The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

Nove,ber 13, 1906.

To the Acting President,

The University of Chicago.

My dear Mr. Judson:-

I have received ~~a~~ the letter from Mr. Banks, and I would advise that you request him to send the receipt for the fifty liras to you so that we may present it at any time. I do not think it wise to present it now. It will be better to have it in our hands and to debate the question of making use of it later. I think it would be well for you in your letter to Dr. Banks not to mention this as my proposal since he seems to be rather bitter against me.

Sincerely yours,

RF.H.

Robert Francis Harper

TREVOR ARNETT
AUDITOR

The University of Chicago
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

Office of the Auditor

Oriental Expeditions

CHICAGO, May 7, 1907.

My dear Dr. Judson:-

I am returning herewith the letter of Dr. R.A. Hume of April 11th last. I am glad that they finally discovered the 50 pounds sent from Chicago. It seems rather strange that when he was expecting money from Chicago and Portland, that when the money came from Chicago, and was so designated, he and the treasurer should both attribute it to the account expected from Portland.

With regard to the $10.00 still in his hands, I presume the University will not require that refund, because of the trouble and expense that he has been put to in connection with the matter.

Yours truly,

Trevor Arnett

My dear Dr. Judson:-

I am returning herewith the letter of Dr. R.A. Hume of April 11th last. I am glad that they finally discovered the 50 pounds sent from Chicago. It seems rather strange that when he was expecting money from Chicago and Portland, that when the money came from Chicago, and was so designated, he and the treasurer should both attribute it to the account expected from Portland.

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Yours truly,

Oriental Exploration

February 6th, 1908.

Hon. F. O. Lowden,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Lowden:-

For the past five years the University has been engaged in certain work of an archaeological nature within the limits of the Turkish Empire under a gift of $10,000 a year for that period from Mr. John D. Rockefeller. In the early years of the period the work under a firman from the Sultan was conducted in Babylonia. The misconduct of the University agent in charge of the excavations, who by the way I may add is not a member of the University of Chicago faculty, led to the winding up of the work there and the undertaking of a new line of work in Egypt, where for two years past our Professor of Egyptology has been engaged in photographing many of the monuments in the Nile valley. The five year period expires with the coming summer. The University is anxious to obtain a renewal of the firman for the conduct of excavations in the limits of the Turkish Empire but not in Egypt. It is not likely that work will be resumed

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in Babylonia. It may be added that a firman has recently been granted to Harvard for similar work. The proper mode of presentation is for formal application to be made by the University and this application to be presented to the Turkish government through the American ambassador to Constantinople, under the direction of the Department of State. Of course this is a purely scientific piece of work and is to be conducted wholly in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Turkish Empire, for the benefit of scholarship at large.

I am writing now to ask if it will be convenient for you to see the Secretary of State and ascertain if, in view of all the circumstances, the Secretary will in case a formal application is presented, forward it to the Ambassador at Constantinople with a request for his aid in securing the firman. It would of course be extremely helpful if the President would himself be interested in the matter. I may add that the request will be accompanied by the endorsement of scientific men in the line of archaeological research in this country and also from other institutions. I regret to trespass upon your time but am venturing to draw a draft on your duties as a trustee of the University.

Very truly yours,

H. P. Judson

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Very truly yours,

H. P. Judson

The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

7

May 8, 1908.

The President of the University,

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Judson:

I beg leave to report the following items connected with my trip to Philadelphia, New York and Boston::

1. FIRMAN- a. Professor Hilprecht regarded my proposed letter to Hemdy Bey as diplomatic and urged me to send it at once. On my return I copied it and sent it to Hemdy Bey.

b. Professor Hilprecht showed me a letter from Halil Bey in which he wrote in a kindly way concerning the University of Chicago and myself.

c. Professor Hilprecht assured me that he thought there would be little difficulty in obtaining a firman.

d. He gave me assurance of his assistance in Constantinople. I think it would be diplomatic and wise for me to go to Constantinople while Professor Hilprecht is there. If I had not arranged to teach during the first half of the summer quarter I think that I would go to Constantinople so as to reach there a week or two after Professor Hilprecht's arrival. This matter should be taken into consideration.

(?)

2. BABYLONIAN ANTIQUITIES- I took up the question of Babylonian antiquities with Noorian in New York. I found the collection a very valuable one and the best preserved of any I have ever seen. I know that it can be obtained now for $3200. I think perhaps $3000 cash would purchase the collection. I regard this as an extremely low price for such a collection. Noorian is willing to ship the collection to the Museum so that it may be studied for a month before purchase.

3 ✓

3. THE PETERS-HILPRECHT CONTROVERSY- Eleven of the Sixteen who signed the

The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

May 2, 1905.

The President of the University,

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Judson:

I beg leave to report the following items connected with my trip to Philadelphia, New York and Boston:

1. HEBRAW- a. Professor Hilprecht regarded my proposed letter to Benjy Fay as diplomatic and urged me to send it at once. On my return I copied it and sent it to Benjy Fay.

b. Professor Hilprecht showed me a letter from Emil Sig in which he wrote in a kindly way concerning the University of Chicago and myself.

c. Professor Hilprecht assured me that he thought there would be little difficulty in obtaining a firman.

d. He gave me assurance of his assistance in Constantinople.

I think it would be diplomatic and wise for me to go to Constantinople while Professor Hilprecht is there. If I had not arranged to teach during the first half of the summer quarter I think that I would go to Constantinople so as to reach there a week or two after Professor Hilprecht's arrival. This matter should be taken into consideration.

