TÜRKİYE AMERİKAN BORD NEŞRİYAT DAİRESİ
İstanbul Merkez Postahanesi 142 Numaralı Kutu - Tel. 21498

AMERICAN BOARD PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT
Central P. O. Box 142, İstanbul, Turkey

J. K. BIRGE

November 6, 1947

Dr. Riza Tevfik
Sakiz Gölü Sokagi No. 32
Kadiköyü

Dear Dr. Riza Tevfik:

I wonder if you will remember the visits that Mrs. Birge and I made to you in your home near Beirut back about 1933. You helped me at that time a great deal in my study of the Bektashis. From 1942-1945 my wife and I were in America, and during that time you returned to Turkey. My wife and I would like very much to make a call on you and your wife some time when it is convenient for you. I also have a Turkish friend from Smyrna, Süleyman Hatem Tandoğdu, a former teacher in the International College who would also like to call on you. Could we come some time next week? Would it be convenient for us to come perhaps on Wednesday afternoon? I am not sure about my own appointments yet. If we cannot get in a visit next week perhaps there will be some convenient time the following week. My wife and I also hope that you and Mrs. Tevfik can come to our home some time.

With many good wishes to you both, and many thanks for all the help you have given me in the past, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. K. Birge

J. K. Birge

JKB/BKT

TDV İSAM
Kütüphanesi Arşivi
No RTB.158.1

Birge

تورکیه آمریقان بورد هیئتی

استانبول مرکز پوسته‌خانه‌سنده ۱۴۲ نومرولی قوطو - تلفون : استانبول ۱۸۴۵

THE TURKEY MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD

OFFICE OF FRED FIELD GOODSELL, FIELD SECRETARY

BOX 142, CENTRAL POST OFFICE, STAMBOUL, CONSTANTINOPLE

TELEPHONE: STAMBOUL 1845

May 26th, 1928

Dr. Riza Tewfik
Director of Antiquities
Amman, Transjordan

Dear Friend:

Your letter of May 14th together with its enclosure of manuscript has just come to hand. I had received your short letter a few days ago acknowledging the arrival of the books and now this letter comes with what I may call the "first fruits" of your thoughtful labors. I will not take time now to go into detail in discussing any points in the translation. I only want to assure you that we are delighted to have your cooperation in this matter and to receive thus early these pages. Your notes are exceedingly valuable and in due time they will all be very carefully considered. Mr. MacCallum has just returned from an extended absence of a month or more and will I am sure be giving close attention to this matter. In the meantime accept my thanks for your prompt and careful work.

I was delighted to have you add the paragraph concerning your experiences in the desert. I am copying this and sending it to our good friends, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Hope and Miss Calder. I wish to give you their addresses:

Miss H. B. Calder - 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Dr. W. W. Alexander - 409 Palmer Building, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

Pres. John Hope - Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

I am sure that these friends will be glad to hear from you at any time you care to write.

Please give my kind regards to your wife.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Field Goodsell

Fred Field Goodsell

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Kütüphanesi Arşivi
No RTB.158.2

Jerusalem April 5 1928

Dr Riza Tewfik
Amman

Dear friend

I was greatly delighted to have your letter of March 29th in which you say that you would be glad to discuss with me the request of Mr MacCallum concerning your undertaking a revision of the Psalms and certain parts of the New Testament. I had asked whether I might call on you in Amman on Tuesday April 10th. I have found it necessary to change my plan somewhat owing to the necessity of returning to Constantinople a little earlier than I intended. I would like to call and see you on Monday afternoon

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April 9th. Two friends and myself will be motoring by way of Amman, Jerash etc to Haifa and must leave Amman early Tuesday morning. I will hope to find you at your home to talk over our question sometime after lunch on next Monday.

