



THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

33RD & SPRUCE STREETS, PHILADELPHIA

July 24, 1946

Dr. Georg Steindorff
4420 Ponca Avenue
Toluca Lake
North Hollywood, California

Dear Uncle Georg:

It was so nice to hear from you again. You are, however, very cruel to write me in German, for inspite of trying to improve myself by reading German Fairy Tales, I still have a decided limp when trying to wade through a German letter.

Before I have the photographs of the Middle Kingdom ivory wands taken for you, I'm afraid it will be necessary to bother you with a few questions. The first is, do you want both the obverse and the reverse of a wand taken if the reverse is perfectly blank with no carving and no design whatsoever, or if it is an exact duplicate of the obverse? The second question is do you want pictures of those that terminate at one end with a human hand and are either pierced, or unpierced at the other end. Most of these we have catalogued as "Castanets", yet Petrie calls them "Hand Wands" in his Objects of Daily Use, p. 43; no. 91 and I am at a loss to know under which class they should be put.

I will, therefore, describe them briefly and give you some rough sketches so that you may check those you wish photographed and return the list to me.

I do hope you are not in a great hurry for the photographs, because I am afraid I can not promise them to you until the Fall. First of all because our photographer's camera has broken down and you know how long it takes to get new parts. Secondly, because he has been in the hospital and is behind schedule on some previous orders. Also I, unfortunately, am leaving town on August 1st for my vacation and will not be back until September 3rd.

Yes, I am happy to say I have heard directly from Dr. Ranke. I was also glad to hear from Mr. Cooney who has seen him that he was well. Dr. Ranke wrote me that he is hard at work on his second volume of Personennamen and asked me to