2. SEMITIC ARTICLES- I took up the question of Babylonian antiquities with Morgan in New York. I found the collection a very valuable one and the best preserved of any I have ever seen. I made that it can be obtained for 150,000. I think perhaps 75000 cash would purchase the collection. I regard this as an extremely low price for such a collection. Morgan is willing to sell the collection to the museum so that it may be obtained for a month before purchase.

3. THE PETERS-HILPRECHT CONTROVERSY- Eleven of the Sixteen who signed the

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The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

letter to Professor Hilprecht asking for a statement were present in Cambridge at the meetings of the Oriental Society. There was great excitement during the two days on account of the various elements present. Nine or ten of the eleven present signed a statement to this effect,-"we have received your publication. Without attempting to express an opinion on the facts at issue we deem it best that an end be put to this controversy as speedily as possible". The same men would have been content with a statement to this effect,- "if we had received your publication two years ago in New Haven it would have made it unnecessary for us to have written the letter of April 18th which was sent to you." Both sides claim a victory. In the opinion of nine out of ten the action was a virtual acquittal of Professor Hilprecht.

4. Professor Jewett was made Semitic Editor of the Journal of the American Oriental Society.

5. I was appointed to represent the Society at the International Congress of Oriental Archaeology to be held in Cairo in April, 1909. I suggested that the names of Professor Breasted and Dr. Reisner be added to mine as delegates for the Society and this was done.

I regard the trip as most successful.

Very truly yours,

Robert Francis Harper

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

Mr. Judson 2.

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4. Professor Jewett was made Secretary of the Journal of the American Oriental Society.

5. I was appointed to represent the Society at the International Congress of Oriental Archaeology to be held in Cairo in April, 1909. I suggested that the name of Professor Frederick and Dr. Haskell be added to mine as delegates for the Society and this was done.

I regard the trip as most successful.

Very truly yours,

Robert Francis Harper.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

7

June 20, 1908.

The President of the University,

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Judson:

I am sending you a letter which I have received from Hamdy Bey. It is a diplomatic letter. It may mean nothing. It may mean a great deal. I myself, am very much pleased with it. It is even more friendly than I had expected.

Very truly yours,

Robert Francis Harper

June 29, 1908

Urgent
Exp please

My dear Mr. Lowden:-

We are ready now to go forward with the matter of the application at Constantinople for a firman. It would be desirable:

First, To have Professor Robert Francis Harper, who is to be the University representative in the matter, receive a letter of introduction from the Secretary of State;

Second, For the Secretary of State to send a communication to the Ambassador at Constantinople, Mr. Leishman, commending the University of Chicago's application through Mr. Harper to his good offices.

Third, It would be very helpful if the President, as an honorary alumnus of the University, should help the matter along, either through the Ambassador or through giving a note of recommendation to Professor Harper. Whether this latter is practicable you can judge better than I. Mr. Harper would wish to sail about the 15th of July.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H. P. [redacted]

Hon. Frank O. Lowden,
Oregon, Illinois.

June 29, 1908

My dear Mr. Lowden:-

We are ready now to go forward with the matter of the application at Constantinople for a firman. It would be desirable:

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With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H. P. Judson

Hon. Frank O. Lowden,
Oregon, Illinois.

Oriental exploration

June 29, 1908

My dear President Eliot:-

A matter of some interest to me I am taking the liberty of referring to you. Harvard has had within recent years, I am aware, a firman permitting excavations within the limits of the Ottoman Empire. May I ask if the firman was granted to the University, or to an individual, and, further, if there was any serious difficulty in obtaining the permit? Any information on these heads I shall esteem as a favor.

Very truly yours,

H. [illegible]

President Charles W. Eliot,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

June 29, 1908

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Very truly yours,

President Charles W. Eliot,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harvard Theological Review

Editorial Committee
G. F. MOORE, Chairman
W. W. FENN
J. H. ROPES

July 8, 1908. Cambridge, Mass.

Dear President Judson:-

Your letter of June 29 to President Eliot asking about our experiences in getting a firman from the Turkish government for excavation in Palestine has been sent to me to answer because the records of the Committee are in my keeping.

I am sorry to say that we found great difficulty and much delay in getting the permission to work at Samaria. The officials in Constantinople were - as I think they generally are - very promising: Hamdi Bey, with whom in the end the decision in all such matters is supposed to rest, was apparently very friendly and assured us that the permission would be given; that it was only a matter of complying with the formalities of the law. These "formalities" under the new Turkish law proved to be more complicated and vexatious even than under the old law. When they were all complied with and the papers had all been sent to the proper bureau in Constantinople, we were again assured that the firman would be issued without delay. So far from this being the case, months intervened during which we heard nothing more about the matter.

Finally when a year and a half had gone by from the time of our original application, Mr. Schiff, who had offered to provide the money for the excavation, made up his mind that the permission would not be forthcoming, at all, or that if it were, the authorities who had shown themselves so unaccommodating would continue to put obstacles in our way which would make the work difficult, if not impossible, and accordingly withdrew his offer.

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Harvard Theological Review

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Cambridge, Mass.

We were therefore greatly surprised about the beginning of this year to be informed by cable that the firman had been issued, and that under the terms of the Turkish law it was necessary for us to begin excavations in April. We found this a very embarrassing requirement, because in the meantime Professor Reisner, who was to have directed the work, had made, with our consent, a contract for three years with the Egyptian government to conduct their explorations in the area which is presently to be flooded by the raising of the dam at Assuan, and was at the time out of reach in Nubia. However, we succeeded in making other arrangements and in getting the work started within the limited time allowed. Professor Lyon went out from here in April and took general charge of the work. He has thus far made rather discouraging reports about the obstacles which have been put in our way by the Turkish officials, and the Commission appointed by Hamdi Bey to watch the excavations. These difficulties are of a kind with which all excavators in the Turkish Empire are familiar, but they seem to have been more than usually exasperating. In his last letter he speaks more hopefully of the prospect of overcoming them.

