

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

enc

Department of Egyptian Art

August 20, 1946.

Dear Uncle George:

Many thanks for your letter of August 15th. It is very interesting to hear that you have news from the Russian-occupied zone. Jack Cooney was here yesterday, and we all had lunch together. He hears from Ranke regularly, and it seems that Wolf is in Leipzig, but has been locked up in the local jail. Scharff has just published a book, but we don't know yet what it is all about. I remember vaguely the priest and his dissertation on the Hyksos, but could not give you the name before I have received my packing cases from Switzerland which contain all my files, notes, photographs, etc. But if you let me know some of the names of younger German Egyptologists mentioned to you, I might be able to identify them or at least tell you whether I know of them or not.

Bill Smith and I looked at the magic wand yesterday, and here are the findings: Your description of the piece is absolutely correct with the exception of the following points.

The break at the right end is not "verschmiert" but a large chip of the surface of the ivory has come off. What is underneath is extremely smooth, and gives indeed the impression of a smooth plaster surface, but this is not the case. I enclose Bill's drawing of the head of the first figure. We don't really know if it is a hippopotamus; the tail is upswept. Could it be a monkey? #6 and #7 in your description have the same attitude: they rest on a s'-sign and hold a knife. In scene #6 the ivory is cracked in such a way that it confuses the lines of the incised design, but actually the hieroglyph, fore paw and knife handle are the same as in scene #7. Bill has written you in the mean time. Do you correspond with Scharff and Anthes? I would like to write to Anthes, but don't know his home address, and I don't know if it is too risky for him if I write him to the Museum.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Benad.

