feeling well again. Today he visited with Miss Katon Thompson. He says they are well set and that they will be all right.

We were issued two sheets, a pillowslip, and a towel today so we shall be quite sporty. I think I'll get along with one sheet and cover my corner for a wardrobe with the other. Washing always dries the same day here so one doesn't need a change.

#### 17 December 1924

I'm not feeling as tired tonight because the work today hasn't required such close supervision on my part. I could leave the men more to themselves and only jack them up once in a while.

Between times I managed to get up some nails and hooks for my clothes underneath my board for my clothes, and other nails for my towels, etc. So I am beginning to feel more at home now.

Boak and the other fellows have been working on shelves for the work- and dining rooms today. They are real nice rooms now and look like business.

That garrulous old dragoman Boak and I were papyri-hunting with in Cairo two days brought out a man with papyri today. He still talks as much as ever. Wainwright shut him right up when he made some impertinent inquiry.

Boak got a dandy Christmas present in yesterday's mail—a picture of his wife and little girl. She, the little girl, is growing to beat the band and looks so cute.

All the men are agreeable so we get on nicely together.

I had an interesting half-hour trying to cheer up Sherban, our boy. We've taken the washing off the cook's hands and turned it over to him. Over that, this being his first wash day, and some other things he has been blue the last couple of days and wants to go out with the other men. I told him we had him here because he was better than the others. He was so thankful after I dressed his finger. I hear him singing now, something he hasn't done for days, so he must be feeling more cheerful. His voice hasn't changed yet. I love to hear him sing as his voice is like a contralto.

I don't know whether we shall have time off at Christmas at all. It won't seem like a regular Christmas not getting to church at all or anything but I try to keep thinking of those things a little while each day. It's always a happy feeling for me when we can go or come from church together.

### 23 December 1924

Dinner will be ready in a few minutes but I'll get a start anyway and then write some more afterward. I want to write a letter to Enoch, too, tonight if nothing else develops.

Believe me, we do not suffer for things to eat. Starkey's tinned things are good. Jam, and marmelade, sauce, meats and fish, they are all the best quality. We manage to have fresh vegetables and fruit from Tamieh. The women make fresh bread for us and our cook makes the best soup. I wish you could have dinner with us sometime.

For several days now Starkey has had a half dozen of the men working in the Kom. In the very top layer or house—you see there are several layers, the bottom being the earliest date—in one of the rooms several pots, combs, hooks came to light. The pots are all intact. Boak took pictures of them before they were removed. Several coins and a scrap of papyri will help to date the whole thing. It's a nice lot and we all feel quite elated. Boak hasn't read the papyri yet.

Yesterday and today I have had the bulk of the men working on their own house. I was slowed up by them taking the men away several times for work at the canal. Tonight we finished the excavation of all the rooms and have only one wall and the door to build up. If we had the mats and wood here we could be through tomorrow. They will have to make quite a bunch of mats from corn stalks to put on top of the reed mats. The men are so pleased about their house. They keep telling me "Kattar Kherak" (thank you) and "Kwaieess Kalas" (very fine). I let them have things as they want. The whole house won't have a window and the doors are narrow and so low one has to stoop to enter. They are particularly afraid of

a draft and of getting cold. When one sees the miserable clothing and scant bed covering they own one can hardly blame them.

The water is failing gradually but the current is still quite strong. They finally have the dam in pretty good shape and at a fairly high level. As soon as the current ceases we want to make it tight or the water will escape. One of our tents has been moved down there and have a guard there all day. At night three stay and watch by turns.

Mr. Wainwright is a very agreeable chap. He knows the excavating game and is able to give good advice. I am sorry he will not be with us all winter. A typical Englishman, he takes everything coolly and doesn't get excited. It was he who recommended Starkey to Kelsey and got him the job. I was talking to Wainwright tonight after work. It was some satisfaction to have him say that he thought I was getting on exceptionally well with my Arabic and handling the men.

Yeivin's Xmas box from his sister in London came today. We are all glad to taste his candy, etc. And yet it's really foolish to send out that sort of thing. Starkey has chocolate right here in camp which is very good, and we do not have to pay duty on it.

We finished our roof just in time. Yesterday it blew so hard that all the palm leaves and rushes would have been carried away and last night it rained. Starkey and I looked in on the men—they appreciate little calls once in a while—and I saw the water dripping through the mats which is all they have. Fortunately it didn't amount to much.

#### 24 December 1924

From the way things are going on here one would never know Christmas had come. The work will go right on tomorrow, I take it. The only indication of any Christmas will be a turkey for dinner tomorrow night. It rather goes against my grain not to stop work even on Christmas Day but being in Rome "I'll do as the Romans do," as the saying goes. It will be only this once, you see.

If that crazy Post Office in Cairo were not so slow about forwarding mail I would have had a letter from my lover girl for tonight. A mail came out from Tamieh this afternoon. Boak got letters from the States forwarded by the Am. Ex. so I know I have mail from you in Cairo. That would have been the best present ever.

Tonight I am thankful for the Lord's wonderful love and for his giving me the greatest blessing I can enjoy on earth, your love, the love of the noblest and best woman in the whole world.

Now I am going to read the Christmas gospel before going to bed.

#### 26 December 1924

I am so sorry that the trouble in Egypt caused you so much worry. I didn't realize that so much publicity would be given to it at home. Such things always look much worse to people at a distance. Anyway, the question seems settled once for all now.

We worked all day yesterday on one thing and another but I forgot all about that when the mail came, and was in shape to enjoy our fine dinner. The cook had done the turkey beautifully. We had celery, peas, plum pudding, custard, and jello, after our soup, and wine on the side. No one was over happy, though, as we had only one round.

One of the men went to Fayum day before yesterday for wood and mats. His not coming back until today (P.M.) has held up finishing the men's place. We will get through there in the morning, I hope, and can level the court afterward perhaps. We've made a big hole mixing mud for the walls, etc.

The work has been broken into by the men being taken to the canal off and on. Finally it has practically stopped and our dam seems to be tight. It has been a drawn out affair.

Several of the men are going on in the Kom. Today one of my men getting bricks found a coin of Licinius who was emperor 313-323 A. D. It was in good shape and easily read. Some fine glass, a few beads, and a dice were in the same little chamber.

#### 28 December 1924

The end is really in sight now. We finished mudding the men's place and our shrine—for the second time yesterday. Today has been a general cleanup around the house as well as the other places. By tomorrow night we figure that will be almost done, and Starkey intends to wire for the rest of his men tomorrow. The hole in the courtyard is nearly full after today's cleanup. The men finally let us put in two windows in their house. The bathtub is in process of installation now. Water won't be plentiful but it will be some satisfaction to feel myself in a tub once more. We have two more ziers or filters now, though, and that helps a lot if the source of supply holds out.

Last night just as I had settled down one of our men came tearing in to announce that our canal was being washed away. When we got there we found a terrific flood rushing through and eating away the dam. The explanation, of course, is that someone above us had been damming, but unsuccessfully. There was nothing to do so we went back to the house until ten o'clock when the water was down again. In short order it was back in shape again. We all hated to turn out but it meant our water. Anyway, we would have something to grumble about if we had to get into the water like the men. Being "rousted" out at all hours is the sort of thing one grows accustomed to here. One night three camel-loads of cotton stalks for the women's oven came at three in the morning. Fortunately I never even heard it.

Starkey ordered "belledi" or village tables for all of us from Fayum, and stools as well. I'm using them both now for this letter. Another shelf in my room now will make me quite comfortable.

The people in surrounding villages have been spoiled by tourists. They do not like us in a business way because we are not so liberal with "baksheesh." One of them told our cook that we must be Greeks or Italians, not Americans or English, because the latter would give baksheesh if a native so much as picked up his stick. One of our guards wanted cigarettes for bringing milk so Starkey chased him off. Now we have a new one who looks better. We sent a complaint to Tamieh about the other one.

#### 30 December 1924

By the time I get back I ought to be a jack-of-all trades if I profit at all from all my various experiences, from carpenter and “straw boss” to book-keeper. For two days now, or rather since yesterday noon Yeivin and I have been at work on the accounts. The ledger and account books arrived just a few days ago. Before supper tonight we brought the ledger up to date but had no time to balance it. That remains for tomorrow and also entering the items in the food book and the men’s pay book up to date—the others we will not fool with. A day book for them will be started from this date and the old papers will be thrown away. Yeivin has had a good course in accounting and knows all about it. By and by I expect I shall know the ins and outs better but I already have the general scheme, because it isn’t hard.

I haven’t had anything to do with the men since we started accounts and I took 15 extra minutes in bed this morning, not being responsible for the men. I’ve got to be careful not to get into bad habits.

Starkey has had the men levelling up around the house. Tomorrow Starkey and Wainwright are invited to visit Miss Katon Thompson to see her work. Boak is going to have the men do some digging along a stone wall to the north of the mound. His theory is that this wall was built along the canal which ran to the north of the mound, instead of the south as now, and thus made the land where we are fertile. We may know something further tomorrow night.

Mr. Wainwright is a fine fellow when one gets to know him. I have had several interesting chats with him. He has his pension from the Egyptian government and intends to publish on his own hook. It’s a pity that his health isn’t better. He had a chill again yesterday. Staying here during the summer broke him down and made him nervous. He doesn’t hitch especially well with Yeivin.

### 31 December 1924

My head is almost swimming with figures tonight after juggling them all day. Just before supper tonight we got the entries in the ledger to balance each other. The cash doesn’t balance but that is none of my business because I have had nothing to do with it hitherto. I guess they intend to hand over the accounts to me from now on. Hope I don’t find myself short too many pounds when I come to balance. Tomorrow we shall probably start the men’s pay book and the food account book. The men’s pay book is a big job because you don’t pay them every week. All they take is enough to buy stuff at market and we check that against their account. Generally they spend 5 to 12 piastres (60 cents) for the week. Imagine it.

Starkey and Wainwright had a nice day with Miss C. Thompson. Her car came for them at nine and they got back at 5:00.

Boak had the men digging all day. Now he rather cherishes the theory that it may be a huge government granary. If Starkey decides to excavate it thoroughly we shall know for certain. A coin which has a head like Trajan’s—I mean Hadrian—about 118-137 A. D. was found.

There has been a cold, bitter wind all day. I sat with my sweater and overcoat on all day and was just comfortable. The cold weather is coming. January is the cold month, you see, and it begins tomorrow.

## 2 January 1925

We have finished the accounts and have located all the missing piastres but we got through only this afternoon. We were interrupted all day yesterday by visitors of the villages. I had to entertain an omdeh for an hour—imagine it on my Arabic—because Starkey and Yeivin were busy with others. I got his family history, found out how many boys (5) and girls (3) he had, their respective ages etc. He also told me that the canal would be running again in 18 days.

What the building I referred to is hasn't been decided yet. All the men are undecided. Today the rest of the men, about 30 in all, came from Guft. We were 24 men and 7 boys before so that totals 54. The cook's boy came to carry a basket. Believe me his dad is proud tonight.

The Askrens were out to see us today. Their two boys attending school in Alexandria were with them too. Mrs. A. brought us a dandy chocolate cake. So much unexpected company was at their house all the time that they could not invite us. Mrs. A. showed it too as she looked tired. They liked our house very much.

## 4 January 1925

Yeivin and I are going to do the men's accounts for the week at a quarter to seven, and it may take us most of the evening so I must hurry and get most of my letter finished by that time. It's just turned six now and I have only now finished a good wash after a dirty day in the Kom.

Things are beginning to look like business now. All the men were on top of the Kom for the first time today. We are working to clear everything to the bottom of the top layer. It's going to be dirty business because there's no day without its wind here. We'll all have to get goggles, I guess. Believe me, a wash feels good after a day up there. It will be interesting, though. We have run into several stairways with wood in the front of steps to keep bricks from wearing away and all preserved. Niches in the walls underneath the windows for the same type of water vessel as they have now were found in a couple of houses.

Boak got all through following out the walls on the north side of the mound but no one has ventured to say that he knows what they are. They run all the way.

Tomorrow we will have our first real "Suq" or market day. The men will not be on the job but we shall all have plenty to do. I won't mind that though after I've had my morning nap. We expect to divide the men into squads for the work. Yeivin and I have some more entries to make in the ledger now so there will be plenty to do.

We shall be cleaning our own shoes and fetching our own water for a few days at least until Starkey finds another boy. Sherban got up on his ear on one of his jobs so Starkey fired him. I don't mind, however, as he really didn't do so much for me.

It rained hard last night for a while. When I came into my room to dress, or rather wash, before dinner, my roof was leaking to beat the band. Strangely enough mine was the only one leaking to any extent. I moved my bed into the empty bedroom and covered up the other stuff. The rain must have cemented the cracks together as it rained hard this morning and nothing came through. I like the room



fine because it's not breezy as the others. Today was miserable. We had to call the men off a couple of times this morning because of rain.

#### 6 January 1925

Sunday evening was a busy night. After Yeivin and I had all the men's accounts straight we called them all up and read their standing to them, giving them the no. of days they had worked, what they had drawn, and their balance. It took quite a while this time because it was the first time. Other weeks it will go faster. The men are anxious to be off to "suq" early because they can make better bargains. We go through the accounts and hand out what money they want the preceding night to avoid early morning rising. Believe me it was cold sitting out in the yard for 2 hours that night—we never let them come in as they might sow lice and other things. We had a hot sling just before going to bed and woke up fine.

Yesterday was a vile day. A terrific wind—we have heavy wind almost every day—kept up all day and filled everything with sand. My room was full. Had there been snow it would have been a blizzard. We could not have done anything in the Kom so it was fortunate it happened to be suq day. We—Yeivin, Starkey, and I were busy all day. Yeivin and I did accounts in the forenoon. After lunch we cleaned and filed some of the objects found in the work so far.

The men are divided into squads now, eleven in all, and each is responsible for clearing a certain section. From now on we will take turns at getting out early in the morning with the men. Starkey was on the job today. Tomorrow will be mine. It was dirty again today but I forgot about it digging out some pots.

We have another boy for the house. He turned up yesterday from Lahun and is related to a couple of our men. He expected to work with the men but was willing to try this job. He seems to be a bright little chap now that he has thawed out a little. The poor kid was almost paralyzed with fear standing examination before the five of us. He has asked me several times whether I want anything more, something Sherban never did.

#### 7 January 1925

Wasn't I lucky to have a fairly comfortable morning for getting out early. The one who goes out with the men stays until the others have had breakfast. This has been a splendid day for work, just right temperature without a speck of wind to blow the sebakh about. Before we get away from here I am sure we shall be wishing these days back. Having started actual work so late Starkey wants to work as long as possible so it looks as though we shall be here until sometime in April, perhaps the latter part.