The firman was taken out for the University in the name of Professor Reisner, and unless I am mistaken, the Turkish law requires that such firmans be issued to individuals. The authorities however made no difficulty about the virtual transfer of the permission to Schumacher, who is in actual charge. I am not sure whether a formal transfer was made. Reisner has been in Palestine once or twice and remains in connection with the work in an advisory capacity, so

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MOORE, Chairman
W. FENN
H. ROPES

that perhaps

Harvard Theological Review

Committee
MOORE, Chairman
W. FENN
H. ROPES

Cambridge, Mass.

that perhaps it was not thought necessary to have any change made in the documents themselves.

If I can give you any further information out of our experiences, I should be very glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

George F. Moore

President H. P. Judson.

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Sincerely yours,

George F. Moore

President R. P. Judson.

The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
The University of Chicago

Orig. Encl.

Portion of a letter of July 14, 1908 from George F. Moore to Professor Harper

"We have been having rather discouraging letters from Lyon; he has been having a great deal of trouble with the Turkish officials, particularly with his commissioner. The governor of Beirut required that payments to the owners of land and trees at Sebastiye should be made in the presence of the authorities at Nablus. Inasmuch as most of the peasants are in arrears for taxes, this meant practically that the aforesaid authorities took possession of the money paid, and the unfortunate man was thus deprived at once of his lands and his money. The commissioner (whom Lyon describes as a degenerate reprobate from Jerusalem) has made himself officious by refusals to allow dumping of the earth in the only places where it could conveniently be dumped, and magnifying his greatness in other ways.

The result is that the work has been interrupted repeatedly, and at last Lyon and Schumacher were compelled to go both to Beirut and Constantinople. In both places they got fair promises; whether they get anything else remains to be seen."

Robert Francis Harper

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

CONSTANTINOPLE.

September 17th, 1908.

Dear Sir:

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 29th, 1908, presented a few days ago by Professor Robert Francis Harper of your University.

Dr. Harper has already had a very cordial interview with His Excellency Hamdi Bey, Director of the Imperial Ottoman Museum, who is evidently inclined to assist in every way possible to make Dr. Harper's mission in this country successful.

I need hardly add that the Embassy is ready, as always, to assist the University of Chicago and its representative in every way that it properly can.

Very sincerely yours,

Oscar S. Straus

The Honorable Harry Pratt Jordan,

etc, etc, etc,

The University of Chicago.

133

Cie Intle des Wagons-Lits
et des
Grands Express Européens

LES PALACES

RIVIERA PALACE-NICE CIMIEZ
SUMMER PALACE THERAPIA (BOSPHORE)
AVENIDA PALACE-LISBONNE
RIVIERA PALACE-MONTE-CARLO
PERA PALACE-CONSTANTINOPLE
CHATEAU ROYAL D'ARDENNE (BELGIQUE)

HOTEL STÉPHANIE } ABBAZIA
HOTEL QUARNERO } (HONGRIE)
HOTEL LOVRANA, LOVRANA (ISTRIE)
PAVILLON DE BELLEVUE PRÈS PARIS
HOTEL TERMINUS-BORDEAUX
HOTEL TERMINUS-MARSEILLE
HOTEL TERMINUS-LYON-PERRACHE

HOTELS CORRESPONDANTS :

HOTELS A TATRA-LOMNICZ
ET A CZORBA (HONGRIE)

GRAND-HOTEL DES WAGONS-LITS, PÉKIN
ÉLYSÉE PALACE-PARIS.

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE
40, Rue de l'Arcade
PARIS

Péra-Palace

Constantinople, le 28 September 1908

The President of the University
My dear Mr. Judson

I am sending today to Professor Price a formal report of my work here in Constantinople — with a copy of the formal application which I have made to the Minister of Public Instruction for the site of Mugheir. I am also sending an informal diary. I have requested Professor Price

to hand the Report with the Formal Application as well as the Informal Diary—written hurriedly—to you.

I have met with great kindness on all sides. Up to date two things have been accomplished:

① The good name of the University of Chicago has been restored at the American Embassy and at the Imperial Ottoman Museum

② Formal application for permission to excavate, in the name of the University of Chicago, has been accepted and has met with favor.

The University may not be granted the site for which application has been made. I am of the opinion that His Excellency Hamdy Bey is favorably disposed toward the University and that it is only a question of time when some site—a good site—will be granted.

I am well and shall proceed to Jerusalem in ten days.

Hoping that you are well and that all goes well with the University

I remain
Very sincerely yours
Robert Francis Harper

P.S. I sent the Report to Professor Price as Secretary of the Oriental Exploration Fund.

Professor H. F. Harper,

I envy
inauguration.
A letter from
going on to jo

October 14, 1908

My dear Mr. Harper:-

Your favor of the 28th of September is at hand. Since its receipt I have also gone over in detail your official report and your detailed letter to Mr. Price. I have been extremely interested in your doings thus far. It seems to me that you have reason to congratulate yourself on a thorough success. I have had various communications from the Department of State informing me that they have taken up the matter with the Ambassador, and notifying me of the receipt of a cable despatch from the Ambassador promising his cordial support. I am inclined to think that the State Department have put the matter to him in such shape that you will find him ready to do anything in his power. Of course we must be patient, expecting the usual Oriental delays. At the same time, everything so far impresses me as very promising, and I certainly hope that you will succeed in getting the site for which you have applied. It is especially gratifying that the old matter has been cleared out of the way, and our business hereafter will be on the right basis.

