



Staats- und
Universitätsbibliothek
Bremen



Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen

**DFG-Projekt "Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses des
Ägyptologen Adolf Erman (1854-1937)"**

Brief von James Edward Quibell an Adolf Erman

Quibell, James Edward

Medmet el Fayum, 15.01.1900

Nachweis dieses Dokuments im [Kalliope-Verbund](#)

[urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-72530](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:gbv:46:1-72530)

Medinet el Fayum

15.1.1900.

My dear Prof. Zeman,

Thank you very much indeed for the Papyrus book, which is of an admirable size for a travelling ^{useful} ~~useful~~ and which I will read with care & interest. I thank you not less for your congratulations and good wishes. May your household & the Museum prosper alike, and as the house has been enlarged by so important a member as the youngest son, may the Museum have a corresponding stroke of fortune — a big legacy for choice.

I have had it in my mind to write to you for some time, but, before I left Helwan the breaking up of the joint household (with the Reiners), moving into another house, buying things for my tours & other duties, took up all my time, and I find when in my tent that it is too cold at night to write, & I go to bed at half past eight!

I have been started on my inspection duties with very wide discretion. I am to report on

the gafirs, the native inspectors, the state of the
Koms, Shuqf digging, encroachments, sites
needing guards, places suitable for quarries
etc etc. & I am to make a card catalogue of
sites. All very nice! I must begin with the
Fayum & I find myself straightway a kind
of detective. The Antea Dept in the Fayum
is much like what beggars & more important
departments were in the old days.

The effendi is very corrupt: there is no doubt
of it & no reason why I should not say it.

He sells the position of a gafir, lets the purchaser
hold his place for a few months, then discharges
him & gets another £2 from his successor.
He has repeatedly made illicit excavations
himself: the landlord (Greek) of the bath-kah
where he gets drunk sells the proceeds in
Cairo - & so on - & so on. I could go on by the
page. This choice official has been before
a 'conseil de discipline' already: he was
not convicted because the witnesses, against
him were persons of the lower orders whose
testimony could not be well received! So the
present problem before me is this - to get
evidence which will convince ^{the} a court.

3


I have more than enough to convince a private employer, ^{already} and I must really stick to his job till I get it done. With corrupt friends & a more corrupt effendi the Faqeer will never be in order.

I have been nearly all round it now: there is still a great deal to do. Kou Wushim is a big site & it seems some that Hogart & Grewell have not done much at it. As Dimsh & Rubriyat there is still more to do. Have you seen Dimsh? Half the temple was not touched by Farag.

When I get through here I shall return to Cairo for a couple of days, then go to another province: our boundary line (Carter's & mine) is from Nagadah to Medamst so I shall have to hurry to get through my district in a twelve-month.

Masper's is extremely nice to deal with. Moore could have been more cordial & Kuid than he was & is to me

been more cordial & kind than he was & is to me. And I think
everyone is pleased at his appointment.

The Museum is buying a very fine series of the early
flint knives, one of the  shape with a good
handle but I have just received an anonymous letter saying
that the handle is false! I think not, but as it is on my recom-
mendation that the things are being taken, I feel rather disturbed.
I will get the whole German band, not to speak of the French,
to examine them before we pay up.

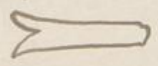
Next time I visit Kopenhagen there will be more improving news.
Please remember me to Frau Suman. My sister, were she here, would
join me in good wishes for the New Year: she was much taken with
the photographs of your children when you showed them to at-
tendant. She has not been very well, I grieve to say: steel, better
than last winter. Always most sincerely yours
F. G. W. U. S. S. S.

I have more than enough to convince a private employe^{already} And I must really stick to this job till I get it done. With corrupt guards & a more corrupt effendi the Faoum will never be in order.

I have been nearly all round it now: there is still a great deal to do. Kom Wushim is a big site & it seems to me that Hogarth & Krenfel have not done much at it. at Dimah & Rubaiyyat there is still more to do. Have you seen Dimah? Half the temple was not touched by Farag.

When I get through here I shall return to Cairo for a couple of days, then go to another province: our boundary line (Castell's & mine) is from Nagadah to Medamut, so I shall have to hurry to get through my district in a twelve-month.

Maspets is extremely nice to deal with. No one could have been more cordial & kind than he was & is to me. And I think everyone is pleased at his appointment.

The Museum is buying a very fine series of the early flint knives, one of the  shape with a gold handle but I have just received an anonymous letter saying that the handle is false! I think not, but as it is on my recommendation that the things are being taken, I feel rather disturbed. I will get the whole German band, not to speak of the French, to examine them before we pay up.

Next time I write I hope there will be more improving news. Please remember me to Frau Esmann. My sister, were she here, would join me in good wishes for the New Year: she was much taken with the photographs of your children when you showed them up at Helwan. She has not been very well, I grieve to say: still, better than last winter. Always most sincerely yours
Rudolf Schubert.

P. S. I have just heard from Reissner :
he has not found the cemetery at
Koptos. Where is that cemetery
hiding itself.

I have been with Freyfel & Hunt
at Umm el Bara'gat. They had
just found some nice frescoes from
a church (?). with Coptic inscriptions.

The pictures were very fine, God
the Father & Ioblys on the same
wall & of the same size.

Below Ioblys the tortures of the damned:
a fornicator had his membrum
virile devoured by a snake;
a woman's soul in the form of
a small child is seen escaping
from her mouth: a devil

receives it in his beak.

Unfortunately this wall fell down
1/2 hour after we had ~~so~~ been
sitting under it copying (I mean
that it was unfortunate it fell
down at all, not that I wish for
a funeral for myself & Graefell under
a brick wall ☹️.)

P.P.S. Poked at Heluan whether I have
at last got back.

I am rather worried in my mind
about these alleged forgeries; I am
afraid all except Maspeis will
blame me for buying them too
dear.

Pardon the state of these papers: it has
been carried about so long. I am
delighted with the papyrus book. I read
half of it at Beni Suef in a Greek
tavern