#### 9 January 1925

It's just the time of full moon now. The evenings are beautiful and almost as light as day. After dinner Wednesday evening we went up to the men's house to watch the boys play. They are a fine little bunch and do get under one's skin. It was great fun watching them play their own games. After they had played for a while Starkey scattered some lemon drops and that style of candy on the ground.

It was a circus to watch them fight and scramble for the candies. Believe me they don't bother about washing them.

Last night the men staged a "zikh" for us. It is a religious occasion or celebration introduced among the Muhammadans probably from Persia or from early Egypt. It is staged only at the full moon. An essential feature is meat for supper. This the Expedition furnished. Then they have one or two men who lead them in the singing and movements. The men sit a part of the time and stand the rest. Following the song leader they sing and go through bodily contortions in unison, slowly at first and then more and more rapidly. Ours was tame last night but the purpose of the whole thing is to work oneself into a religious frenzy. Wainwright says he has seen men in such a pitch that they picked up red-hot coals and put them in their mouth without a trace being visible the next day. On another occasion he saw a man put a sharp lancer through both cheeks. The next day it was scarcely noticeable. The fellow who led the singing last night came from the nearby village. He had a good voice.

The work is going on as usual. We are clearing the top layer on the W. side of Kom. Starkey and I were recording objects all day today and yesterday, and caught up tonight. The weather has been ideal for three days. It's my turn in the morning.

#### 11 January 1925

It is past ten now. Yeivin and I started on the men's accounts at five thirty and just finished reading them to the men a few minutes ago. There was extra work this time because men have been to market on three different days. The men work in companies. Whenever a man from a company finds something his company gets "bakshish" and that must be divided among the men of that company. That system leads to a lot of quarters and fractions in the individual accounts. I got by pretty well though we had to hurry so fast that there was no time to check up. One of the men said there was a mistake in his account and there was. They always know.

Tomorrow Yeivin and I will have to do the accounts for the past week and perhaps file some antiques if there is time afterward. There are some to be done again now.

Yesterday one of the men found a nice piece of papyrus. It is a complete page folded up and undoubtedly a complete document, probably a letter. It ought to have a date and help us to fix the period of the layer we are in. Boak hasn't read it yet. Besides one of the men has been finding bits yesterday afternoon and all day today in what is apparently the remains of a fallen roof. It contains straw and palm fiber etc. which is ideal for preserving papyri. Piecing all the fragments together if they belong to the same one will be some job. A few more pots have also appeared and a fine basket perfectly preserved, of reeds.

I forgot to tell you that we have between twenty and 25 boys from the local village on the job as each man really needs two boys. Each boy is given a piece of paper with his name on it. One of us initials it each day. If he is late a hole is punched in it to show that he is fined. At the end of the week the boy is paid for the no. of days he has been on hand.

If you could see me making the boys jump you'd certainly think me hardboiled. They all run when Starkey or I yell at them. Half the time I have to turn the other way when they spurt so to keep from laughing.

Starkey and Wainwright left for Cairo yesterday—Wainwright to stay. We are rather sorry that he is gone as he was very congenial and also helpful. Besides he knows a lot about the place. Starkey, I expect will be back in a couple of days. Wainwright said he planned some on going to Palestine in March and said he would be very glad to have me along. I'll try to arrange it here if he decides to go. I think he would be fine to travel with. March is the best time to see Palestine because all the flowers are in bloom then.

### 13 January 1925

Just finished some improvements on my room after work and there is still time for me to start a letter before dinner. You ought to see how spruce I am with my new door. The front flaps of the tents are detachable and make excellent covers for our doors. Boak and Wainwright had them but Wainwright's leaving released one so I jumped it. I find you have to grab if you want things. I decided to put on the door not so much because of the cold as the wind which covers everything with sand. The door makes dressing and undressing a lot more comfortable as well as taking a bath. I made a blind for my window to keep out the dirt when the wind blows from that direction.

Yesterday and today have been nasty. There was a terrific wind yesterday and we were congratulating ourselves on its being "suq-day." But today was not much better. It was so bad that we had to move the men from the east to the west side. So far, fortunately, it has been possible to accommodate the work to the wind so that the dump doesn't blow back onto the men. But that possibility is almost exhausted until we can begin on the next layer below so we are hoping that Starkey will soon be here with goggles for the men.

None of the boys from the village showed up today. They are trying to boycott us in order to get higher wages. We only paid them 3 piastres, 15 cents a day, last week. Of course I don't exactly blame them. If we have to pay four we would rather have boys from Guft who are relatives of the men on the work and who will stay here on the place. The village can't work us.

I caught two men scrapping today and promptly fined them 2 piastres apiece. That stops them pretty quick, I tell you.

It was cold today and will be still more chilly tonight. You ought to see the natives shudder when I told them that this is nothing at all back home in America, and of course it isn't. But then we are not subjected to such sudden and violent changes in temperature every day. It seems funny to think that it is the middle of winter, and then to see all the fields beautifully green—just like late April or early May—with the crops, wheat, beans, etc. coming up. The Fayum is beautiful to look on now. On the south are the green cultivated fields, and on the north the desert with its beautiful color effects.

Yeivin and I worked all day yesterday, in the forenoon on accounts and the rest of the day cleaning and filing away antiquities. I'm rather surprised to see Boak sit around and read or something like that unless there is photographing to be done.

### 14 January 1925

I am so sorry that you have worried so much about me. Jennetta told me in her letter too how you were thinking of the trouble here all the time. Don't let it bother you any more, sweetheart. Whatever the newspaper reports may be you can feel assured that the English have the situation in hand and intend to keep it so. Only today I showed an English official, who had camped out near the lake, around the Kom. He said that the people as a whole had never been happier than now. That looks good.

It was my early morning today because Starkey isn't back yet. The first thing I did was to fire one of those fellows I caught scrapping yesterday as he began to talk again this morning. It's a good thing for the rest of the men, too, to know that we do not hesitate to get rid of a slacker. We had been watching this fellow for some time. Most of the men are fine specimens, especially the men from up-country. I like them real well. One hardly ever has to take one of them to task. If they slow up I yell at their boy and they take the hint.

Boak was out to dinner last night with two men from New York and their wives. He showed them about the Kom yesterday and they invited him to their camp, a half mile up the line, for supper. I didn't envy him as it was snappy out. One of them is an ex-colonel of the U. S. army and the other an old goldminer from Central America. Yeivin and I intended to go on with the filing and cleaning but felt too lazy after dinner. We read a little and turned in early to hide from the cold.

Nothing exceptional turned up today except one piece of papyrus but it will be very important because it is dated in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of some emperor whose name Boak didn't try to make out in the wind on the Kom. If he gets that we will have something pretty definite.

#### 16 January 1925

This has been another nasty day. The wind has blown hard all day. Everyone's eyes were bad tonight. I got my share too as I was alone on the Kom most of the day. Yeivin went back to the Fayum yesterday in the car which brought Starkey out, to see about maps, etc. He didn't get back until this afternoon. Starkey has been busy most of the day entertaining natives, and Boak comes and goes as he feels like. One feels as though he has eaten his allotted peck of dirt in one day on days like this. And yet we are none the worse for it when washed and cleaned up again. Three more boys from the village turned up today. That makes seven in all. By and by they will come to time.

The biggest find of the season so far turned up today. Just before quitting time one of the companies turned up a roll of literary papyri. Boak has dampened it so we shall be able to find out tomorrow what it is from—perhaps. Indications are that there are about three pages or columns. You ought to see the two funny Coptic dolls which came out today. They are small terra-cotta figurines with a head almost as large as the rest of its body.

Just as I came up to the work this morning our head man came up and told Starkey and me that a woman from the neighboring village wanted permission to walk around the Kom. Bet you can't guess what for. Here in Egypt a woman who has no child is rather looked down upon and to be pitied. It is the ambition of every young woman to have a boy baby. Prayers to Allah failing very many of the Egyptians appeal to the old gods. They seem to feel that there is some magic power in the ancient gods or in an ancient city. This one today wanted only to walk around the mound. She was a young woman. In all seriousness she went followed by her husband, an old decrepit fellow, blind and lame, and he had to be led by a young boy. One look at him and I was not surprised. That so many young girls are given in

marriage to old wizened fellows like him explains why many of them are without children.

I had heard and read of women invoking magic powers before so was glad to see it in fact. For instance, Wainwright often had women come to him for permission to walk around the Meidum Pyramid when he was excavating there. His foreman, Aly Sugli, who has been around here several times had his wife walk around the Pyramid 7 times. Curiously enough she gave birth to a child the next year. I read of girls sliding down the statue of Ramses II at Luxor. And at Gau, Starkey tells me, where he worked last year the women went to the top of the rubbish heap and rolled down. So you see superstition still is general.

Enoch's committee at Michigan has decided that it will be advisable for him to return to Michigan and continue his work there in view of the fact that the U. will not excavate next summer. Arrangements could not be made with Sir William. For Enoch's own good it is undoubtedly best as it will bring him back to work for his degree. Of course I am disappointed that I shall not see him until I get back. It was planned that he should visit us here this spring in case excavations were continued in Asia Minor. When Enoch would sail he did not know. Kelsey had not arrived Jan. 5.

#### 18 January 1925

I got a letter from Doc. Olson.

Doc Olson just mentioned that the papyri had come without saying that he was glad to have them or about the money. If I didn't know him I'd be peeved. What does make me sore is his P. S. that he notified the Board of Education that I would be on hand next September and that they voted me a salary of \$2000, which was the rate of pay I got there last year. In other words I'm not getting a penny's worth of recognition for putting in this year and a half. Of course I could understand it if I had not told him before I left that I intended to be married by that time. He may have forgotten. Anyway I'll write to him and tell him so that he can fix it later if possible. Of course I can't expect to get as much as Ot and the others right away but he ought to have given me \$2200 anyway, I think. Well, enough of this.

Yesterday was as bad as Friday but today has been grand. Some nice pots and some more papyrus have turned up. In one of the houses where we are working now there are a lot of bins, apparently for wheat or flour. Right beside them is an oven for baking. The fireplace and all is well preserved.

Paying off the men this evening marks the end of another week. Tomorrow is suq day but we work just the same except for a late start. It's 11:30 now but I can sleep till 8:00.

#### 20 January 1925

I've had a session with Doc Olson tonight in an attempt to squeeze \$200 more out of him so this may prove to be rather abbreviated. If it turns out to be so I'll try to do better by you tomorrow night.

I told him that putting in a year and a half of graduate work with no increase in salary was no encouragement to further study and preparation on my part, and that it would make it impossible for me to stay at Michigan next summer. Even if I had stayed right at Luther, I said, I would probably have

had something of a raise. I made it clear to him that I have only my salary to look forward to for us to be married on, whereas I would have had some money saved had I remained at Luther. In order not to ruffle Olson I pretended that the Board must have overlooked some of the facts and asked him to be kind enough to present my case to them feeling sure that his tact would bring about a satisfactory adjustment. I hope it does the trick.

### 21 January 1925

Yeivin and I have been alone today. Boak and Starkey went out to Miss Caton Thompson's camp for the day. Starkey had to straighten up his accounts with Miss C. T. Much of their supplies came together and she has some of our men. Boak just took the opportunity of seeing the country. It's half past six now and they are not back. We thought that they would have turned up before dark as it is all desert driving. Miss C. T., as far as we know, has not equipment enough to keep them over night.

It has been rather warm and threatening to rain most of the day. Generally it gets no farther here most of the time. I felt comfortable on the work with my coat off.

A half dozen of the men cleared away most of our dam today. According to a report from the Irrigation Department in Fayum the water will be running in four or five days. You can't imagine the amount of stuff that was sunk in the canal to make the dam. We will all be glad to have fresh water again so boiling won't be necessary.

I hope Starkey returns tonight as there is quite a bit of recording to do. Yeivin takes the measurements of all the buildings and draws the plans and gives the houses numbers, and also the various rooms. Then we give the number of the house and room to each article and state whether it was found in the filling of the room or on the floor. That finished the stuff is brought to the house, cleaned, checked, and filed away in its own boxes. For example we have boxes for coins, glass, glaze etc. This is the sort of work we do in the evenings. I surely am happy not to have anything to do with the drawing part as I am no good at it.

Yeivin and I had quite a session with the accounts on Monday. We came out five pounds to the good. As yet we have not discovered how it happens. I haven't any check on it because Yeivin keeps the journal during the week and we enter in the ledger only on Mondays. That really relieves me of the responsibility and of course I have no objection to that.

Did I tell you about our getting 16 more boys from Lahun where a part of our men come from? Our old time "Soup" returned with them. The boy we took on in his place has proven himself a complete idiot so we took on Soup again. At present we have them both for a trial. Mr. Brainton who runs Petrie's expedition is just starting up. We will send this boy to him. He will probably be all right for field work.

There are two factions in our workmen. The men from Lahun and the men from Guft don't get on very well together. Each party sticks up for its own man in case of a quarrel, and tries to down the man from the opposing party. Both gangs would like to see the other kicked off the work. Anyway it keeps up a sort of competition.

You ought to see me with my new haircut. Boak ran the clippers over my neck and around my ears and then trimmed the edges. It feels good to have my ears out in the world again and to be able to wash my neck without trouble.

We have had our supper now and I am turning in soon. Boak and Starkey came about seven. The driver got off the road in the dark several times so they were glad to be here.

### 23 January 1925

Yesterday was a bad one on the Kom. Starkey and I were recording things. The wind was so bad that we believe we still have some of the sebakh in our eyes. It has been very interesting lately. Several of the objects coming out find their exact parallel in Egyptian households today. For instance we came upon three tables day before yesterday. They would not be tables in our sense of the word. Each is made of boards and about 2 ft in diameter. As legs they have two boards or crosspieces which raise the table about 5 inches from the ground. You see the Arabs always sit on the floor and eat from a common dish in the center. Then we found a small stool, pot hooks, and pottery stands to keep hot coals in during cold weather all of which the men say are to be seen in Egyptian homes today.

Some of our men, seven if I remember, went to join Mr. Brunton today. He is carrying on Petrie's work and most of our men really belong to him so we were fortunate not to have to part with more of them. New men keep drifting in so we shall be up to normal again soon. When we get onto the second layer we shall perhaps be able to use more men.

One of our boys is a brother of the man I fired some time back. This boy has the same kind of a temper. As soon as the boys tease him he wants to fight. I pull his ear nearly off every time but it doesn't last him very long. He's soon at it again.

Boak is the doctor now. They all bring their aches and pains to him. If one fusses over them they come with every little thing. Boak is beginning to give laxative pills as a remedy for most things. One dose generally cures. They don't return unless there is something really wrong.

Boak has made shutters for all the windows in our dining and work rooms. Believe me, we are glad to have them these cold nights. With them it is really quite comfortable. After having our cook's good soup we are all set for the evening.