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A letter from Bu
going on to join

I envy you your stay in Constantinople at the time of the inauguration, or soon after the inauguration, of the constitution. A letter from Burton speaks of facts and Samuel tells me of Paul's going on to join you.

Everything here is moving pleasantly. Except for our sad loss of Kern who died in September in September all the Faculty are, I think, prospering. Please give my regards to Paul and accept yourself the hope that your work in Jerusalem as well as in Constantinople will be crowned with complete success.

Very truly yours,

Professor R. F. Harper,
℅ Luzac & Company,
46 Great Russell St., London, England.

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% Luzac & Company,
46 Great Russell St., London, England.

Musées Impériaux Ottomans

Constantinople, le 11/24 Octobre 1908

J Cer Eff

Monsieur le Président

En réponse à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du 29 Juin dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les démarches nécessaires ont été déjà faites auprès de qui de droit en vue d'obtenir l'autorisation nécessaire pour les fouilles que Monsieur le Professeur Robert Francis Harper est chargé de faire, au

Monsieur
M. Harry Pratt Judson
Président de l'Université de Chicago.
ch. es. cf.

nom de l'Université de Chicago,
à Mughéir sur l'Euphrate.

Veuillez agréer, je vous prie,
Monsieur le Président, l'assurance
de ma haute considération

Le Directeur Général.

O. Hauser.

Draft

November 27, 1908

Monsieur le Directeur Général,-

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge your esteemed favor of 11/24 October with regard to the application of the University of Chicago through Professor Robert Francis Harper for a firman permitting excavation at Mugheir. The University appreciates Your Excellency's courtesy to Professor Harper, and your interest in the application.

Trusting that it may be consistent to give final effect to your generous disposition in the matter, in order that the University may be enabled to conduct this very interesting and important piece of research within the limits of the Ottoman Empire in the interests of archaeological science, I am, with sincere regards,

Very truly yours,

President

His Excellency, Hemdy Bey,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Draft

November 27, 1908

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Very truly yours,

President

His Excellency, Hamdy Bey,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Acknowledged Aug 17. 911

51 Wells Street, Greenfield Mass.

August 15th. 1911.

President Henry P. Judson,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear President Judson:-

You may remember that some years ago I was the Field Director of the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Chicago, and of course you are aware that the results of that expedition have never been given to the public. It was understood between Professor R. F. Harper and myself that he was to have the first right to publish a volume of the inscriptions, that I should have the second right if he should fail to publish them, and that I should publish the official report of the expedition if it should be desired. It was also understood, though no writing was made to that effect, that I should be at liberty to write a popular account of the expedition if I should wish to do so. I have prepared a manuscript, something of the nature of Dr. Peter's "Nippur," and am about to submit it to a publisher, but before doing so, I have thought it best to inform you of my intention. I do not wish to have any communication with Professor Harper, and I hope this note will not be referred to him, but I should appreciate it if I might have a word from you, as President of the University, expressing your willingness, or approval of my purpose. I assure you that in the book absolutely no animosity is shown to Professor Harper or to anyone else, nor is there a statement which, I think, could be objectionable to anyone. The

51 Wells Street, Greenfield Mass.

August 15th. 1911.

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Chicago, Ill.

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expedition, as you may know, was the result of my own efforts. I obtained the iradé after a struggle of three years in Constantinople and the expenditure of practically all I had, and used it for the benefit of the University, and I did all of the work in the field. The results were of far greater value than of most other expeditions to Babylonia, and I believe that at least a popular account of the work should be published. Hoping that you may favor me with a reply, I am,

Very Sincerely Yours,

Edgar J. Banks.

copy

Sept. 3, 1911

Dear Sir:

Your favor of 15th August reaches me here, forwarded from Chicago. At this distance and with only a vague recollection of the arrangements to which you refer, it would obviously be impracticable for me to express any opinion on the subject of your publication. On my return to Chicago in a few weeks I shall be able to refresh my knowledge of the subject. So far as Professor Harper is concerned I must add that I shall feel at liberty to consult anyone whom I see fit.

H. R.

Edgar J. Banks.

7. Ov. Exp. Fund

~~p 82~~

Brooks

51 Wells St. Greenfield Mass.
Oct. 9. 1911.

Dear President Judson:-

Early in the summer I wrote to you regarding a manuscript which I had prepared, giving a popular account of my excavations at Bismya, and though, according to an understanding with Professor R. F. Harper, I felt that I had a perfect right to have the manuscript published, I asked for your approval that any possible misunderstanding might be avoided. Hearing nothing from you, until sometime later a note told of your absence in Europe, I submitted the manuscript to the Putnams, and under certain conditions, which I think I may be able to meet, they think they may publish it. I am writing again to ask if you will not kindly look into the matter and give your approval to my course, that the book, which should be a credit to the University, may have its support rather than its opposition. You will find the facts of the case are these.

In 1900 I was sent by a private committee to Constantinople to obtain permission to excavate in Babylonia. For three years I was unsuccessful, but finally I obtained permission to excavate at Bismya. The permission was obtained at a cost to the committee and myself of several thousand dollars, and was issued in my own name.

However, the committee, discouraged by the delay, disorganized, but Mr. Leishman, then minister to Turkey, offered to defray the expenses of the expedition to the extent of $2500. President Harper came to Constantinople about that time to obtain permission to excavate in Babylonia, and an arrangement was made that I be taken into the staff of the University, and that I use the inade per ciò benefit. R. F. Harper was to be the home director, and I was to have full charge of the work in the field. President Harper assured me that I should have full credit for my work, and that his brother would be just and reasonable in his dealings.

