

RAVENSWORTH EXPEDITION

MATERIAL OMITTED FROM THE REPORT

NOT TO BE DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMITTEE PAPERS



Kept among my own papers. — E.A.R.

Enclosures; six items

COVERING NOTE

I set down here, for no reader I can presently name, the several papers that I have not sent to the printer with the rest of the season's work. They are not withheld from any want of candour. It is rather that I do not know, in the case of some of them, whether I believe them; and in the case of others, whether I have the right to make them public property before I understand what it is I should be making public.

Professor Bramhall's memorandum is the least of my difficulties: it is simply unfinished, and a report ought not to print what its own author declines to stand behind. My cousin's letter is a harder case, and one I have turned over a great many evenings without resolving it to my satisfaction; it was written to me, not to the Committee, and I cannot at present see that the Committee's purposes are served by my forcing it into a place it was not meant for. The photographic matter — the working print, the tracing made against it, and what the two together seem to show — I have kept back for the plainest reason of all, which is that I am not yet satisfied I have looked at it correctly, and a Director who prints a conjecture as a plate does his subscribers a disservice.

I have not destroyed any of it. I have considered doing so, upon more than one occasion, and have each time found myself unable. I set these papers down instead, in the order in which they came to me, against the day when someone better placed than I may make sense of them.



E. A. R.
Camp at Ras el-Qaus, April 1909.

MEMORANDUM

From Prof. L. K. Bramhall, University of Aberdeen, to E. A. Ravensworth, Esq.

Private and without prejudice to any reading I may hereafter print

My dear Ravensworth, — You will have my formal reading, such as it is, in time for your next report; I send you meanwhile the substance of it privately, since you have asked, and since I should not like you to think me merely dilatory.

The squeeze is not a generous one, and the third line in particular has suffered a flake at just the point where one most wants it whole. Subject to every reservation proper to the case, I read: line 1, *tp duat*, ‘at the first hour of the morning’, as you yourself proposed, and I see no reason to depart from it. Line 2 gives the sign for *pet*, ‘sky’, three times in succession — *pet, pet, pet* — and here I confess myself at a loss. I can point to no construction in which the sign is properly tripled in this fashion; it is not a plural formed in the ordinary way, nor have I found a comparable repetition in the corpus available to me at Aberdeen. I raise, without in the least insisting upon it, the possibility of an emphatic or invocatory use, of a kind more familiar from later religious text than from anything we should expect upon a private stela; but I put this forward as a suggestion only, and a weak one.

Line 3 is the worst preserved of the three. What remains, after the loss in the flake, is a determinative which I take — with proper hesitation — to indicate something stretched or drawn out; the word it qualifies is gone entirely, and I will not guess at it. If I am permitted to offer a connected sense, joining what is legible across all three lines and marking plainly where I am not certain, it would run something near to: ‘At the first hour of the morning: sky, sky, sky — [*lacuna*] — that which is drawn, or stretched, [*across?*] the sky.’ I set this down as a tentative reading and nothing more.

I would not have you print it as I have given it to you here. The threefold repetition wants an explanation I cannot supply, and a word restored across a flake on the strength of a determinative alone is a thin thing to build upon. My own inclination is to decline any final translation until another hand — Gardiner, if he will spare the time, or failing him one of the younger men — has examined the squeeze independently of my own reading, which by now I distrust for the ordinary reason that I have looked at it too long.



L. K. B.
Aberdeen, 19 May 1909.

Camp at the Veiled Oasis
July 1909

My dear Edmund,

Your report reached me only last week, the mails here being what they are, and I have read it twice through, the second time by lamplight when I ought to have been asleep, and I do not think I shall sleep properly again until I have written to you. I will come to the reason directly, since I have never been able to manage the art of arriving at a thing slowly, whatever Fenwicke-Stade may say of my reports.

You give the third of February for Mr. Holloway's first sight of your arc — twenty minutes or so before sunrise, you say, 'a bit of rainbow in a clear sky'. Edmund, that is the same morning, very nearly the same hour by my own reckoning, that we broke the seal of the chamber here and I first put a lamp into it. I have checked my own daybook three times since your report came, thinking I must have misremembered, and I have not misremembered.

I will not attempt to describe to you what is in the case; you will see the photographs and the notes in their proper season, and el-Bahari is more careful with such things than I am and will do them more justice than I could in a letter. I will only say that it lies in the other posture — the easy one, the one your stela shows drawn, below your own string — and that when I first held the lamp to it I had the strongest and most foolish conviction that it had only just come to lie that way, though of course it can have moved nothing in some thousands of years and I was tired and had been three days without a proper night's sleep and am not to be relied upon in the matter of first impressions.