### 25 January 1925

There was a letter from Miss Butler in last Thursday's mail. She said that she had filed an application for me for the American Academy at Rome's trip to Greece. All of April will be spent in Greece. The party will leave Naples about March 30 and return to Rome about May 1<sup>st</sup>. Of course I should very much like to make that trip but I don't know that I would feel like putting in quite that much time and money. In the second place our departure from here will probably not allow me to join them. I had a talk with Starkey today. He hopes to get away near April 1<sup>st</sup> but cannot tell yet. He intends to work until his

allowance for the year is exhausted. If conditions are such that we can use a lot of men when we start on the next layer then we shall be spent sooner. In about three weeks time we shall probably be able to judge better.

Starkey and I had a talk about things in general. He wanted to know whether I could come out again next year and said that he would give me a good lift with Kelsey in case I wanted to. I told him that I was afraid my school would want me back and that I was just on leave of absence this year. Of course it would be a decided advantage to him to have the same staff again next year. He says that it is hard to find men who fit in. On the whole he seems to be pretty well satisfied with the way I get along with the men and my recording work with him. Even if I do not intend to stay it will be a satisfaction to know that my work was satisfactory and to have an offer for the coming year. If I did intend to stay I'd want to see to that I got a share in the publishing by and by.

Last night while we were sitting talking after dinner we were suddenly interrupted by the worst howling up at the end of the house where the cook and boys sleep. Ahmed Aly, our trusty, came in and told us that the boys were fighting. Soup and the other fellow have quarrelled all the time. In the course of the argument last night the new boy got peeved and planted his shoe in Soup's face. That roused old Soup, who is a lot bigger anyway, to give him a jolly good hiding. It was Mahmud's yelling that we heard. Starkey gave him a couple more for good measure and today took him onto the work with a five cent reduction in his wages. Soup's face was scratched just above his mouth only but I gave him his punishment by dabbing a nice spot of iodine on each cheek, one on the end of his nose and one on his chin. You ought to hear the men laugh at sight of him as if he were a painted girl. This noon I caught him trying to wash it off. Starkey and I didn't half bawl him out. I told him when he came crying for iodine again there wouldn't be any. We have had more fun over their little fight.

Yeivin was under the weather for a couple of days with a bad cold which settled on his stomach. He is much better today though, and helped me do the accounts. Am I not fortunate to have escaped everything so far.

### 27 January 1925

Yesterday and today have been very bad. There was such a wind and sandstorm that it was impossible to see any great distance. And it was cold too. We were thanking our lucky stars that it was "suq-day" but we shouted too early because it wasn't any better today. It was so cold when I got out to go onto the work—it was my early day—that Starkey called and told me to let them off for an hour. Cold absolutely paralyzes them and they can't get thru their heads that hustling will warm them up. If they see a person running on a cold day such as we had today they think he is crazy or almost. Whenever I told any of the boys to hurry this morning they always came back with the reply that they were cold. I told them that a little "hurry up" would warm them soon enough and proceeded to help them to do it. I don't blame the poor wretches for being cold with the clothes they have. Hardly any have a woolen garment and little enough of anything else. Nearly everything the fellah does have goes on his head. If it is warm he doesn't seem to mind. The dust was bad too today. Boak always has a line waiting for eyewash after this kind of a day.

The bad weather today was a big disappointment. Last Sunday we gave the village boys who were here all week—six days—21 piastres, while those who were here 5 days, for example, got only 15. The boys who were here every day got 3 extra. We did that to encourage the coming every day but this



weather rather ruined us. It was too cold for a big bunch—it was a surprise that as many as 10 came—to turn out this morning and now they probably won't care to start until next week because they have lost the chance for a perfect week. 10 of the last boys who were brought from Lahun left because the pay was too small so we have an acute problem.

I must not forget to tell you of our dip into society yesterday. The omdeh of Esbet Beledi, the nearest village, invited us to his house for dinner yesterday noon in return, I take it, for Starkey's making it possible for him to secure a license to take sebakh from the Kom. He has been fairly decent all along and what sebakh he takes helps reduce our pile of dirt from the dig.

You ought to have seen our procession, Starkey and the omdeh in front, then Yeivin, Boak, and I followed, with three of our men, one of them armed with a shotgun for show, bringing up the rear. Our cook had gone down in advance and prepared the dinner. The soup was good and so was the big turkey served to us. The pastry was tasty too. But our men didn't fare so well. They had to compete with 15 other hungry fellows to get a piece of the more-than-half-eaten turkey. The omdeh didn't care about them. He's all for show as they all are. What is surprising is the remarkable ignorance of the comforts of life. Here was the house of the richest man in the village without a decent table, without dishes for dessert unless washed meantime. The furniture, chairs, and etc., so creaky one was afraid to sit on them. In spite of Yeivin's warning to avoid all tapestry furniture we found this morning that he had come away with one head of live stock, a full blooded bed-bug. We did kid him some this morning about running off with the omdeh's property. There wasn't a picture on the barren walls and the doves were flying about the house. We saw only a couple of rooms. Of course there were only the five of us as the women are never allowed to appear on such occasions.

#### 28 January 1925

This has been another nasty day. We were recording all the afternoon. Starkey says he has never experienced one like it. It didn't bother me much as I have been worse off on many threshing days. It was very bad for the boys because so much of the dirt came back into their faces when they emptied their baskets. It was quite a little warmer today and that helped some. Boak and Yeivin are wanting to take out the surveying instruments but can't while there is so much dirt flying about.

I don't believe I told you that the Royal Air Force (British) sent an airplane here from Cairo a week ago to take airplane views of the Kom. Boak had made arrangements with them before he left Cairo.

The first thing I heard on waking up this morning was one of the men from the canal-guard telling that the water was running in the canal. We are all glad of that and so are the men because there will be no guard from now on. The tent will be on the Kom from now on for the men who sleep there nights. Two sleep on each side at night because there is always some stuff left over night.

#### 30 January 1925

You asked why so much work was put on the house. In the first place the permit to dig was held up and the men were hired and here, and might as well be working. In the second place, the University will probably carry on excavations in Egypt more than this season. We shall not be able to complete the work here this year. In fact it will require several seasons if completed thoroughly. And even if it should be decided to work some other site the University would still have this place as a permanent camp from

which expeditions to other sites could be organized. They would be temporary only and all stores and equipment would be kept here from season to season.

Miss Caton Thompson and Starkey come from University College at London. Miss Thompson is working on the prehistoric period. She is mainly engaged in scouring the desert for flints and that sort of thing which were used at that period. Not much actual digging is done. She has eight men, I believe in her camp. Miss Thompson is very capable and has a strong personality. She will be leaving about Feb 12 and has offered to sell Starkey her car. He has written Kelsey for permission to buy it. If he gets it I'll have the job of showing the other fellows how to run it and may get into Fayum sometime. It would save us a lot of transportation expense on our goods as well as \$10.00 when one goes to Fayum and back by car.

The last two days Starkey and I have been checking, cleaning, and filing stuff all the time. We still have at least a day and a half ahead of us to get somewhere near caught up. A lot of it is wretched and very dirty.

Two companies are working on a house now which is proving quite profitable. A lot of the stuff is badly charred indicating a fire. Starkey says that the fire explains our finding the stuff. People never went back to look for things. The men have found three nice little brass bells, some wooden boxes very badly charred, some nice complete glass bowls and vases, and some plates or bowls of fine red pottery. There is also a little papyrus and a couple of coins to assist in dating.

The moon is new again so the evenings are beautiful and light again.

### 1 January 1925

I have just finished another busy day. Starkey and I just got through this afternoon with the material that has been brought to the house. Right away Yeivin and I had to get at the pay book, first for the local people whom we pay in full at the end of each week, and then for our regular men and boys. The last man had his account read to him about half an hour ago and it's now quarter to eleven. Isn't it rather the irony of fate that Sunday should be our busiest day?

Things are looking brighter in the labor line. There were over 30 village boys on the payroll this afternoon. The omdeh is apparently chasing them up here. His permit has really expired but we are not paying any attention to him and his donkeys. We give him to understand that we want more boys and they are coming slowly.

Last night at quitting time we went up and removed the glass and bowls from the chamber I mentioned the other night. We got three unbroken glass bowls and one whole fine red pottery bowl. Besides there were nine broken glasses of various types and two broken plates. The glass had been kept in boxes and was in them still but we were able to save only one of them because they were damaged so badly by the fire. It was a nice find and we are all quite happy about it. As yet we are not decided whether it belongs to the top or middle layer. Starkey and Boak and I, which doesn't count for much, think it comes from the top, while Yeivin believes it from the middle. There are a couple of coins which will help us if acid treatment will bring out the emperor's head on them. You see they are very badly corroded. Anyway, it is a good topic for discussion. In addition to this find we have come across only one nice glass bowl these last days. The plates or bowls were nice. The two broken ones are complete

with stamped decoration in their bottoms. The top layer where we are working is almost finished and we expect to start some of the companies on the middle layer on Tuesday.

In checking over the material we noticed that several of the lamps had crosses on them and we found a small wooden cross decorated which had been worn on a string around the neck as an amulet or charm, in much the same fashion as the Catholics wear then today. This shows that there were quite a few Christians here in 350 A. D.

I am enclosing, provided I remember it, the snap Walter Olson took of the President and myself on the day I left Decorah last August. I got it in his second letter the other day which contained a check for the papyri. For comparative purposes I'm sending you a picture which Boak gave me the other day. It is an enlargement of one he took up on the Kom with the small camera. The people in Cairo must have enlarged it for fun as they were not told and asked nothing for it. Anyway you'll see that I'm not dying of starvation. I'll soon be too fat. The picture will come under special cover.

### 3 February 1925

I just now came in from watching a wonderful sunset. The reflection on the lake and the few purple clouds were so beautiful. Just a few nights ago we were remarking that the sunset that night had everything up to that time beat, but this one was still better. How I do enjoy the lake and to watch the effect of the sun and moon upon it.

The sunset today was a fitting end to a fine day. For several days now it has been ideal for work. There has been practically no wind and the sun has been warm again. We were all comfortable without coats. I suppose the coolest weather is about over and none of us would be sorry if the wind went with it.

This morning four companies started on the middle layer and by night we had them all there. Believe me, they all "worked like slink" today, to use Starkey's expression, those already in the middle layer in the hope of finding antiques, and those still on the top in order to get below. The middle layer, you see, is where we can reasonably hope to find more antiquities. Hasan Osman, the oldest of the "Gufties" and a fine old chap turned out 14 ostraka today from a vaulted room underneath a stairway.

An ostrakon in its original meaning is simply a potsherd or fragment of a pot. It is a Greek word. The Greeks used pieces of broken pot for recording their votes in jury trials. Also in the Athenian democracy it had another use. I have forgotten the exact process but if any citizen had it in for a certain individual he tried to get a certain required number of citizens to register their votes against this man. If this number signified their opposition to the man he had to leave the city and go into exile. The votes were recorded on potsherds or ostrakon and from them we get the work (ostracize) ostracise—which is it?—though we apply it rather to the social side and speak, for example, of negroes or Jews being socially ostracised. In Egypt inscribed potsherds or ostraka are generally receipts for the payment of money, grain, labor, or the like. They will be especially valuable for us because they are nearly always dated. We haven't—or rather Boak hasn't had a chance to go at them yet.

Boak and Yeivin were surveying today and getting data for making a plan of the top layer. They have several more days of work before them. Starkey and I were looking after the men—we reorganized all the companies as the new arrivals and departures made it necessary and got them started on the second layer. Tomorrow we start recording finds on the mound again.

Yesterday Starkey and Boak took all the men who wanted work over to the old cemetery of the town and started them digging. A reward of 5 P. T. for the first grave certainly made them go. In the afternoon they found several graves and some good skeletons. Starkey plans to let those who want work dig in the cemetery every market day. One of the graves had two pots just level with the ground. They were probably for offerings to the deceased. We hope to find some nice blue glaze and glass there by and by.

#### 4 February 1925

Today I had the good fortune of being the only one on the work when one of the most exciting—I think it the most exciting—things of the season appeared. The head of the company called me over, and, lo and behold, what should I see coming up but a painting of a Christian saint on the wall of the room. I knew at once that it was Christian by the halo around the head. On the other wall another was coming up. I saw just the halo on top of the head. I told the fellow not to uncover any more and to pile sand up against it until Starkey came. We didn't go down any farther than the head in the excavating and that only on two walls so there may be more. We had them fill the whole up again with sand and intend to leave it until the top is well cleared and Starkey decides what the best way of removing it will be. It is right on the plastering which is fortunately fairly thick. Starkey says that it is the best Christian painting he has seen in Egypt and thinks it will be worth money if it can be saved. From what we saw the figures would seem to be about half life-size. Wouldn't it be great if the names were written below? There is no question about this house being a part of the second layer which certainly could not have run after 300 A. D. It is a real surprise to find such decided and irrefutable evidence of Christianity so early.

Starkey and I recorded most of the day while Boak and Yeivin continued their surveying. As Starkey was going out early with the men I heard a big commotion for a minute but it wasn't until I came up to relieve him that I learned what had happened. The men had caught one of the boys who was intending to draw his pay and beat it after stealing about \$7.50 and some clothes behind his back. Starkey tied the fellow's hands behind his back and kept him up on a high wall as an example until I came. Then he took him to the house, gave him his money, and sent a fellow with him to cut his bonds at the canal.

#### 6 February 1925

It was quite dirty again today on the Kom today on account of the wind so the wash felt especially good. Recording things in the field with the wind blowing is unpleasant work. One is compelled to work close to the ground where all the sand and dirt fills the eyes.

Starkey and I got along well today and yesterday so we have only a couple hours work to be even with the men on the recording stunt. We still have some stuff to record on the east side from the time Starkey was in Cairo. Several companies cannot go on on this side until Yeivin and Boak have recorded the walls because they will collapse if any more dirt is removed. When the walls are measured that won't make any difference. So Starkey and I will take the men over onto the east side to work while we are recording there. By the time we finish Yeivin and Boak will probably be ready to have them back. I told you before didn't I that the seabkh diggers have made a hole thru the center and left the full height on both sides. Starkey and I are going to have some long sessions filing and cleaning the stuff we have recorded lately. Now that we have gas for our gas lamps we will do some work on that after dinner in the evenings again.

I felt rather chesty to be able to identify a coin. As we recorded it the other day I told Starkey I thought it was the head of Antoninus Pius. Today we looked it up in the coin book and found I was right. A little more brushing brought out the name and title quite clearly. On one side is the emperor's head, on the other is a griffin. Antoninus Pius reigned from 138-162 so the middle layer is beginning to be dated. Another ostraka [ostrakon?] turned up in a different house yesterday and some pieces of papyrus today.

There has been unusual excitement on the part of Boak and Starkey lately. Every night an animal which the natives call a wolf passes near here. They come in and tell us—usually when we are eating—but by the time they get outside with their revolvers he is always gone. I don't think it is anything else than a village dog. The only other animals I've seen are a fox in the Kom and jackals. The latter do give us music off and on but it's not exactly a cheery sort.