The expedition was wonderfully successful, and there was sent to the Haskell museum one of the most valuable collections of ancient Babylonian antiquities in existence. When trouble arose on account of the disappearance of the statue, I resigned, that the excavations might continue, and they were continued by Mr. Persons. Had he been a trained man, they might have continued indefinitely. I am therefore in no way responsible for the closing of the excavations.

Upon my return to America, when President Harper was ill I was surprised to find that my work, which had been highly praised by President Harper and by others, was belittled by Professor Harper, who sought to obtain the entire credit

However, the government discouraged by the delay, discouraged, but undaunted, then invited a Finley, offered to defray the expenses of the expedition if the talent of a Scott Fitzgerald Hughes could be borrowed about that time to obtain funds sufficient to secure it in Holydene, and an arrangement was made that I be taken out the staff of the University, and that I use the rest for the journey. F. F. Hughes was to be three days, and I was to have full charge of the work in the field. President Hughes assured me that I should have full credit for my work, and that his notes would be just and reasonable in his charging.

The expedition was wonderfully successful, and then was sent to the Scientific museum one of the most valuable collections of ancient Holydenian antiquities in existence. When recently asked on account of the disappearance of the artifacts, I assured that the secretaries might certainly, and that were continued by the Inquiry that he from a Dennis museum, they might have continued indefinitely I am thankful in no way responsible for the loss of the secretaries.

When my return to Dennis, where President Hughes was, I was authorized to find my work, which had been highly honored by President Hughes and by others, was published by Hughes Hughes, who sought to obtain the author credit

for the work. He tried to secure possession of my note books and keep them. He prevented me from obtaining a position in the University of California, for which President Harper was supporting me. He tried to intimate that he did the work at Bismya, though he did none of it. In order to live and to pay up debts contracted for my education, and for my support in Constantinople, and I have not yet entirely succeeded, I gave public lectures, but his disparaging remarks and influence kept me from obtaining many valuable appointments. I believe all this is known both to you and to his colleagues. He accused me of smuggling antiquities from Turkey against his orders. But I have his written instructions to do so, the only instructions he ever gave me while I was at Bismya. To satisfy him, and to avoid trouble, I agreed to a contract that he should have the first right to publish the inscriptions, and that I should have the second right, that I should publish an official report, to be issued by the University Press, and it was understood between us that I should publish a popular account when and where I would. In accordance with that understanding I prepared the manuscript now with the Putnams. The influence of Professor Harper was continued, and finally he succeeded in poisoning most of the scholars and men

in the work. He tried to secure professors of very
merit both and high character. He succeeded in from
obtaining a position in the University of California,
for which President Wheeler was employing me.
He tried to instruct that he put the work at
Berkeley, though he did move it. In order to
have and to pay his debts contracted for my education,
and for my employment in Washington, and I
have not yet entirely succeeded, I gave public
lectures, but this disparaging remarks and
influence kept me from obtaining numerous valuable
appointments. I believe all this is known both
to you and to his relatives. He assumed me of
arranging with politics from Hartley concerning this
order, but I have his written instructions to do so,
but only his instructions he sure gave me which I used at
Berkeley. To satisfy him, and to avoid trouble,
I agreed to a contract that he should have the
first right to publish the proceedings, and that
I should have the second right that I should
publish an official report, to be issued by the
University Press, and it was understood between
us that I should publish a popular account
when and when I would. In accordance with this
understanding I published the proceedings right away
with the Pacific Coast. The influence of Stanford
Stanford was considerable, and finally he succeeded
in persuading most of the scientists and were

some of my friends against me. After such treatment I may have been indiscreet in some things, but if so, I have done my best to rectify such indiscreasions and shall continue to make efforts in that direction.

During the past five years I have given several hundred lectures, and those on the work at Bismya have been most kindly received, and I wish now that this book, instead of provoking controversy and causing bitterness, might receive your approval. I can not willingly give up all the credit for the best work of my life to a man who deserves none of it, and you know what manner of man he is.

The book is a clean, honest accurate account of the excavations at Bismya. I do not believe that the honesty of a single statement in it can be conscientiously questioned, and it should be a credit to the University.

I am asking you to sanction its publication not only because I am anxious that my work be favorably, rather than hostilely known to the public, but I wish to regain the confidence of the scholars, which Professor Harper has caused me to lose, for I shall continue to lecture along the lines of Oriental and Biblical archaeology.

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During the past year I have given several financial lectures, one there on the work of this company. Your firm must kindly recall, and I trust now that this work, instead of hurting anything and causing interest, might result you advanced. I can not willingly give up all the credit for the best work of my life to some who claims more of it, and yet know what manner of man he is. The work is a clear, honest account account of the necessities of Bismarck. I do not believe that the honesty of a single statement in it can be unnaturally questioned, and it should be a credit to the industry.

I am asking you to consider the publication not only because I am convinced that my work is favorably, rather than hostilely known to the public, but I wish to regain the confidence of the authors, which Professor Taylor has caused me to lose, for I shall continue to review other lines of financial and political endeavor.

Moreover, I have completed plans to start on an exploring expedition to Central Arabia, in June, and the proceeds of my lectures are to defray the expenses, without outside aid. That this expedition be aided, rather than hindered, by the good will of the university and of the scholars, I again ask that you consider favorably my request for your approval of the publication of the book, and that you will assist me in regaining the good will of both the members of your Semitic faculty, and of others, which I have lost, so I think, through no fault of my own. Will you kindly favor me with an early reply.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Edgar J. Banks.

Moreover, I have completed plans to start on an exploring expedition to Central Africa, in June, and the funds of my Society are to defray the expense without outside aid. That this expedition be could render Him National, by the good will of the University and of the Library, I again ask that you consider favorably my request for your approval & the publication of the book and that you will assist me in securing the good will & help the members of your scientific faculty, one & others, which I have lost as I think, through no fault of my own. Will you kindly favor me with an early reply.