I have said nothing of the date to Fenwicke-Stade, nor to el-Bahari, and I am not entirely sure why, except that it feels at present like a thing that wants handling carefully, and I do not trust either of them to handle it carefully; the Colonel would have it in a newspaper within the month, and the doctor would have it in a footnote no one could make sense of. I am not asking you to agree with me that it means anything at all. I am asking you — and I do ask this quite seriously, Edmund — not to publish anything further connecting the two sites, in any note or appendix or aside to Canon Starling, until I have had the chance to see your stela for myself, and Ambrose's instrumental record with it. I would rather we were wrong together than right separately and in print.

I do not know what to make of any of it, and I would rather say so plainly to you than pretend to a steadiness I have not got at present. But you are the one person to whom I can say so plainly, and have said it, and already feel somewhat the better for having done. Write to me properly when you can, and not only about the Committee's business.

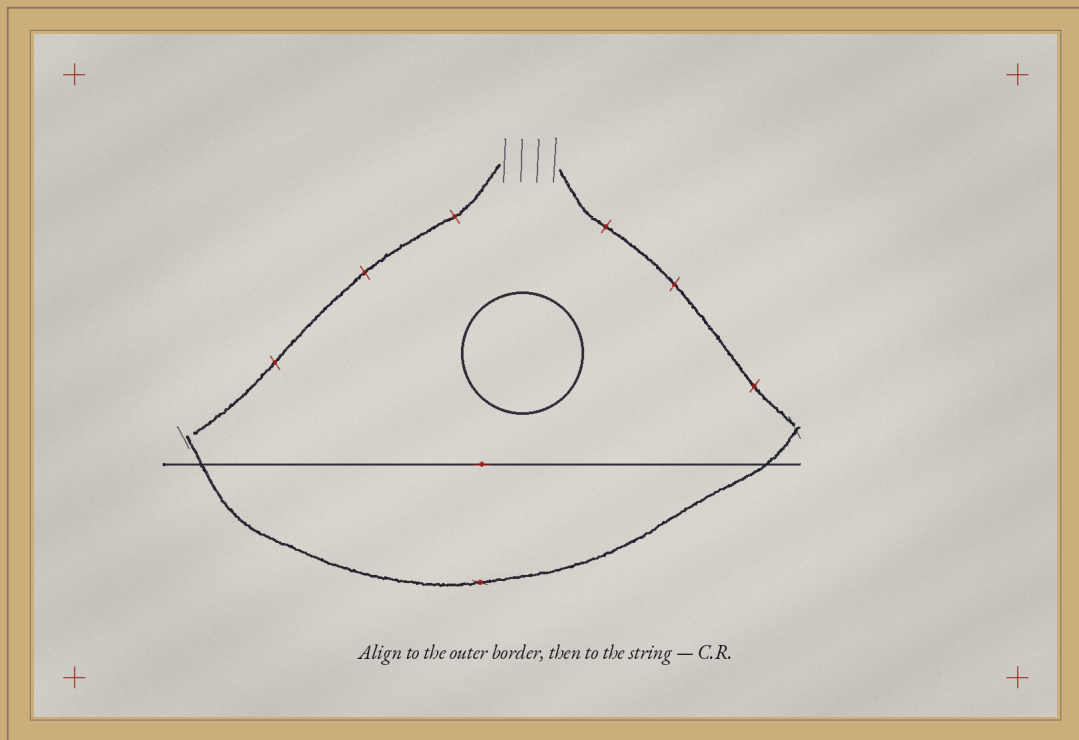
With my whole affection, and my whole discretion, until we have spoken —

Cordelia



WORKING PRINT — STELA NO. 41, MIDDLE REGISTER

Uncorrected contact print from the negative used for Plate X; kept for study, not for publication. Neg. 41/X.

**TRACING, TAKEN AGAINST THE ABOVE**

Traced in ink upon translucent paper laid directly against the working print; hand not certainly identified, but see the margin note.



THE TRACING LAID UPON THE PRINT

The traced line agrees with the carved line at every point but one. The fourth line was not copied, because it was not there to copy; it appears in the print alone.

“The bow does not watch the sun. It watches the other one.” — pencilled, unsigned, in the margin of the print.

SHIPPING LABEL

CONSIGNMENT No. 118 — EXPEDITION HOUSE, RAS EL-QAUS

**ONE CASE: STELA, LIMESTONE (No. 41)
PACKED IN DRY CHAFF & SAWDUST — HANDLE UPRIGHT**

**PER PROCURATION: MESSRS. GRINDLAY & HOLT, SOLICITORS
14 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON, W.C.
FOR ONWARD DELIVERY**

**PORT OF DEPARTURE: ALEXANDRIA
PER S.S. 'MANORA' — 2nd APRIL 1909**

Facsimile of the consignment label affixed to the export case; the subscriber's name is withheld at his own request, as in the Report, and the case was addressed through the Committee's solicitors for onward delivery.