### 8 February 1925

Our work in recording hasn't fared very well. Yesterday Miss Caton Thompson was here and Starkey had to confer with her so we barely finished with the batch on this side. Miss Caton Thompson, by the way, is packing up next week and leaving for London. Today we were all set for a big drive on the stuff on the east side but that is as far as it got. Just as Starkey was coming up onto the work after breakfast the manager of the decauville line which takes seabkh came with one or two more. They have been very accommodating in taking care of our things in Tamieh. It was lunch time when they left. While we were at table the two officers who were here some time ago drove up in two cars and with them were several others, all out for Sunday jog. They kept Starkey and Boak busy until two thirty. No sooner had they left than the Askrens drove in accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Greathead—he is an English official in the Irrigation dept whom I met at Askren's. I didn't have much of an opportunity to visit with Mrs. Askren as she didn't come up to the Kom and they left shortly after I got down from work. She waited and poured tea for Yeivin and me after the others were through. Just think, she brought us two fine cakes again today. She is the best soul. It is all decided that she will sail for the States April 6 on the S. S. Lapland. I certainly wish I could go into the Fayum before that. If we get the car perhaps I can. They are moving houses in a month. She wants to get things settled for Dr. Askren before leaving. He will follow later but will be gone only for the summer. Mrs. Askren intends to stay in the States for some time with her children.

The letter I have been expecting from Enoch came in Thursday's mail. Prof. Kelsey has made still another change in his schedule. Prof. Kelsey wants to do some investigating at ancient Carthage with a view to possible excavations later on. Carthage was rebuilt, you know, after the Romans first destroyed it and became one of the greatest centers of early Christianity. Prof. Kelsey has asked Enoch to accompany him as private secretary. After that—the schedule calls for 2 or 3 months—Enoch is free to return to Ann Arbor for the summer. He hopes that we can sail back together. So do I but I'm not allowing myself too many false hopes. Wouldn't it be glorious if Enoch and Kelsey came this way so we could go on from here together. That is too much to hope for.

#### 10 February 1925

Enoch and I will probably be at Michigan together next summer in case neither of us changes plans. I haven't any further information on the time of leaving and I am afraid that will remain indefinite until near my time of leaving. It is always hard to tell on work like this.

The last few days something new has turned up on the dig every day. Each day has brought its glass. Sunday one company found a nice piece of papyrus and a limestone statue and today produced the first metal vase. It is of bronze, I believe, and is surprisingly like one of those I sent you in shape. Most of this material has come from the place I told you of before, which has an oven and a lot of small chambers which we take to be grain bins. Boak and Yeivin are still on the surveying. Starkey and I got onto the recording again for a wonder today. There is a lot of junk awaiting us on the other side.

I get so sick of the sebakh-diggers and arguing with them all the time. We let them take sebakh on condition that they work at the bottom and clean as they go but they are so lazy that they want to take only the loose stuff. The only thing that makes any impression on them is a stick. Force is the only policy they understand and they soon forget that unless they are half killed. If we don't watch them they are at the top at once and we are afraid of their stealing things.

Yesterday we entertained Mahmoud Bey for lunch. He came up with another fellow in the forenoon and stayed around so Starkey felt forced to invite him. His companion especially ate in typical native fashion, using no knife or fork, but contriving to get everything into his mouth with his fingers and the manipulation of a piece of bread. I never could eat that way but I'll be glad to let you in on their audible relish of coffee. Once will suffice, I know. I love to hear Starkey do as the Egyptians drink when he has coffee with them. It gets tiresome to have that chump come up and kill half a day for us so often. He likes to sit in our comfortable chairs and to eat the candy and sweet Starkey hands out.

Starkey decided not to work in the cemetery on suq days any more as we have all we can take care of without it.

The medicine box came yesterday so we have enough for all contingencies. There's plenty of Castor oil for bad boys too.

11 February 1925


It is so nice and quiet out now that it scarcely seems possible that we had about the worst sandstorm of the year today. Starkey and I gave up recording on the Kom at lunch time and did some filing and cleaning at the house this afternoon. We didn't have room to take in any more stuff until some was cleared away so it all fitted in well. From now on we are going to try to file and check each night the stuff we record in the field. Otherwise we shall not be able to keep up with the game. I can see that we shall be busier and busier as the season progresses.

Tomorrow night we shall have visitors. Miss Caton Thompson and Miss Hughes will spend the night with us as Starkey is giving them a hand with the packing. How I would like to trade Miss Caton Thompson off tomorrow night for another girl I know—I'll never tell who. Believe me, she would never get away the next day. Miss Thompson is not leaving for London immediately but to join Brunton, who is carrying on Petrie's work, at Bedari, just beyond Assiut.

13 February 1925

Yesterday was "zay zift," as the native expression goes, with the wind and sand flying about for fair but today was beautiful. I often wonder how I'll act when I get away. We get so used to using the native expressions that I know it will be hard to break myself of the habit on leaving.

The ladies came in time for lunch yesterday and stayed until nearly luncheon time today. Starkey and I put in a busy afternoon yesterday getting Miss C. T's boxes ready for shipment. They drove to Cairo today after the car had taken most of the freight to Tamieh for shipment.

All of our men are still working on the other sides. Another pieces of glass turned up today and quite a batch of papyrus in many fragments. Fortunately all of the glass lately has been of different types. The one today is a lamp glass shaped like this . The oil was put in it and the wick apparently floated on the oil. One room took Starkey and me all afternoon. You ought to see the big batch of junk. There are seven pottery lamps, for example. I noticed at least four plates over there today with crosses stamped in them. Of course that's top layer. We got two of Miss Caton Tompson's men. That almost makes up for the three who left last Monday, the one who was fired for leaving when on guard on the Kom, and the two who sympathized with him.

15 February 1925

The men have been given their accounts for another week.

Boak went to Cairo yesterday. In Thursday's mail he got notice from the Aviation Dep't about the aerial photographs, and a request to come in and have a look at them. If I remember correctly a dozen were taken in all. Boak has quite a little business to do for the firm and in behalf of the individual members. Nearly all our watches have stopped. Right now we are running things with one watch. If Boak isn't delayed too long in Cairo he intends to run up to Luxor. I hope he does as it will be his only chance if he leaves as scheduled.

Yeivin had to start his plan all over again because some of the measurements were wrong. The sebakhin who dig for the Decauville trains have removed nearly all our dump and will soon be right up to our walls but our men can't work on the second level any more until Yeivin has all the top walls measured. Then they can be removed. The natives want a lot of sebakh just at this time because the fields are being made ready for the cotton planting, which will begin in about two weeks.

We have been fortunate in finding some very nice groups in rooms on the other side. One of the rooms had a terrific amount of stuff. Starkey and I cleared a big lot. Then we told the man to go down and he found as much more. There were pots of about all the varieties we have met, 10 pottery lamps, three toy wooden horses with wheels, two wooden dolls, remains of many woven baskets of reeds, and a three legged wooden stand which, Starkey suggests, was used for the lamp glass I mentioned to sit in. Then we have found camel harnesses of rope such as are used today. In one of the bins of that bakery which has produced so much stuff we were fortunate enough to find two large piles of bread all stamped and apparently ready for sale. It so happens that we are out of bread just now. Yeivin was early this morning. When Starkey and I came out, and Starkey saw the bread he sent one of the men down with a loaf for Yeivin. It really was a good one because Yeivin misses his bread so much. Yesterday one company found a mason's trowl and a pair of bronze clippers. The top layer on the east side is giving a lot more stuff because it is better preserved.

Tomorrow will be another busy day. After accounts Starkey and I will be at work checking as we are full up here now. I'm going to squeeze in a little sewing some time or other, however.

17 February 1925

Tonight we have been waxing the second bronze vase found. It is very badly corroded and liable to collapse. The wax treatment strengthens and makes packing possible. The parafin wax is heated until it becomes liquid. When it is cooling and just ready to congeal again the pot is filled with it and sets so that pot and it are one solid mass. It makes the pot strong and firm, both from the mass inside and from what is absorbed in the metal. A little heating takes off any left on the outside. We have quite a bit of wooden objects, which need to be dipped in wax in order to stiffen the fibre and preserved the wood.



Today's finds are one large column of papyrus, evidently part of an account, a nicely carved wooden head about five inches in height, and a great pot with a bull's head and horns in relief. There was a lot of excitement this morning because a good pottery group, which had just come to light before quitting time on Sunday, had been disturbed. We have guards on the Kom all the time but they are, of course, more show than anything else.

We put in a good day yesterday. After finishing the accounts—we all sewed in the forenoon—Starkey and I went at the checking and kept at it until eleven thirty. We cleared up quite a mess of stuff but still have a lot at the house here awaiting us. I told you about the toy wooden dolls and the toy wooden horses, didn't I? Now we have four fans of plaited reeds with palm stick handles.

Recording is slow business generally because there is usually so much broken pottery. Trying to fit the pieces together when there are fragments of ten or more very similar dishes mixed together is worse than a jigsaw puzzle, and takes an awful lot of time. That is just the sort of thing we ran into this afternoon. If it's a coarse pot or a type which we know well we never bother. These today were fine red dishes or plates.

This is a glorious time of year to be here. The fields are so beautiful and green. Even in the desert to the north of us the valleys down which the water runs when it rains, are fresh and green. Just to the north of us in the valley the wild flowers are blooming in profusion, white and yellow and lavender, mostly lavender. Starkey and I went down just before lunch yesterday. It was delightful to wade in the fresh blooming flowers. We have wild flowers on our table every day. In another month they will all be gone.

### 18 February 1925

Just got back from a good brisk walk. After we had finished a batch of stuff we had started on before supper Yeivin suggested a hike. First we took the road to the canal then followed it back up into the Kom to see that everything was all right. It is quite brisk out and fine for walking. Work keeps us so busy that I don't get the exercise I should like. That is why I am putting on so much weight.

Starkey and I were working on coins most of the day. After a good soaking in formic acid they clear up wonderfully well unless they are too bad. Even some of those which were most corroded came out well. We were able to identify several. Two were issued in the name of the emperor's wife, one was the wife of Julian the Apostate. The coins we have cleaned so far are very consistent. Even those we cannot identify would seem to be 4<sup>th</sup> century. Identification at present is a rather difficult matter unless we can read the inscription because there is no complete handbook of coins in camp. If one can be gotten the coin can be identified from the head alone.

One of the new men who was with Miss Caton Thompson found a fine glass decanter, I believe is the technical term. Anyhow the shape resembles the vessel used for serving water at hotels etc. It is in beautiful condition and the best find of the season. In the adjoining room he found two little bronze bells, duplicates of two we have already.

#### 24 February 1925

Today Boak approached me on the matter of working here again next year and wanted to recommend to Kelsey that I be put on a regular salary in case I cared to come out again. I thanked him and said that, though I would like to, it had really been settled that I should come back to Luther next fall. Of course that is true but my lover girl knows that I arranged that because I was bound to get back and marry my lover girl this summer. I just can't wait for that any longer. There would be many advantages, I suppose in my staying out here another year or two in case I could be near my lover girl but no one could ever persuade me to postpone our wedding for two years. Boak said then that it might be possible for me to come out the following year again as he intends. To that I gave rather an evasive reply. It would be fun if I could take my lover girl for a trip across and back. After I'm back they will probably forget all about me.

Yesterday was the warmest day we have had. We were out for a walk before lunch and it really made one perspire. Today was just as warm in a way but it was cloudy. I think the cold weather is gone now. I don't need my bathrobe in the evening any more now. Tonight I haven't even my sweater on.

Did I tell you that we have several squads clearing away the rubbish to get down to the bottom around the temple, preparatory to clearing the temple itself. When the area around is cleared then we can dump the rubbish from the temple itself there without fear of covering up something which we will want to expose later.

At present we have as much labor as we want. Today I made out slips for a few more than a hundred local people. Several were turned away this morning. From now on it is a rule that anyone who stays out a day is "khalas" or through. Hitherto the boys have not been regular and it causes a lot of trouble every morning in readjusting so that every company has boys.

We came across an interesting thing in recording today. There was a set of 10 little pottery discs. The man who found them showed us that they are used for a game today which corresponds to the game of jacks the kiddies at home play today. Maybe that's it, who knows.

The manager of the Daira Agnelli estate from Kasr Rashwan, the second village from here had lunch with us today. He is an Egyptian but speaks English well and seems quite well educated. All in all he is a pretty decent sort of chap. The Daira Estate has bought a large estate. We are going down next Monday, perhaps, to see his tractors and machinery. Their land is being worked in modern fashion.

25 February 1925

Today I too stepped out garbed in the latest Kom Ushim fashion. Starkey, Boak, and I have taken to shorts now. My opening day wasn't too good though as it began to blow to beat the band. After work I took to the long ones. Shorts are really a very comfortable garb for hot weather and really quite sensible or all the British soldiers in Egypt would not be wearing them. The shorts leave one's knees absolutely free, and that is where other trousers constrict so much and are so uncomfortable.

I am enclosing some writing material in my letter this time. I thought you would be interested in seeing a bit of papyrus, seeing you have heard so much about it. The pieces which have no writing on them are not wanted so I pick one up now and then to take home with me. I know Ot will be glad to have a little piece showing the make-up of the papyrus and so ought the museum.

You will see at once that the grain on the front runs horizontally while that on the back is perpendicular. First the perpendicular strips were put together and then the front strips were laid on top. The whole was pressed or pounded into one and held by the cement from the plant itself. The writing was along with the grain of the papyrus and usually only on one side. If it was a long roll the whole was rolled up from right to left. Isn't it funny that the stuff should be in such good shape after so long a time. The dry soil of Egypt is responsible of course.

Mahmoud Bey called on us today but I was fortunate enough to miss him as I was on the work.

27 February 1925

I wasn't all together without mail yesterday. Just after writing for Carl Strom's address I heard from Carl himself. He wants me to run out to Oxford [Carl Strom, graduate of Luther College, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford at the time.] on my way home and I think I will as it takes only an hour or so from London. He is enrolled in Queen's College. Carl expects to spend the summer in Norway but his term isn't over until June 20<sup>th</sup> so we ought to make connections.

There was also a reply from Miss Butler. She cancelled my application for the Greek trip as I advised. She doesn't know yet whether she will go or not yet. Hope she is still in Rome when I arrive as it will help me a lot in seeing things. I won't need to waste a lot of time getting around.

Boak heard from Kelsey yesterday saying that March would be spent at Carthage, and that he expected to be here at the end of March. I do [hope] that means Enoch comes with him. Kelsey's letter was written from Ann Arbor.

We have been working along here about the same as usual. Starkey and I have made much better progress in recording lately. Tomorrow we shall finish the granary. A wooden pitchfork is one of the most interesting things of late. One of the small chambers in the granary, I should rather say bakery, also produced a bronze fish-hook—our second one, a bronze needle, and a bread scoop or shovel. It is made of wood but reminds me a lot of a pancake turner, something that could be slipped under a loaf to lift it off the tin or whatever it baked on.