Very sincerely Yours,

Edgar Bonwi.

Chicago, October 12, 1911

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 9th inst. is received. The previous communication came while I was abroad, and it was impracticable to reply at that time. The publication which you propose was of course not contemplated in the agreement between yourself and President Harper. I could not therefore express an opinion on the matter, and least of all write a letter which could be used in connection with publication. The nearest approach to such publication as you contemplate is found in the 7th article of the contract, but of course magazine articles are quite different from a book. I ought to add that Professor Harper has not tried in the slightest degree to interfere with the university's relations to yourself.

Very truly yours,

H.C.J.

Mr. Edgar J. Banks,
51 Wells St.,
Greenfield, Mass.

Chicago, October 12, 1911

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 9th inst. is received. The previous communication came while I was abroad, and it was impracticable to reply at that time. The publication which you propose was of course not contemplated in the agreement between yourself and President Harper. I could not therefore express an opinion on the matter, and least of all write a letter which could be used in connection with publication. The nearest approach to such publication as you contemplate is found in the 7th article of the contract, but of course magazine articles are quite different from a book. I ought to add that Professor Harper has not tried in the slightest degree to interfere with the university's relations to yourself.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Edgar J. Banks,
71 Wells St.,
Greenfield, Mass.

Dickerson

Chicago, May 20, 1914

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

Dr. Banks is the man who had trouble with Dr. R. F. Harper on account of excavations directed by Dr. Harper. The book issued by Dr. Banks was carefully reviews by the University so as to avoid any difficulty, and President Judson wrote a brief preface intended to make clear that the University of Chicago was not responsible for what Dr. Banks might say. I have no knowledge of the case beyond this. Perhaps Mr. Heckman is informed, or perhaps you may have some reference in your files. I have no doubt that Banks' collections are authentic. I think part of the trouble was that he removed authentic specimens without Turkish authority. Of this, however, I have no first-hand knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

D.A.R.-D.

Secretary to the President.

Mr. J. S. Dickerson,
The University of Chicago

Chicago, May 20, 1914

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

Dr. Banks is the man who had trouble with Dr. R. F. Harper on account of excavations directed by Dr. Harper. The book issued by Dr. Banks was carefully reviewed by the University so as to avoid any difficulty, and President Judson wrote a brief preface intended to make clear that the University of Chicago was not responsible for what Dr. Banks might say. I have no knowledge of the case beyond this, perhaps Dr. Eckman is interested, or perhaps you may have some reference in your files. I have no doubt that Banks' collections are authentic. I think part of the trouble was that he imported antiquities without Turkish authority. Of this however, I have no first-hand knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

H.A.M.-D.

Mr. G. S. Dickerson,
The University of Chicago

LABORATORY OF
EDWARD WESTON, SC. D., LL. D.
NEWARK, N. J.

The President
Excavations

April 19.

To the

Secretary,
Chicago University,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

The attached copy of letter is self-explanatory, and is sent to you in confidence by Dr. Weston with the thought that it may be of interest.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

JCZ-mvm

LABORATORY OF
EDWARD WESTON, SC.D., LL.D.
NEWARK, N.J.

April 13.

To the

Secretary,
Chicago University,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

The attached copy of letter is self-explanatory, and is sent to you in confidence by Dr. Weston with the thought that it may be of interest.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

JCZ-mvm

Edgar J. Banks

Alpine, N. J.

April 5, 1920

Dr. Edward Weston,

Waverly Park,
Newark, N. J.

COPY

Dear Sir:

The Arab workmen whom I formerly employed while excavating in Babylonia for the University of Chicago, have recently sent me a collection of ancient inscribed Babylonian clay tablets or books found in the buried cities. They are letters and business documents of various kinds, dated from 400 to 2,400 B. C. and are the equal of those treasured in the great museums.

Would you care to have a few of them for your library, or to present to some school in which you may be interested ?

I am seeking to dispose of the tablets, not so much for profit as to awaken an interest in the ancient civilizations. The price is very small, from one to five dollars each, a fraction of the prices an antiquity dealer would charge.

May I send to you by parcel post a few of the tablets on approval, with the understanding that any or all may be returned if you do not care for them ? Each tablet is accompanied with a description stating its age, its contents, the place where found, and my guarantee that it is genuine.

Sincerely,

(Signed:) Edgar J. Banks.

B/HL

Edgar J. Banks

Alpine, N. J.

April 5, 1920

Dr. Edward Weston,

Waverly Park,
Newark, N. J.

COPY

Dear Sir:

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Sincerely,

(Signed:) Edgar J. Banks.

B\HL

May 4, 1920

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th of April addressed to the Secretary of the University of Chicago is handed to me. I thank you for the information. Of course you understand that the gentleman in question has no connection and has not had for years with the University of Chicago.

Very truly yours,

Mr. J. C. Ziegler,
Laboratory of Edward Weston,
Newark, N.J.

HPJ:JN

May 4, 1920

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th of April addressed to the Secretary of the University of Chicago is handed to me. I thank you for the information. Of course you understand that the gentleman in question has no connection and has not had for years with the University of Chicago.

Very truly yours,

Mr. J. G. Riegler,
Laboratory of Edward Weston,
Newark, N.J.

HPL:JM

Harold H. Swift
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

May 25, 1925.

Oriental Project

Mr. James H. Tufts,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Tufts:

I enclose herewith an exchange of correspondence with Mr. Breasted which is self-explanatory. Please don't bother to acknowledge.

Yours cordially,

(COPY)

Chicago, April 27, 1925.

