THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Mr. Decherd Turner, Librarian Bridwell Library of Perkins School of Theology Southern Methodist University Dallas, Texas 75222

Dear Mr. Turner:

President Tate has informed me that I should contact you concerning the possibility of some University Museum records existing in the Steindorff Papers. The problem is as follows: The Eckley B. Coxe Expedition to Nubia, under the direction of Randall Maciver and Leonard Woolley, excavated several sites in Nubia from 1907 to 1910. The results of these excavations were quite well published over the period 1909-1911, but a number of details remain obscure which probably could be clarified by reference to the field notes and records of the expedition. Unfortunately, only a handful of photographs of the Nubian expedition can now be found in our archives, although the records of all the other University Museum Egyptian expeditions are intact.

One possible explanation for the absence of our Nubian records is that prior to 1937 some of the Nubian records were lent to Georg Steindorff in order to assist him in the publication of a paper of a site which he excavated and which had previously been excavated by our Nubian expedition. We know this is so because of what Steindorff says in his publication of Aniba, the site in question. No record, however, of the lending of the field notes to Steindorff appears to exist in our archives and it is a possibility that the bulk, if not all, of our Nubian records were sent to Steindorff and not returned.

I would be very grateful if you could find out for me whether some or all of these records exist amongst the Steindorff Papers. The names of the sites excavated by the University Museum are Areika, Karanog, Aniba, and Buhen. I am sure you will appreciate, particularly in view of the fact that considerable new work has been carried out in Nubia recently, that the recovery of these records and making them once more available to scholars is of great importance.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely.

David O'Connor, Assistant Egyptian Section

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