We have three little girls working with the boys now. Starkey says they are worth more than boys and I must confess that they work well. You see the men treat them as women and make them go. Talking to the men gives one a good idea of their conception of a wife. She is to serve them. If she isn't what they want they can kick her out and take another. Several of them have 2. I have told you, haven't I, that the girls are married off in some instances as early as ten and at 12, fourteen is considered plenty old. Yeivin's grandma had a child at fourteen. How fit she was to have one you can gather from the fact that she smothered it by sleeping on it at night.

Yeivin went to Cairo yesterday to draw one of the checks for carrying on the work. I understand that it is the last of the four Kelsey gave him for the work in the field. Yeivin will be back tomorrow, or at the latest Sunday.

### 1 March 1925

Starkey and I have been working at the house today. The stuff which was brought down last night filled us all up so we have to clear away here now before any more recording is done on the Kom. Several of the worst places have been done, however.

Boak has taken some excellent pictures lately. He has taken two of the temple and the men working round about it, which will give a good idea. Then he has some very good ones as well of the interior of the mound as it has been excavated by the seabakhin, and a set showing the mound in outline from the outside.

The excavations around the temple are proving very interesting. Enough foundations of walls are coming out of it to give some information on the ground plan of the Ptolemaic City. Already Starkey's hopes have been exceeded by three nice groups of pottery at the bottom, and there will undoubtedly be more. Some of the smaller pottery is very different in form and quality from that found in the top layer but quite a bit of the large coarse stuff seems quite similar.

The little boy we sent in to Dr. Askren's a week ago yesterday. The man who went in to care for him came back two days ago and reported him coming along nicely so we were not worried, but it was good to see the little "shaver" again. He was so happy to be back and has been beaming ever since noon. It was such a funny sight to see him by the door as I came out from lunch. His uncle had bought him a big cane such as a grown man uses.

Fancy a ten- or eleven-year-old boy coming along with a cane like that. It is almost as large as he is and made me feel like asking where the cane got the boy. I have asked Starkey to snap the boy and his cane tomorrow.

Yeivin returned from Cairo last night. With two weeks of accounts to do tomorrow forenoon we shall be busy. Starkey and I were recording all afternoon last week so they were left undone. Our visit to Kasr Rashwan to see the Daira's farm had to be postponed. Mr. Engelbach, the Gov't inspector of antiquities for this section is coming out tomorrow to make some arrangement between the Daira and the expedition with regard to sebakh digging this summer. Engelbach is an Englishman and Starkey knows him well. He had a lot to do, I am told, in the fuss with Carter.

#### 4 March 1925

I came into Cairo to have a tooth which has been bothering me a little off and on attended to. It has never been really right since Dr. Hutchinson filled it two years ago, and lately it has been swelling a little at the root so I reckon it's an abscess and that the tooth will have to come out. I have just finished talking by phone to Dr. Henry who was out at camp two weeks ago. He recommended his successor, a Mr. Driscoll to me and is going to call him up so that I can get immediate attention, if possible. I'll let you know what happens tomorrow night.

The trip was delightful. It didn't cost me a cent to get to the Fayum as the Daira had arranged to take Engelbach in today and I got the advantage of that. In Fayum we ran up to Dr. Askren's house but Mrs. Askren was sick in bed, so we just visited from the door. Anyway we had only half an hour till train time. I didn't see Dr. Askren but will on my way back.

I really enjoyed the train ride. It was the first time I have been on an Egyptian train without getting eyes, ears, and all full of dust. The country is most delightful just now, so green and fresh with all the crops knee high, and the wheat just bursting into head. A young American got on down the line. He is an architect working with the Metropolitan Expedition in Lisht. He apparently has an easy time of it as he comes into Cairo for a couple of days every two weeks. He bought a riding horse for \$250 so he has money too. He expects to ride over to our camp.

Engelbach came to see us Monday noon and stayed until this morning. He is the State Inspector of Antiquities. It is his job to see that proper guards are appointed for all sites to prevent illicit digging for antiquities and sebakh. He has arranged that the Daira is to take all his sebakh from the east side this summer so that the west side will not be disturbed. All of us are pretty well satisfied with this arrangement. Even on the east side they are to leave about five feet so that the plan of the Ptolemaic city can be determined.

Engelbach is a brainy chap. I'd been told before that he could dress a native down better than anyone and he certainly lived up to his reputation. You ought to hear him talk to the gov't guards. He wound up by firing two of them and fining 1 five days' pay. Like Starkey and most archaeologists he cares little about religion. He liked our place and will drive down in his car later on.

Yeivin and I had a long session with the accounts on Monday but finally finished up. Yesterday I sat in all day recording. I was alone most of the time as Starkey was out most of the time with Engelbach and the Daira's people. Even so I managed to finish half the stuff.

### 5 March 1925

My feet and legs are jolly tired tonight from the hiking I have done today. I'm not used to walking on cement sidewalks now. That is why I get so tired. I'll have to break myself in all over again when I start home. Today, though, has been rather strenuous after all.

I turned out early and got to the dentist's office by eight. He arranged to see me at nine so I squeezed in several errands meantime.

The tooth had to come out as I had anticipated. I had what the dentist called a chronic abscess, which will swell up and then go down again for a while. The poison has to get out some way and generally develops a gum boil. I had the beginnings of one but it had not opened. Anyway I'm glad to be rid of the old pest. I also had him put a cement filling in the tooth just in front of it. He wanted me to stop over a couple of days so that he could put a gold inlay in instead. Of course that will have to be done before I can have a tooth bridged in for the one which is gone but I was some glad that I didn't let him when I found that he charged me 300 piastres or \$15.00 to extract one tooth and put a temporary filling in another. At home Conover would have done it for \$5.00 at the most. If he had put in the gold inlay his bill would probably have been fifty. He seems to be a good dentist but has the bighead. His home is in Portland, Oregon. Filling the tooth didn't hurt at all because he did all the drilling while waiting for the dope to take effect. I didn't feel the extraction either and I'm feeling fine and dandy now. He had me come up again this afternoon to wash out the sore and I'm going for another treatment in the morning.

After finishing with the dentist at twelve I went out and had my passport extended—you see it was good until May 18<sup>th</sup> only—drew some money, bought cigars for Starkey and Yeivin, had a haircut, and got here for lunch at one. Oh yes and made a trip to the post Office thinking I might head off some stray mail, but failed.

Let me tell you the fellow who cut my hair this trip earned his money. The top of my head was a sacred precinct but there was enough around my ears and neck to keep him going. I don't believe my hair has been that long since I had curls. I really feel as though I look quite respectable now and can't help thinking of how much easier it will be to keep clean—from dirt. The natives shave their heads but that is to keep off the lice and fleas.

After lunch I called at the Wainwright's place. He had already gone out so I caught him at the Museum. I had to run off to the dentist's again so we met up town for tea and had a fine visit talking over various things. At present he is working up for publication all the material which was found while he was inspector. I am going down to have a look around the Museum with him in the morning. We will look especially at the Roman and Kom Ushim things and he is going to show me the material he is working on. Of course I don't want to miss the new things which have been brought in lately from King Tut's tomb. Yeivin reported them finer than the first batch.

Wainwright is suffering quite badly from varicose veins so he can do practically no walking. As a result he has given up the Palestine trip and so have I unless some unusual opportunity should come along. I don't feel like going there on my way home. By the time I have done Greece and Italy I know I shall be well fed up with sightseeing for a while. I'll get Cook's Rome address too then so my honey girl can write me there.

Wainwright is coming out to camp again about the 15<sup>th</sup> to spend 10 days or so with us.

Tomorrow morning I am going around to Cook's office to get all the information I can about transportation to London. There is a boat sailing every Tuesday from Alexandria for Peiraeus and Athens but I know nothing about transportation or connections from Patrus, which is the seaport on the Italy side, to Brindisi. I want to find out as much as I can now in case I should be in a hurry when I leave. That is why I had my passport extended today. I am expecting to leave for camp tomorrow afternoon or Saturday morning—if tomorrow afternoon I shall probably stop over with the Askrens.

### 7 March 1925

By rushing around madly I managed to get ready to leave Cairo on the twelve o'clock train. I was up town at eight so as to finish practically all my business before meeting Wainwright at the Museum at nine thirty.

He showed me several things from Kom Ushim. The whole Greco-Roman collection was much more interesting to me now because I saw there complete pieces of so many things of which we have only fragments. The new King Tut material is really wonderful and has the other beat. The collection contains two of his chariots complete except for the poles, the yokes and all are there. The body is of gold foil, or whatever it is called, but what sets them off is some beautiful little blue rosettes of inlaid stone. King Tut's walking sticks and his bows are also beautiful with the figures of captives carved on the handles of the sticks. One of the bows is inlaid with precious stones and reminds me of some of the jewelry in the Cairo Museum.

The Askrens were asleep for their afternoon nap when I arrived. I tried the door and found it locked so I thought they might be out. By the time I got back from his office they were awake and I had a nice cup of tea. Mrs. Askren was still in bed as when I went in. That is why I didn't want to stop even though she wanted me to. She is not very ill but isn't taking any chances on growing worse as they want to move next week.

### 8 March 1925

There was quite a change noticeable in the work when I got back here. So many more foundation walls had been cleared out around the temple that it looks much more like a real excavation. Quite a number of nice pots and a bronze pot somewhat damaged had turned up on the Ptolemaic level. Work in the temple itself will start on Tuesday. About half the companies are now working on the second layer now as not all have room around the temple. Ostraka are being found regularly and some nice bits of papyri are also coming from this level. A complete wooden door with panels is lying on the floor of one room. There is another bakery among this group of houses with an oven and two bases for mills.

You should have seen us bring the temple altar down from the Kom yesterday. Starkey had a road made for it up the side of the Kom. The men mounted it on wooden rollers and pulled it by a rope. It was some job as Boak's pictures will show you if they turn out. Starkey set them up to tea when they finished. He snapped a picture of their satisfied faces while they were drinking it. It rather reminds me of the way the Pharaohs hauled their stones to the top of the Pyramids. They made a dirt road against the side of the pyramid, you know.

Now there are about fifteen girls on the work—most of them came while I was away so you see they are not after me. I feel rather sorry for them tugging away as hard as the boys. Some of them would be rather cute if they were cleaned up so one could see what they look like. How cheaply women are valued here. All the men seem to be interested in is getting the necessary ten pounds for a dowry to buy her with. If she isn't satisfactory to them they can divorce her for one pound provided she has no children while the woman has no possible chance on her side. The women are not companions and lovmates but thralls and something for the men to vent their passion on.

There was another letter from Kelsey in the last mail saying that he will be here the beginning of the last week in March. I rather doubt that Enoch will be with him but anyway I can learn his plans from Prof Kelsey.

Just when I shall be leaving is indefinite. I am hoping to get away soon after the middle of April but one never can tell on this work. Going on that assumption you better not write me anymore here. Unless I notify you to the contrary address me in care of the American Express Company, Rome, Italy, until the middle of April, and from then on in care of Brown Shipley and Co., 123 Pall Mall, London.

### 10 March 1925

Yesterday we had our postponed visit to Tamieh. The trolley which the company owns came for us at nine but we didn't start until after ten. It was a pleasant day jogging along the rail track beyond the old mule. You ought to have seen the lunch that was put before us. The acting manager at Tamieh is an Italian and it was at his home that we dined. I can't remember facing such a meal. It started with spaghetti—what Italian dinner ever got along without it—continued with a wonderful turkey and three more meat courses before the sweets came on. After the turkey I was just staying with the rest for appearances, not for eating. The food was very palatable. In Tamieh we were taken to see the various industries, the cotton gin, the grinding mill, and other things as well as the plant where the electricity to run these machines is generated. They have built a good dam and have plenty of current for their machines. It was fun to see the suq-market again. On our way home we stopped to see the tractors operating in the field. The largest one draws a plow with six shares or lays. It's strange to see the tractor and oxen pulling plows in adjacent fields. Lad is now being prepared for the cotton crop.

We returned so late in the afternoon, almost seven, that the accounts were left until today. Yeivin and I did them this afternoon. This morning Starkey and I finished at the house. Tomorrow there will be more recording in the Kom.

A nice find of papyri was made today, or rather two. They come from the second layer. One of them is about 2 feet long and complete except for a few letters of the word at one end. It is a contract and Boak says it is dated in Hadrian's reign, which is a good start for dating the second layer and holds together with the Antoninus Pius coin I identified from the second layer. A. Pius followed Hadrian as



emperor, you know.

I was first out on the work today. There is always more or less shouting on Tuesday morning until they get the necessary number of boys again. There are several more girls this week and one old woman. Perhaps the boys are working at home. It's too bad to see the girls and women worked so hard—funny how they thrive on it. Yesterday at Tamieh I saw a woman riding a donkey. Her baby was lying in a little basket and nursing from its mother's breast just as peacefully—and she was as unconcerned—as if she had been in the most comfortable rocking chair. It's a shame that they should have to work that way.

### 11 March 1925

It's getting to be the time of year now when a good wash up and down—I don't suppose it can be called a bath without a tub—feels like a million dollars. I have just finished and put on clean clothes for the next week so I hardly feel as though I had done a day's work. The weather here is beautiful and comfortable now. I wish it would stay like this but that won't have the desired effect, will it? Anyway it won't be too hot by the time we leave.

Starkey and I made fair progress on top today but lots still remains to be done. I wish we were even with the game. You know I dreamed last night that we had made a find of papyrus and it actually came true today because the same gang which found yesterday's lot had luck again today and brought in almost as large a lot. Today there is a wax tablet inscribed or rather written on in Greek, on both sides. A coin from the house next door proved to be that of Marcus Aurelius the second emperor after Hadrian and the next after Antoninus Pius.

There's nothing like fleas for stirring the imagination. After you catch one crawling on you you can feel them all over. I staged a little hunt at a quarter to four this morning and rounded up two but I really can't complain as yet. I catch a couple three daily but haven't suffered yet. If it doesn't get worse I shall be happy.

I've written to Enoch asking him to let me know his plans when Kelsey comes if he has any.

### 13 March 1925

We have just had callers. When Starkey and I came down from work we noticed that some tourists had camped up the valley behind the Kom. They came to call on us just after we had finished our tea. They are a Dr. and Mrs. Hanson of Long Beach, California, that is they were until six years ago, since which time they have been travelling. They spent 3 years in the Islands and have been this winter in Egypt. Mrs. Hanson writes quite a little, I guess, and wanted all our names for future reference. A fine couple and just like Newlyweds though married six years. I shall probably have the pleasure of showing them around the work in the morning, as I am early in the morning and they are coming over before leaving for Cairo. They have a two-day trip ahead of them by camel.