Dr. James H. Breasted,
c/o President Livingston Ferrand,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Dr. Breasted:

My sister, Helen Swift Morris, married a few years ago Francis Neilson, previously an M.P. of Great Britain. Mr. Neilson is a fine type of physical manhood, about 60 years old, extremely alert mentally and physically. He is one of the best informed men I have ever met, and his general knowledge of history, literature, and the other arts continually amazes me. He is quite assertive, but how profound I am not prepared to say.

He has had a varied career - having traveled pretty nearly everywhere, having toured the United States as a member of various important Shakespearean companies in his early days, then returning to England in the publishing business, and then becoming a Member of Parliament, at which time he wrote both books and plays largely critical of present politics in England. He was out of patience with the Lloyd George policy throughout the war, and became an extreme Wilson fan; took out United States naturalization papers during Wilson's administration, and afterwards when we entered the war became pretty discouraged with the world at large!

Now, with this preliminary, in which I have tried to give you a view of the situation without taking any real responsibility, I proceed to my next point --

I am in receipt of a letter from him which reads as follows:

(COPY)

Chicago, April 27, 1925.

Dr. James H. Breasted,
c/o President Livingston Farrand,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

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Now, with this preliminary, in which I have tried to give you a view of the situation without taking any real responsibility, I proceed to my next point --

I am in receipt of a letter from him which reads as follows:

"Napoli, March 31, 1925.

"Dear Harold:

"When Helen and I were in Cairo, we learned about a concession to excavate which may be obtained from the Egyptian authorities, if proper influence is brought to bear upon them, and I have been wondering whether you could use your influence with Professor Breasted to help me. I have been told that he can do a great deal in a matter of this kind.

"It would be a great thing to have the support of the University of Chicago, and if you could assist me in this way, I would readily consent to the University taking a share in the treasures, if any are found in the territory.

"There is no call for money. The whole of the outlay after the concession is obtained, would be provided by a man, a Bedoin, whose confidence I have. This man knows for a fact that there are treasures of great value in the territory for which we shall require the concession to excavate. The man is well known to Professor Breasted, and he is anxious for Professor Breasted to support the application to be made to the Egyptian authorities. The reason why the man himself cannot obtain a concession is that he is a Bedoin and a dealer in antique objects of art.

"I am told, on good authority, that there is no native who knows more about the hidden treasures for which concessions have not yet been obtained than the person I referred to above. Helen and I met him several times and both of us are convinced that he is a thoroughly honest and well informed man. His reputation is deservedly high. And he is always in close touch with the fallaheen, who sometimes come upon a tomb in their agricultural work, and keep the secret, because the Egyptian government treats them harshly, scarcely ever rewarding them when they make a find.

"I know you will not regard this as a story about another Tut-an-Kamen tomb. Nevertheless, I should like you to turn the matter over in your mind and think pretty seriously of it. The first thing is to get me in close touch with Professor Breasted, because the information of the whereabouts of the territory for which we shall require the concession will be imparted to him. If all goes well, Helen and I shall pass next winter in Egypt, and who knows what we may discover if the concession be obtained.

"I am very glad to say that Helen is in much better health. My love to you all.

"Ever yours,

Frank."

Looking at the matter entirely impersonally and without any reference to the fact that he is a connection of mine, will you please advise me what you would like done in the matter? Perhaps the most

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"I am very glad to say that Helen is in much better health. My love to you all.

"Ever yours,

Frank."

Looking at the matter entirely impersonally and without any reference to the fact that he is a connection of mine, will you please advise me what you would like done in the matter? Perhaps the most

logical thing for me to do is to write him that you have been abroad and will be in Chicago around the middle of May or the first of June and that perhaps he had better write you direct. Do you agree, or have you any other suggestion? You will see that I want the situation handled merely from the best point of view for the University and not to be a factor in it myself.

I note he says the project does not require funds. Possibly he and Mrs. Neilson could supply moderate amounts if it were necessary. I am so involved that I could not, I am sure.

Shall appreciate hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours cordially,

HAROLD H. SWIFT

HHS DEP

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Shall appreciate hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours cordially,

HAROLD H. SWIFT

HHS DEP

(COPY)

Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.
May 2, 1925.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Harold H. Swift,
Union Stock Yards,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Swift:

I have read with great interest your letter of April 27th, repeating a letter of Mr. Francis Neilson from Naples, regarding an excavation project in Egypt.

First, let me express my appreciation of the interest which Mr. and Mrs. Neilson have shown, and also my thanks to you for sending the whole matter forward to me. As you, yourself, have probably discerned, the project as proposed by Mr. Neilson involves some difficulties. In expressing myself about these, please do not understand me as in the least degree opposed to the enterprise. On the contrary, if the project is to be carried through there is no way to do so except by clearing away these difficulties.

The first point to be noted is that these tales of hidden treasures reported by natives, even intelligent natives of good address, are quite common. I always look into them when they are reported to me, for now and again there is something in them; but usually they are "cock and bull" stories with no facts behind them. Perhaps in this case there may be very tangible facts behind the story, and probably the only way to find out whether there are any facts behind it is to secure a concession and begin work.

The second difficulty is this, that the Bedouin in question in the last instance will probably want the concession in his own name even though he states at this juncture that he is ready to stand in the background and see us obtain the concession; but even if he does consent that the concession shall be in the name of some one else, or an institution, I doubt whether we could find a reputable archaelogist or a responsible institution willing to carry on work in Egypt supported by an Oriental whose only interest in such work is a mercenary one. I have been closely associated with Egyptians for over thirty years and I have never yet seen one who had an interest in the antiquities of his country other than a mercenary interest. Please treat this last remark as strictly confidential as it would cause me great trouble if it were published.