In Fayum yesterday they had heard that Zaghloul or Saad Pasha was victorious in the elections. Even if his party has won out I doubt very much whether the English will allow him to assume the premiership. The English have the situation well in hand and will see to that things go along peacefully.

We have another guard at our house now. It is a limestone lion about 2 ft long which was found today. It is standing guard in our yard in front of our altar. I had the men make a stone stairway up to the back of the temple today so things are ready to go ahead as soon as some measurements have been taken by Yeivin. We will have a chain of boys one on each step handing the baskets along. The girls will take them at the bottom and empty them. Boak was real excited yesterday when our first inscription turned up. It came from the lowest temple and is on a part of a column and reads in translation, "Papon dedicated (this) to Serapis." Now Serapis was the main god under the Ptolemies. Starkey doesn't think that it comes from our temple because the temple belongs to the middle layer and the inscription to the lowest. We got along well with the recording today. Tomorrow Starkey is going to Cairo so I shall probably be checking here.

The mail yesterday brought letters from Doc. Olson and Miss Butler.

Miss Butler is in Sicily now but will be in Rome by April 1<sup>st</sup> so she will not go to Greece. I'm glad she will be in Rome as it will be a big advantage to me to have someone who is acquainted there and who can speak Italian.

Doc Olson's letter was rather an encouragement. He promised to bring the matter up before the board and get it adjusted if possible. Of course he adds that the board is in an economical frame of mind. He wants me to send a note for Chips [Luther College student newspaper]. I see there is a little one in Feb 15 issue which is nothing in itself but makes a decent one much harder to write. I may try to give him a short note in Monday's mail since he asks for it. I don't like to be saying a lot of stuff at the present time because I don't know what reports Boak has sent.

Dr. Hanson came up to the work almost as early as I did. Mrs. Hanson didn't come as she doesn't like to get up early in the morning. Of course she couldn't be blamed with the big camel trip ahead, and they got started off before nine. Dr. Hanson was very interested in seeing the work and appreciated my showing him around. He left his address and asked me to look him up if I happen in at Long Beach. My honey girl and I will look him up when we go to California, won't we? We got to talking about things and it developed that he was born in Wisconsin. He knew quite a little about Winneshiek Co. and was acquainted with old Rev. Koren.

Today we had more visitors, a group of English officers and their wives, 2 cars full. Several of them have been here before. They have Sunday off and use it for driving around. Right alongside of the path which we have walked over time and again one of the women saw a piece of glass sticking up. It proved to be a nice glass vase. But that's just the way with this life. Everything turns up where it is least expected.

Work on the temple itself began yesterday. Four of the 13 companies are working on it. Nothing has developed yet as they are still shifting windblown sand. I have been checking stuff at the house most of these two days. I want to have as much as possible cleared away for Starkey's return.

### 17 March 1925

This has been our first real warm day. Even the wind was quite warm today. Yesterday was warm too but I didn't notice it as much as I was in most of the day doing accounts and so on. I didn't mind the

heat at all today and don't think I shall because heat hardly ever bothers me. Tonight was delightful. We sat out in the yard for a while and it was so comfortable.

Yesterday forenoon I wrote to Olson and did some other chores, got a mosquito net on my window and one on my door. A lot of them are in my room now but I guess they were in ahead of time. I sleep under a mosquito net these nights even if it is warm as I prefer heat to being eaten up.

Yeivin and I had a busy afternoon as we brought our food book up to date after finishing the accounts. It had not been done for six weeks so there was plenty of it to do.

Wainwright is with us again now. He came out with Starkey last night just after we had finished our dinner. We didn't expect them until today or we would have waited. Wainwright is suffering from a bad case of varicose vein so he has to be very careful and have the men carry him to the work.

### 18 March 1925

One of the Daira people who entertained us at Tamieh returned our visit today. He came for lunch. Although our menu did not begin to compete with what he put before us I think he got enough, even though he is a hulking big fat "Gyppie." He's one of the slick kind that couldn't be trusted around the corner if he had it in for one.

The work has been coming along nicely the last days. Yesterday one of the men found two statues about ¼ life size. One of them was only a head which has been broken off from the body but it made everyone laugh because it is so hopeless. The sculptor must have had a fellow, who looked like me before I went to Cairo, as a model because one cheek is all swollen up. The men all laugh at it and say that the fellow has a toothache. The other statuette is of Isis as a serpent goddess. She has a human head and body but a serpent's tail instead of legs. Isis, you know, was the wife of Osiris in Egyptian religion. Wainwright says that she is often found in this form. The chap who found the papyri I mentioned last week got another batch yesterday. Boak hasn't looked at all of it but two pieces are especially important. Both of them are dated, one in the joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and his son Commodus, and the other is dated to Commodus after Marcus Aurelius died. One of the pieces deals with the selection of ephebs which means that there was a large Greek community here.

The temple is coming along in good shape. During the last two days—we took on about 40 new boys yesterday—a lot of stuff has been shifted from the top and it's just getting down now to where the plan of the temple will soon be visible. The doors of the two small roofed-over rooms on either side just became visible before quitting time.

It's funny how the weather can change here in no time. When I went onto the work after lunch it was very warm and quiet. Before I had finished checking the local people—not a half hour—there was a terrific wind and sandstorm. However, sudden changes are what one soon gets to expect out here.

I've gotten to like my cup of tea and really drink quite a bit of it. Starkey and Wainwright would not call it tea but hot water. However, I have Boak and Yeivin on my side. I like just a wee bit of tea because I can't stand a strong tea taste. Our water is not very good to take clear so we either have lemonade powders, soda, or tea. You see we have a little soda syphon which goes very well in this warm weather.

### 20 March 1925

Yesterday was a wretched day. We started work early in the morning but it got so bad before I was relieved after Yeivin's breakfast that I called off the work temporarily. The sand was so bad that several of the little fellows were crying and a couple had left. Starkey started work again the afternoon but had to give it up. Today the wind has been just as strong but it rained hard last night and drizzled today, and that kept the dust down. Laying off the men yesterday gave us a chance to get the decks cleared for action again here at the house. Everything was cleaned up until we got a new batch in tonight.

A couple of more days will see the temple finished if the same progress can be maintained. The plan is going to be interesting enough but it doesn't look as though we are going to get a statue or even an inscription. We keep hoping however that something may turn up at the last minute. Nearly all the big stone blocks used in building the temple have Greek letters on them, which may mean that they were cut to fit each other from the quarry. We are getting some more papyrus right next to the place where the other man found his. A little piece came in tonight actually sewed up, that is, stitched through, and with three seals on the thread.

### 22 March 1925

It never rains but it pours is the old proverb. It's certainly true for us when it comes to the question of visitors. Two officers of the British air force in Egypt, a commodore and a lieutenant, whom Boak met in Cairo after I left, flew down in their machine yesterday forenoon for an overnight visit. Shortly afterward the omdeh who thinks he is intimate with us dropped in to find out what was up. In the afternoon the Greatheads appeared—not much chance to do a day's work.

The two officers suffered a mishap in landing. Somehow or other the wheel of the machine sank in the sand and consequently the wing dipped as well. The result was that the machine turned a complete somersault. Fortunately neither of the two were hurt. Boak took one of them to Tamieh yesterday to send a wire. Some mechanics got here tonight to fix up the plane and another machine is coming in the morning for the commodore. Believe me the men have been interested and have given the machine the "once over." So many of the boys had never seen one at close range so it was like going to a fair for them. Won't they have something to tell all the boys at Guft when they get home.

You just ought to see the papyri that has come out yesterday and today. Three baskets practically full have been brought in these last two days, and there's a big bunch of complete pieces in the lot. All of it has come from the same locality. The temple too proved quite a surprise at the last. We have three fine red pottery dishes all perfect from the floor of one of the small rooms of the temple. Apparently it was a part of the temple furnishings. Later on yesterday one of the men found a fairly well done quarter live-size statue but with head and feet missing. It undoubtedly belonged to the temple but cannot be identified as yet. This morning I had the pleasure of seeing a small lion, another altar—much smaller than the big one—and a crocodile statue with a hawk's head come to light. Starkey is some happy to have these finds just on the eve of Kelsey's arrival. Dr. Askren sent word by the Greatheads that Prof Kelsey had cabled him to the effect that he would arrive this week.

Now that another pay day has come there won't be over three more, I figure. Starkey and Yeivin expect to decide tomorrow. How long I will have to stay after the work stops is another question. Boak

expects to leave camp about April 1<sup>st</sup> so he has only a little more than a week left. The time when I can leave is coming closer and closer.

#### 24 March 1925

There was plenty of excitement yesterday to satisfy all of us. About the first thing I heard in the morning shortly after six was the whir of an airplane. Boak and the lieutenant had gone down and put out a landing signal but everyone had his heart in his throat for fear of an accident because of the terrible weather. I watched from my window but it was all I could do to see because of the drifting sand. Just a few minutes later a second machine which started in company with the first circled around overhead. The officers all waved him off because of the dangers involved in landing. We all thought that he had gone back to Cairo and our man took a telegram in to Tamieh to the effect, but about two hours later we heard the machine overhead again and all rushed out to see him land a half mile away. He came down so abruptly, almost vertically, that we all thought something had smashed up. He was all right though—it was the wind which pulled him right down. These two machines had come down to get the commodore and go right back but the weather was too bad to venture out in. It was by far the worst day we have experienced. When I first came into the dining room the table had a quarter of an inch of dust on it even with blinds on the windows. It was like the worst blizzard—one couldn't see over 100 ft. The officers had breakfast with us and stayed around until 1:30. It was much better but pretty bad still. We all felt much better when we saw them well up after their start as getting off in the wind was dangerous as well.

The arrival of the three officers in the two planes yesterday made our two guests much more comfortable. They had come away without leave and had damaged a plane pretty badly. The men who came for the commodore brought the news that the high mogul had been called home unexpectedly. That leaves the commodore in charge so everything is OK and there will be no inquiry. I could see the young chap—the lieutenant—wasn't feeling too good at first, but he was normal again last night. He stayed to supervise the mechanics who came in the car. They took the machine apart last night and took it away on the car this morning. The commodore must have been pleased with his stay as he has offered to take another air view of the Kom free of charge. I told you, didn't I, that the first one turned out well. Another at the end of the season will show our work.

The day ended perfectly, however. The wind quieted down so as to make the evening delightful.

#### 25 March 1925

I've just been playing hide and seek for the last half hour. The fleas and I have our little game every once in a while. I didn't start counting until I had rounded up several but I feel sure that I put an end to about a dozen starving creatures. This is the high season for them and they seem to be everywhere. Of course our sand floors make good lairs for them. Their bites don't poison me so I mind their crawling more than anything else. They don't wake me up at night so I haven't fared at all badly.

The new moon tonight marks the opening of the Arabic month of Ramadan. During this month all strict Mohammadans fast, that is they take neither food nor drink between sunrise and sunset. The men will keep right on working but it will be rather hard on them not to be able to take water when it turns warm. I'm glad for the sake of the boys and girls that they don't have to observe the fast.

I had a regular thrill yesterday morning. I was out early. After I had gotten all the local people properly divided up the boy who stands guard on the east side—we have no men working there now and our stuff isn't all in yet—called me over. He had spotted a group of a half dozen of the fine red paste bowls or dishes about a third of the way down the face of the mound. The wind on Monday had undermined the wall so that quite a section had fallen down and exposed the find. I sent for Boak to come and photograph them at once so they could be removed as I was afraid more stuff might come down on them. It was a lot of fun to pull out the six dishes, complete and in beautiful condition. They are quite like the three which came from the temple. The finest of the lot is also the largest, about 17 inches in diameter and has three crosses, one large and two small, stamped in the center. These dishes had apparently been put away purposely as they were turned upside down, one on top of the other. Starkey was very happy to get them as they are the finest group of pottery we have to date, that is in value. I am sure Kelsey will be especially pleased with the Christian one. You ought to have seen that boy beam. He is the best little lad anyway. I had him bring them to the house just as the men bring their stuff. Starkey gave him 75 piastres or \$3.75 for the lot, which is as much as 2 ½ weeks pay. I'm glad for the boy because he always does his work so well.

Starkey and I will finally finish on the other side tomorrow but we shall have a house full here, I tell you. Wainwright will help us file it so it will go faster. Yesterday brought in another nice piece of glass shaped like the pottery amphoras. It has two handles and all. We have run onto some bins on this side similar to those on the other and they are producing papyri as well. The same chap is having the luck. Boak says the find will prove especially important. It was undoubtedly some gov't official's house near by.

### 27 March 1925

Tomorrow Kelsey will be with us. Askren sent us a message which came out by our man yesterday saying that Prof. Kelsey would be here tomorrow morning. Of course it will be nice to see him again and we are all hoping that he will be impressed and pleased with our work. I rather think that he will be pleasantly surprised. Askren will undoubtedly bring Prof. Kelsey out. I hope Mrs. Askren comes along as that will be our last chance to see her before she sails for home.

Starkey and I finished recording on the east side yesterday and this afternoon cleared up a lot of stuff here at the house. This morning Starkey had one of the men turn over one of the long stones lying in the middle of the excavated portion of the seabakhin and it proved to be the lintel from our temple, he thinks. It's just the size and has the Uraeus or serpent god in relief just like so many temples in other places. The wind has held Yeivin and Boak up in surveying on the east side but they have been at it for a couple of days now. The most interesting find of the last couple of days is an ancient scale. It is complete with its wooden beam, the rope at each end of it, and the two wooden pans for weighing. Just the same scale is in use today. It was especially gratifying to have it turn up because we have come across several of the scale beams and several of the pans separately. We suspected the beams but not the pans.

I had a card from Miss Butler from Sicily saying that she had gone from Rome to Sicily in company with Enoch when he was on his way to Carthage. I hope to get some real news of Enoch from Prof. Kelsey.

### 29 March 1925

Another “hissof” as the Arabs call the accounts we give the men is over. It has now been decided that the dig, that is the actual excavation, will be continued only two weeks longer so that means there will be only two more of them. With all the work which remains to be done I don’t hope to get away until April 28<sup>th</sup>—that’s when the boat sails from Alexandria for Greece—Tuesday of each week. If I should get away earlier it would be in the nature of a present. Boak is leaving us tomorrow morning. He expects to work at the Museum between now and his sailing date on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A message last week announcing the death of Mrs. Boak’s mother has made him more anxious to be home earlier.

It is so much fun to see all the little chaps come up for their accounts. Half of them don’t understand or remember what is read to them but they enjoy it anyway. I know I shall miss their beaming little faces next year. Starkey gave all the boys candy tonight, and they were as happy over that as over five dollars.

Now Kelsey has been here and gone again too. Dr. Askren brought Prof. and Mrs. Kelsey out in his car yesterday forenoon. Every one of us was thunderstruck to learn that he was going back in the afternoon. It was impossible for him to get intimate knowledge of all the work in such a short time but you will have to admit that we must have used the time to good advantage when I tell you that he came out here with the idea of closing down the work immediately and taking us off to Carthage and then went away with the announcement that the work would be carried on next year at least. You see he had practically no reports and so thought the work here was yielding no returns. Askren gave us the tip so we all were on our mettle. The papyrus was a revelation to him and so was the wonderful condition of our wood and basket work. He was especially pleased with the fine red dishes. He kept warming up all the time until he came up onto the work and what we thought were the saints were uncovered in his presence. That absolutely finished him. He was as excited as a boy. What he wants now is that Starkey shall arrange an exhibit of rope, basketwork, textiles, etc., to be shown in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Washington next fall, in order to interest people with means. Pres. Burton’s death has thrown all the responsibility for the financing onto Prof. Kelsey.

I know that Starkey put in some good words to Prof. Kelsey about my work because he said so just as he tore away and said that he wanted me again next year. Of course I had no chance to explain anything as he was on the run. Boak was after me again this morning, and Starkey told me that Wainwright had talked about me to Kelsey as well. They are all putting pressure on me to come back next year but of course I tell them that it is all fixed up at present. With Wainwright’s support and backing I know that I could easily continue in this work and make good at it. I know it would be nice to come out again next year and that I could perhaps make some sort of reputation in time but it will be harder instead of easier to break off as time goes on. I’ve got to make my choice now. Of course that doesn’t mean that I couldn’t go out at some later time in case we could go but I don’t want to be at it continuously. What I am afraid of, and want to avoid at all costs, is making the University people sore, especially while I am working for my degree. That is why I have been telling them that it all rests with Luther.

I got very little news of Enoch. I am sure that my letter had not reached him. The dig at Carthage will probably continue until the end of May at the earliest so the chances of our connecting are slim. Prof. Kelsey told Boak however that Enoch has the material for his thesis well in hand and will be able to finish it and come up for his degree this summer. I certainly hope he can. Boak asked if I could and I told him no. Enoch has had the winter for work. One of the big men in archaeology told Kelsey that systematic work was now being done at Carthage of the first time. As all records are in Enoch’s charge that is some

boost for him.

Today there was another unexpected visitor. Prof. Tenney Frank of Johns Hopkins who is teaching at the American Academy at Rome dropped in. He knows Boak well. His field is ancient history. He was greatly impressed with our work. He and Mrs. Tenney are visiting here while the Academy party invades Greece. He is a very democratic sort of fellow and asked to look him up at the Academy with the promise that he would show me around.

Our saints proved to be a heathen painting after all. The halo probably belongs to some figure representing truth or some such thing. I can't describe it but the Apis bull of Egyptian mythology is there as well as other pagan symbols. Kelsey and Starkey as well as Wainwright say that they have never seen anything like it. The workmanship is of high grade and Kelsey is trying to get someone to paint a reproduction of it.

### 31 March 1925

Yesterday we had as big a turkey as I ever saw. The Daira manager from Tamieh and his wife (Italians) came to lunch with us so Starkey bought a turkey. It was as tender as could be. Our cook certainly knows how to do things. It was blazing hot so we were glad it was market day. Boak left too early for lunch. He left his sun helmet and I have inherited it. It's a little cooler and lighter than my hat.

We are down to three at present as Starkey left us to go to Bedari. Mrs. Brunton—the Bruntons are carrying on Petrie's work—wired that her husband was sick and asked Starkey if he could come to help close up the work. He has gone for a few days. Of course that is bound to delay us somewhat but I am going on with the recording of the Ptolemaic stuff alone tomorrow. I have decided that April 28<sup>th</sup> is the latest I'll stay here. Boak asked if he would see me in Ann Arbor at the beginning of June. I told him he'd be doing well to see me at the end of it, if I didn't get away until May.

### 1 April 1925

Today I got started on the Ptolemaic stuff. Most of it is pottery with a few coins and quite a few lamps here and there. It's quite interesting to see how different many of the types are from what we are used to on top. Much of the pottery is so much better in quality, that is, it is made of harder paste and has a wonderful smooth polished surface. It's like the Greek pottery from which it was undoubtedly copied. It blew like everything when I got out this morning but was fine after I had come down for breakfast. I've changed my system in recording now and have the ink on the field. All I have to do at the house now is to check that everything is here. It saves a lot of time. Mr. Wainwright was kind enough to help me out a lot today.

### 4 April 1925

The last two days have been bad ones. Until Thursday we thought the sandstorm we had when the officers were here was bad but it couldn't hold a candle to what we had the day before yesterday in the afternoon. Making my way down to the house after calling off the work was some job. One could scarcely see the people as they passed the house on their way to the village. Now I can easily



see how terrible it would be to be stranded on the desert in such a storm. I really don't mind these storms though. The only thing to do is to wait until it's over and then clean up. Yesterday was not bad compared to the day before but it was bad enough for work. I can't say definitely but I think that about half of the Ptolemaic stuff is recorded now. I won't quite finish this week but will get well along. The beauty of it is that practically no time is spent at the house now. We can do it all between tea and seven o'clock.

Yesterday one of the men found two small wooden doors, one was a fine little thing, panelled and molded. Wainwright has extended his stay particularly to photograph interesting objects but the wind has prevented him from doing much. He helped me again yesterday.

The mail Thursday brought a letter from Howe. He is the fellow I fell in with on my trip to Cairo. He is working as architect with the Metropolitan Expedition at the Lisht Pyramid. He is a young chap just out of Harvard. He said when I saw him that he wanted to come over and his note was to say he would ride over on his horse next Monday. Now that we are so busy trying to get ready to leave it isn't quite so convenient but of course we will be glad to have him see our work.

#### 5 April 1925

Starkey came back rather ahead of scheduled time this morning. Inspector Engelbach had been there helping as well so they finished sooner than he had expected. He saw Dr. Askren on his way going and coming. Mrs. Askren left yesterday and sails tomorrow. The doctor said that Kelsey was as tickled as a boy when he got back to Fayum after being out here. He said that they, meaning the camp, hadn't let him know anything so it all came as such a big surprise to him. We were all happy to learn that.

The work has progressed as usual these last todays. Just think, there is only one week of actual excavating left and that means that my departure isn't very far away any more. There is perhaps a little over a day's work on the Ptolemaic stuff left. Yeivin is going to Palestine for Passover this week and Wainwright is leaving again so Starkey and I will be alone this week. Believe me, I'm going to keep digging from now on.

#### 7 April 1925

Just finished my wash after putting away the last of the Ptolemaic stuff which we recorded today. After supper we will take the reports of what the men spent at market yesterday. Yeivin usually does that as he knows Arabic so well but he is gone now.

You remember my telling you of our first ostraka, how one of our men found 14 in the stairway of a house. The last couple of days he has been in the lower story of the same house, and this morning he found 18 in the niche in one room and one in the adjoining room. From the group one ought to be able to learn the man's name and probably his business. The house right across the street also produced ostraka and from its courtyard came much of our big papyrus find.

I was quite pleased today to find the greater part of a vase such as Mrs. Askren gave me, one of the kind made of the nice black clay. It comes from the very bottom of our town. The coins which we recognize as Ptolemaic, when accurately analyzed, will give a pretty definite date for the vase. One of

the little boys picked up the smallest lamp I've seen while walking about yesterday. I'm going to have it as my bakshish.

Howe didn't turn up yesterday. I don't know whether something prevented his turning up or whether he got lost in the desert. Yeivin sent a note this morning notifying the Met. Exp. that he had not arrived.

We had more fun last night. All the boys and a good many of the men got out and played. First they had sparring matches with "naboots," which are heavy sticks about 4 ft. long. "Nabooting" is the national game and could be compared in a way to fencing. You guard with the stick as well as strike and thrust. They are really clever at it too. Afterwards we had races for the boys and Starkey gave the winner of each race a piastre. One of the smallest chaps in the lot whom we are all taken with won three of them. Starkey, Wainwright, and I enjoyed ourselves immensely but Yeivin never comes out to watch. He's really an Oriental and feels himself above mixing with the fellahin.

#### 8 April 1925

I've just come in from a "fantasia" as our men call it. They have had a fiddler—at least what corresponds to a fiddle—up from the village and several of them have been dancing. Howe turned up at noon today and he had never witnessed a native entertainment so the men did some "nabooting" as well.

Wainwright left us today. Starkey and I would be alone if Howe had not come. Wainwright is such a congenial and helpful chap that we shall miss him. With Wainwright leaving and Howe coming about all we did was to get a start on the temple. However, I am sure we shall have it over with tomorrow.

Olson's letter came Monday. It had some good news and some that isn't so good. We are going to get our \$2200, lover girl. The board apparently voted it as soon as he asked for it so I feel that it was Olson's own economy but we should worry. Then he says that Sig Reque has been made physical director and head coach of basketball and football, and that Hamlet Peterson will assist in football and basketball. He says that they didn't give me the responsibility of any sport because they want me to devote my entire time to teaching but in the same breath he says that they want my assistance in football and basketball, apparently not taking into consideration that assisting will require just as much time. I certainly am not jealous of Sig or wishing I had the job but I can't see what use they can have for 3 coaches in basketball anyway. I'll not commit myself to Olson particularly when I write until I see how things develop. I'll get my degree a lot sooner if I can dodge it.

#### 11 April 1925

We worked late last night, before supper, arranging boxes, etc., to take care of the second layer stuff, the first of which came in yesterday, and after dinner, we were working on our coin find.

The day before yesterday was another important one for the expedition as it produced the coin find of the season. 806 coins came out of one house—and not only one house but one small little chamber underneath a stairway which has to be entered from above and crawled into on a ladder of sticks stuck in the wall. The interesting feature of this find is that there are so many types. We have made out 89

in going thru them but some of our classifications will have to be subdivided. Coins, you see, always or nearly always, have the emperor's head on one side and some other figure or figures on the other, or reverse. The latter is what we have been classifying them by to date. To find so many types in a large find is rare as they often are those of one emperor—the 70 coins Starkey bought had only two types. These coins of ours are from the end of the second century and until 260 A. D. or some such matter—at least those are the emperors I have noticed so far—we are going to start working on that part of it today. During that period there were several emperors in one year at times and that accounts, I think, for the large number of types in our find. The condition of the coins is wonderful. All most of them need to be read is a little brushing and none of them will not respond to a little acid treatment.

Tomorrow will be the last day of full work. Starkey says he is well satisfied to close down now and I feel ready as well. He got notice that Boak has engaged an artist from Cairo, named Carr, to do the fresco, which we thought were saints.

### 13 April 1925

We didn't finish the accounts and paying of the men who are leaving until twelve o'clock last night. Paying the locals took longer with only two of us and there was a lot more to do on our own men's accounts than usual, such as giving their fare and paying them in full. A few men will stay on to clear up some things which need finishing and so on but there won't be another such accounting.

Even the last day wasn't without a small thrill. One company made a strike in the afternoon and found another of those statues of Isis as a serpent goddess just like the one we have from before, a limestone sphinx about a foot long, and 11 ostraka. They certainly hated to stop work when the closing whistle blew.

We have cleaned up two companies' stuff now in two days and have 11 left. It looks as though it will take almost a day to a company but it may go a little faster without all the men to look after.

I forgot to mention the find which the Harvard Expedition has made at Giza or the Pyramids but I see it didn't make any difference because my lover girl s up on all the dope anyway. The man in charge there is Reisner whom Boak and I called on last fall. It certainly was hard luck for him to be back in America at a time when the find of his whole life turned up—you see Reisner has been an excavator most of his life. The find is very important because the tomb was not plundered in Antiquity, a very, very rare condition in which to find them. Everything is in position as it was left. The coffin is of beautiful alabaster and had a canopy over it which was supported by wooden pillars perhaps encased in gold—the gold is there but the wood has all but disappeared thru disintegration. Then there are beautiful, great vases, bowls and pitchers of bronze, as well as articles of inlaid glass, etc. Of course they are not sure from the examination, made before closing it up awaiting Reisner's return, whose tomb it is but the coffin, I understand, as well as other things bear the name of King Snefru, and the great quantity of gold in the tomb make it highly probable that the alabaster coffin contains a royal mummy, at least that is the opinion of Starkey and Wainwright after seeing it. King Snefru, you know, was the son of Soser who built the Step Pyramid at Meidun which was the stage previous to the smooth surface of the great pyramids. His body was not found at Meidun. Several other kings are known to have had two burial places so the pyramid would not be an argument against this being his tomb. Just think of finding a tomb dating from 3000 B. C. in such condition. The entrance is almost 100 ft. straight down thru the rock. One has to be lowered by ropes. If the tomb is open again when I go thru I certainly want to see

it. A card from Wainwright will take me in, you see.

#### 14 April 1925

It is customary for the men to be given a "fantasia" at the end of the season. The company furnishes the meat for their meal—we had one of our men buy a sheep—and pays for the evening entertainment which is furnished by a village orchestra and a native dancing girl. Ours came from the Fayum and all the men were real pleased with the evening. Their ideas of the beautiful in dancing is so totally different from ours. It's not done with the feet and legs but by superb control of the stomach muscles. It doesn't appeal to me but I must admit that their muscle control is wonderful.

Starkey and I were inside all day working. In the forenoon I typewrote letters for him and after lunch we classified about 90 of the coins with regard to the emperors. I think they represented nine emperors. By working at this I am at least learning the names of some of the little known 3<sup>rd</sup> cen. emperors as well as learning a good bit about coins. We work at them a little every meal and after dinners. I hope to help Starkey finish them before leaving as I get so much out of it. I read all the inscriptions for him as he doesn't know Greek. Today we have been recording on the Kom but neither of us had much pep after getting to bed at two last night.

#### 16 April 1925

We worked on the coins until after twelve last night so I feel quite justified in taking a little time for a visit with my best beloved this morning. It isn't as though I had spent the evening in reading and then wrote in the morning as Yeivin often does. We have found two more emperors and three more women—four in all—in our coin collection now. I think about 170 have been classified as to emperors now. Nothing exciting is happening on the work these days with so few men working, and that in sections which give little promise of producing much. We go right on recording finishing off the companies at the rate of about one a day. The weather has been delightful this past week with just enough wind to take away the heat.

#### 17 April 1925

You will be surprised to see that I am writing in the afternoon. Our men had the day off because of a celebration in the village. Starkey and I were classifying coins this afternoon but got so sleepy we had to take a nap. That's because of our late nights. Now I have finished mine but he is still asleep.

A note from Miss Butler in yesterday's mail says that Kelsey is taking her and Dr. Butler and Miss Brittain to Carthage on his way back from Rome. Whether that means that I miss them, I can't say. I hope to run across them anyway.

#### 19 April 1925

Starkey and I are still alone. Yeivin had some trouble with his passport and so got to Cairo only last night. Today he had some things to take care of for us. Inspector Engelbach was due here today to take

what the Museum wants of our finds. He started driving in his car across the desert from the Pyramids. At 4:30 we got a telephone message saying that he had turned back half way.