(COPY)

Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.
May 2, 1925.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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Union Stock Yards,
Chicago, Illinois.

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Another serious difficulty is this. Excavation has ceased to be a casual trenching in some promising situation for taking out a few valuable treasures and then relinquishing the place. Excavation has, quite properly, come to be a consecutive program, obligating the excavators to continue work on a given site for a period of years, resulting in an exhaustive report of every fact which the place may contribute to our knowledge of the past. Unless, therefore, the Bedouin in question were ready to support an enterprise like this for a period of years, covering the complete clearance of the site, I am convinced no reputable archaelogist or institution would be willing to undertake the project.

Finally, it would be necessary that a skilled and experienced field man should have immediate charge of the excavations and be given sole control of the excavations, no matter what the native donor of the funds might wish him to do.

I hope that what I have said above may contribute something toward clearing up the adjustment of the plan for putting through the excavations in which your sister and brother-in-law are so interested. It happens that we now have at the University of Chicago a field man of wide experience in practical work on the ground, who would be just the man to put in charge of such a task. He would, however, require a salary of at least $3500 a year and traveling expenses out to Egypt and back. The salary I suggest is far less than such men now command on the average but he happens to be without a post at the moment and I think would be willing to accept such a salary.

I hope that the above suggestions may meet the situation, and it may be that you will want to forward them to Mr. and Mrs. Neilson.

Believe me, with kindest regards,

Very faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) JAMES H. BREASTED

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Believe me, with kindest regards,

Very faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) JAMES H. BREASTED

Harold H. Swift
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

May 23, 1925.

Mr. Francis Neilson,
Royal Automobile Club,
London, England.

Dear Frank:

I acknowledge your letter of May 31 from Naples and also confirm my cable of May 19 as follows:

"Breasted returns Chicago June 1st. Suggest write direct full details. Am writing London."

I am sorry to delay in answering, the reason being that I have wanted to get a little further information as to the usual conditions under which the University of Chicago has had any hand in excavations. In general I sum up my conclusions about as follows:

(1) Projects of this sort often involve serious difficulties and, of course, reports of hidden treasures are likely to be greatly exaggerated.

(2) Usually Bedouins have mercenary or financial reasons for their desires to excavate so that an educational institution would have to go slowly before lending its name to what might be regarded purely a commercial venture. Similarly, a reputable archaeologist would be slow to hook up in the project so that the man would need to be carefully investigated and his motives and proposed method of procedure ascertained.

(3) Excavation at this time has ceased to be a hasty and casual thing but if entered into usually requires that the excavators shall continue to work on the project for a period of years resulting in exhaustive reports of every fact which may contribute to knowledge and history of the past. Unless, therefore, the person were ready to show willingness and financial ability for complete clearance of the site, he probably could not get support.

(4) Probably also if an institution were to take it in hand, they would require that a reputable archaeologist be placed in complete command so that in event of later disagreements the institution's reputation and interests would be safeguarded.

Harold H. Smith
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

May 25, 1925.

Mr. Francis Neilson,
Royal Automobile Club,
London, England.

Dear Frank:

I acknowledge your letter of May 21 from Naples and also confirm my cable of May 19 as follows:

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(4) Probably also if an institution were to take it in hand, they would require that a reputable archaeologist be placed in complete command so that in event of later disagreements the institution's reputation and interests would be safeguarded.

(5) It looks to me as though some one will have to put up a good deal of money in such a project as you have in mind. Whether the Bedouin would do it without commercial advantage seems to be questionable.

All of these conditions, which I understand to be customary when an educational institution enters the field, seem to me to make the undertaking quite a real problem and one for which I personally should hesitate to accept much responsibility. I only mention these matters so that you and Helen may think through the question as to whether you really want to tackle the job.

The project is so far from anything that I know that I suggest you correspond direct with Mr. Breasted, who, as my cable indicates, will be in Chicago within a very short time. Beyond the point of bringing you together, it seems to me better for me to stay out. I am sure he would be glad to hear from you and will give any suggestions serious consideration.

We have greatly enjoyed hearing frequently from Helen and hope you will give her our love.

Yours cordially,

HAROLD H. SWIFT

HHS*GB

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Harold H. Swift
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

May 25, 1925.

Mr. James H. Breasted,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Breasted:

I attach herewith copy of letter that I wrote Mr. Neilson on Saturday. You will note that without quoting you or indicating just whence my information comes, I have put forward most of the warnings that your letter mentioned to me and have suggested that I now drop out of the picture and that he get in touch direct with you.

Frankly, I doubt whether anything ultimately comes of it and I think you should be quite careful in any writings or discussions to have it understood that the University has no funds which could go into the matter. I have regard for Mr. Neilson's integrity but find him so much of an enthusiast on any subject which appeals to his imagination that I think you should be extra careful to safeguard yourself and the University in any situation.

I presume you will hear from him within a week or ten days. This morning's paper says that you leave on June 6 for England. If that is the case and you have not heard from Mr. Neilson by that time, I suggest you let him know through the Royal Automoblie Club, London, where he could see you if he desires. I believe you would spend a pleasant evening and might secure the interest of Mr. and Mrs. Neilson in some other project. As indicated, Mrs. Neilson was previously Mrs. Edward Morris and has been a donor to the University, having given $50,000 in 1917 toward the medical project and having cooperated

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with Mr. Boynton since then in supplying the University with quite a satisfactory collection of early and present-day American literature.

I am sending to Mr. Tufts a copy of our correspondence.

Yours cordially,

HAROLD H. SWIFT

HHS*GB

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I am sending to Mr. Turtle a copy of our correspondence.

Yours cordially,

HAROLD H. SWIFT

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