Starkey and I had a good laugh at each other at dinner. We were both what the natives call "muskeen." I was eating light because my "tummie" has been acting up a bit the last days—it seems to be back in shape now though—and he was taking bread and milk because he had such a bad toothache he couldn't see straight. Most of his teeth are bad, that is those which aren't false. It's funny to see such a young chap with so many second hand teeth but he won't go near an office except to have one pulled.

Tonight we paid off three more men and four boys so our squad is reduced to 10 men now. I did a good bunch of coins today and discovered four new emperors among them, one of them Marcus Aurelius who ruled 161-180 A. D. As far as we have gone the coins all come from 160-260 A. D. Nearly all the emperors for whom coins were struck are represented in our group. Septimius Severus and his sons Caracalla and Geta are lacking but they don't seem to have struck as many coins as the rest. I am getting very interested in the types represented on the reverse side of the coin and know quite a few of them now. On one issue a god, in Egypt Sarapis, is represented, on another Tyche or the goddess good fortune is shown grasping the rudder or steering wheel of the ship of state in one hand and holding a horn of plenty in the other, and so on.

#### 21 April 1925

You may be a little surprised to see I'm in the Fayum. No, Starkey and I are not here packing. My stomach hadn't settled so I took advantage of the chance to ride back in Yeivin's taxi when he came out yesterday. My trouble was the regular "Gyppie tummie" as it is called here, nothing one eats wants to stop enroute. The doctor gave me the biggest dose of castor oil I ever took, over a third of a good sized tumbler. After it had gotten in its work he gave me bismuth tablets and I am still going on with them. The trouble has already stopped and I am eating regularly again—except that I don't take meat, etc. While I was at camp I scarcely dared eat for fear of the after effects. I am so glad I came in as I might have been hanging on in the same state for days. I knew castor oil was the thing but Boak had used it all up on the natives so we didn't have a drop.

I could have gone back today with Inspector Engelbach—they came in by train this morning. As they want to come back tomorrow I decided to wait until tomorrow and ride out in the car which goes out for them. That gives me a chance to be here till tomorrow afternoon by which time I shall certainly know that all is well. At the camp one feels guilty doing nothing while at the doctor's I have the house all to myself and can do as I please—had a dandy nap right after dinner. It was real fun to get hold of the National Geographic again and to read a Curwood story in the Cosmopolitan. I haven't loafed too much because I've classified almost all the 184 coins I took with me from camp. I thought that would have been enough but wish I had more for tomorrow. Have six new emperors, empresses, and sons now. What pleased me most was to get the first and only one so far of Septimius Severus. By the time these are finished I don't think many emperors of the period included will be missing.

Last night Rev. Galloway and three young ladies of the mission were here to see Askren's collection before it is packed up to go to Michigan. It was much more fun seeing it all now than last fall because I know a lot more about a lot of it. Engelbach was here today and said that the Museum would take nothing from Askren's collection. Tomorrow we shall find out what he has deprived our group of.

Dr. Askren had a letter from Mrs. Askren mailed at Monaco in Spain. By this time they (she and the boys) must be well out in the Atlantic. Apparently they had not been seasick at all. Her boat goes direct. I don't think I should go that way even if I were going direct as it takes longer.

#### 22 April 1925

After dinner last night Askren and I called on Greathead. We were just the three of us as Mrs. Greathead is in Palestine at present. Apparently he must have plenty of money because their flat is very luxuriantly furnished, in fact there is too much for my taste. They have been married less than two years and have gotten their house furnished just in time to pack up again. He goes back to England on pension this summer.

Dr. Askren is in his new flat too now. It is much more modern and convenient than their other place. It is smaller but that will be all the better for him being that he will not have the family here. He has his own electric light plant as well.

This morning I took a fairly good walk along the canal after getting a haircut—the barbers surely are one tribe who haven't waxed fat off me this winter.

#### 24 April 1925

At last the long awaited day is here and I've started home. What seems so hard now is that I'll be so long in coming. If I could only listen to what my heart says I'd be going by the first non-stop boat and train to be had. But I realize how much these next weeks are going to mean for my work in the future. That is why we must be patient, patiently impatient, just a short time longer.

I came in from Fayum on the evening train and am putting up at Shepheard's, as you see, for the short time I shall be here. I thought I might as well put on a little dog once too—Starkey and Yeivin always stay here when they come in. I was anxious to see what it is like but the real reason I am here is that it's right next to Thos Cook and Son and the American Express Co. Those places won't be open tomorrow afternoon so I shall have to try to arrange my passage in the forenoon. I'd like to get things pretty well done to give me a chance to leave for Alexandria on Monday as I'm anxious to see the Greco-Roman Museum there.

I went back to camp on Wednesday as I wrote, and Engelbach came back to Fayum in the car. He didn't take anything but specified a few things to be packed separately in case the director of the Museum wants to inspect them.

Yesterday afternoon Starkey, Yeivin, and I with all my baggage crowded into a car and came into Fayum. They wanted to get as much help out of me on the typewriting as possible. I typewrote for them from dinner time yesterday until 4 o'clock this P. M. I was sorry to leave them unfinished but meant a week. Rev. Galloway who took me to the train will probably help them typewrite tonight, however. I talked to Dr. Askren about the matter and he told me to go ahead. If necessary they can write it down in longhand.

What do you think of Dr. Askren giving his collection of 420 coins to Luther? Isn't it great of him? When I learned that Prof. Kelsey didn't want his coins I asked him last night if he would consider selling them to my school. He asked which school that was as he had always had the impression that I belonged to Michigan. Then he said incidentally that Kelsey intended to make me a member of the U. of Michigan staff. To come back to the coins—Askren said last night that he would be willing and that I should count them out so he could price them. This morning he said that he was going to give them to Luther through me, but that he would like to have mentioned that the collection was the gift of an Iowa man. I assured him that his wish would be fulfilled, and that everyone would be more than happy. What makes me especially pleased is that the coins cover such a wide range of years, from the Ptolemaic period down through the late 3<sup>rd</sup> and even 4<sup>th</sup> cen. (perhaps) A. D.

### 26 April 1925

My schedule has experienced considerable alteration since I wrote on Friday evening. I went to Cook's as soon as they opened yesterday morning but they could do nothing at all for me on the Greek boat next Wednesday and could give me only a single first class cabin on the boat for Naples next Friday at 37 pounds. So I decided to try my luck at the Express before spending all that money. The Am. Ex. said that the Greek boat was all booked but had room on a boat which will leave for Messene and Genoa next Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup>. The boat's name is Peer Gynt but they tell me it is German owned. I'd be pleasantly surprised to find it Norwegian. The man at the Express tells me it is a very nice boat with only first class. Passage to Messene costs me 27 pounds. Personally I don't care so much in what kind of style I travel as long as I get there. This boat suits the time just right you see.

I can't say that I feel any real regret in giving up the Greek trip. If it had been earlier it would have been different but it did seem rather a waste of money to go for a week. Omitting that trip I can do Italy better and perhaps have a couple of days or more in Paris as well as take a day in Switzerland.

Messene, you know, is in Sicily. Landing there I intend to go over to Palermo and take a boat to Naples—the boat trip takes only a night. Before sailing, however, I want to run around the north side of Sicily a bit to see what it is like. So you see I'm really exchanging Sicily for Greece, and all at the University's expense, except for the money I spend in Sicily. I'm going to buy a guide book tomorrow in order to figure out just what I want to do in Sicily and how long it will take me. I'm really happy over the change in plan because it is so much more direct.

I went down to the Museum to find Wainwright about lunch time yesterday but the Museum is closed these days on account of the festival which always follows the end of the Ramadan fast. The celebration lasts almost four days so they at least try to make up for their fast, don't they.

I left my card at Wainwright's place and he called me right after lunch. He was going out to see Rowe, who is in charge of the Harvard work at the Pyramids, and asked me to go along. We had tea and dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Rowe and only got back about 11:00. The new tomb is closed up tightly awaiting Reisner's return but I saw the boat pits which have been discovered this season. Excavations in the rock, they are, just the exact shape of a boat, apparently intended as the funeral boat of the deceased to take his soul across to the other world. These boats always face the west which means that the man like the sun has finished his course from east to west and is about to dip down into the underworld with the sun.

This afternoon Wainwright and I will have lunch together and then make an excursion over into the Muskie to see what is doing over there. This evening I plan to attend services at the American Mission if we get back in time.

### 28 April 1925

Alexandria surely is a delightful change from Cairo. For four days Cairo has been like an oven with a hot "khamain" wind blowing, which is a regular scorcher—yesterday it was 93 in the shade in front of Shepheard's Hotel. The trip from Cairo was pleasant because the refreshing sea breeze met us shortly after the train left Cairo. I didn't note anything particularly unusual about the scenery up this way. The country is very flat and the grain has turned brown within the week because of the intense heat. Oh yes I did see people threshing with a team of oxen attached to a plank platform which they pull round and round. On the bottom of the plank are small iron wheels which cut up the straw and shell out the grain from the husk. Next stage I suppose is the winnowing fork and tossing the grain into the air so the chaff blows away while the grain falls to the ground.

This hotel practically fronts on the sea. It is just a block from here to the sea front so the breeze keeps the place delightfully cool. My room is more comfortable, if anything, than the one I had at Shepheard's. I certainly wouldn't care to stay there very much. There is too much blare and show. I do hate all those parasites hanging around for tips. You ought to have seen the disgust one of those birds registered when I gave him only a piastre for carrying my grip about ten feet.

I took tea after getting in and then walked up along the sea front for half a mile to the spot where the ancient Pharos, or famous lighthouse of Ptolemy Philadelphus. It was 590 ft high and regarded as one of the wonders of the world. From it ancient lighthouses got the name Pharos. It was so solidly built that even after 1300 a great part of it was still standing. Its three story plan was taken as a model for the Egyptian minaret.

The American Express Co's man has been here to see me and has arranged to take me on board at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The boat will sail sometime tomorrow night. In the morning I am going over to the Museum, and, if there is time after lunch, I shall run over to see Pompey's pillar and some catacombs farther out.

Wainwright and I had a lot of fun arguing with the fellows in the Musky on Sunday afternoon. The big tapestry shops were closed on account of the "after-Ramadan" festival. I bought a couple of things in bronze which I liked and put them in my steamer trunk. I sent it home direct by freight on Monday morning as a trunk is a terrible chore and expense on the continent. I bought a big leather trunk through Askren which I can take with me into the train everywhere, I hope. The reason why I really bought another was that I could not get my stuff into the room I had.

Monday afternoon I called on Dr. and Mrs. Alexander to bid them goodbye and in the afternoon I had tea with Prof. Clelland. He was my guest this trip. At Rev. Alexander's I met a young missionary from the Sudan who is sailing by the Peer Gynt as well. He will go on to Genoa by boat as he is not stopping along the way. By the way did I tell you that the boat is due to arrive at Messine on Saturday morning?

As my ticket is now arranged I go from Messine to Taormina, from there to Syracuse, and from Syracuse to Palermo. From Palermo I may make a little side trip to Selinus before sailing for Naples.



As soon as I reach Rome I hope to settle my sailing date which will probably be June 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Leviathan if it looks like that will give me the time I want.

Now I'm going to post up a little on Sicily. Did I tell you that I've finished reading the four gospels in Greek and have started on the Acts? I've kept on doing a little now and then through the winter.

### 30 April 1925

I've just had a long visit with two German fellows. First we talked about other things and then I told them of our excavations. I got on much better than I ever had expected and could understand one of them almost perfectly because he took such particular pains to speak slowly and distinctly. With a month in Germany I know that I could get on without any trouble. These two fellows know their Greek and Roman history well so they were very interested in our work.

This is a beautiful boat, designed for cruising around. During the summer it runs from Hamburg to various Norwegian ports, and Iceland, in winter it runs to Havana and cruises the Mediterranean. It is well equipped for the passengers' comfort in all respects as people who are in for long pleasure trips want comfort. You ought to see what style I'm travelling in. I'm so sorry it isn't our honeymoon because I have a stateroom all to myself. I was afraid someone might be put in when the bunch came in from Cairo but nothing happened.

The people on board are mostly German who have been on since the boat started from Genoa. They have stopped at Rome, Naples, Athens, Constantinople, Jaffa (for Jerusalem) and Cairo. They must be people with means to be travelling about this way but they do not seem aristocratic. I really feel quite at home with them even though I don't speak much German because they are the sort of people I am used to, not formal or stiff, but sociable and pleasant. They make one feel more at home than a boatload of English people would.

The boat is much nicer than the one I came out on and the food is in a different class. I am enjoying the trip much more than last fall—perhaps? it's because I'm going home. I am feeling great and bask in the fine sun most of the day.

Mr. Gephardt is on the boat and I see quite a bit of him. I got it arranged so we sit at table together, and also invited him to move in with me if he liked, but he was afraid he might get someone else beyond Messina. He doesn't understand any German so I translate the menu card for him at mealtimes. The people nearly all wear tuxedos for dinner but I haven't bothered about mine. Gephardt hasn't any so I'm keeping him company. He is a fine chap. I like him very well.

I got on board yesterday about half past four. The Am. Express Co's representative took me on board and got me through all the red tape in no time. Some tourist agency's services are almost imperative in coming or going from Egypt. Because I was with the Am Exp Co. representative I didn't have to open my baggage. You see the Company makes a nice present to the Custom officials once or twice a year.

In the morning I was at the Museum. A jolly interesting forenoon it was too. I only regret that I didn't come down a day earlier as it would take several days to do the place at all thoroughly. The Museum has a fine collection of coins struck in Alexandria, under the Ptolemies and under the Romans. I noticed

a great number of the types of the early part of our hoard of coins there—there were none from the latter half of our find. The ideal thing for the classification of the find or collection Askren gave would be to do it in the Museum there where each one could be compared with the original in the case. But since that can't be done we will do the best we can at home. I have the name of a new coin book by a German which looks pretty good. It deals only with the Alexandrian coins.

Another very interesting feature at the Museum was the temple of Soknopaeus, the crocodile god, which has been moved bodily from Theadelphia, a Greco-Roman site of the same relative period as ours on the west edge of the Fayum. In plan it isn't unlike our temple but ours is built of much better quality stone. A mummified crocodile was found in the Theadelphia temple and a fresco on the wall shows the priests carrying the mummy of the sacred crocodile on a wooden bier, in a procession. An inscription on the door states that it was dedicated to the crocodile god.

I saw Pompey's pillar and was at the catacombs but didn't know or realize it until I had left again—sap. I didn't want or have time to go back.

When I'm not sleeping or visiting I'm busy posting up on Sicilian towns. I sure am lazy though and really hate to do it. However it'd be a shame not to make the most of the opportunity.