I might say that if as Minister of Antiquities you could should my distinguished fellow-travellers and myself about the city or its environs or museums on Monday afternoon, I would much appreciate it. We might talk about our matter briefly and then speak of it again in the evening. My two

Companions are
Dr. A. A. Alexander
Dr. John Hope
of Atlanta, Georgia, two most delightful men whom I should like to have you meet and who would be most happy to meet you and your esteemed wife.

Yours sincerely
Fred Field Goodsell

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Kütüphanesi Arşivi
No: RTB.158.3

تورکیه امریقان بورد هیئتی

استانبول مرکز پوسته‌خانه‌سنده ۱٤۲ نومرولی قوطو - تلفون : استانبول ۱۸٤٥

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BOX 142, CENTRAL POST OFFICE, STAMBOUL, CONSTANTINOPLE

TELEPHONE: STAMBOUL 1845

Talas, Anatolia,
August 3rd, 1928.

His Excellency,
Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey,
Amman, Transjordan.

Dear Friend,

Your letter of June 14th reached me here in this inland town where I am spending a few weeks with some American and Turkish friends. I want to assure you that I greatly appreciate your writing as you have. It is a real privilege to enter into your thoughts and experiences as this letter enables me to do in some degree. I know that Mr MacCallum has been very happy to have you undertake the task of revising the translation of the Psalms and I hope that the fruits of your thoughts as well as of your labors will be commensurate with the trouble to which you have gone in performing this task. I am honored to think that I have had a small part in connection with it. You will doubtless hear soon from Mr MacCallum with reference to the work which you have sent him.

You have a very interesting way of "making subjective experiences". Your violent changes in environment have doubtless promoted your powers of "adaptation". I think it very remarkable indeed that you have risen above, shall I say, the material difficulties of your environment and found the true inwardness of things. Sympathy, the entering into the life of others, is truly a royal road to truth, and it illuminates even a humble environment. I shall read again with greater interest the Song of Solomon realizing that there is in this a deeper meaning than words even can convey. After all, how futile words are when one seeks to express some great throbbing experience of the soul. I think you have come to a deeper appreciation of the truth and value of Scripture. Now you must make your discoveries real to others!

I learn with the greatest interest that you are sailing for America on the 12th of September. Your desires, I judge, have been more or less met with regard to the time you have spent in Transjordan. I am glad to know of this, a real reward after years of service and patience. I wish I could see you again, and your wife, before you go, but I fear that will not be possible. My deepest good wishes follow you both and I shall hope to hear from you again. If you go to Boston, be sure to call at 14 Beacon Street, and see my friend Dr. Enoch Bell. He will be very glad

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to see you and to talk with you about some of the deeper things in your life and experience out in this part of the world. I am enclosing a letter of introduction which you may care to present to him, should you have the opportunity.

I have not heard recently from my friends Drs. Hope and Alexander but possibly if you go to America you will have an opportunity of seeing them also.

Please extend to your esteemed wife my cordial greetings and believe me always,

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Goodall

P.S. You will find Miss Calder also at 14 Beacon St, Boston.

تورکیه امریقان بورد هیئتی

استانبول مرکز پوسته‌خانه‌سنده ۱۴۲ نومرولی قوطو - تلفون : استانبول ۱۸۴۵

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BOX 142, CENTRAL POST OFFICE, STAMBOUL, CONSTANTINOPLE

TELEPHONE: STAMBOUL 1845

c/o Y.M.C.A.
Jerusalem March 23rd 1928

Dr Rizia Tewfik Bey.
Amman, Transjordan.

Dear Friend,

You may remember me as one of your Constantinople American friends. I used to meet you at Constantinople College and you occasionally called one time and another on me in the city, either at the Bible House or at the Stamboul Y.M.C.A. I shall be here in Jerusalem until the second week in April and should like to arrange to see you either here or in Amman some time before I return to Constantinople. I shall be very glad to come to Amman to see you if you could receive me on April 10th. Or if you are to be in Jerusalem before that time I would be very happy to see you here. The enclosed letter will explain the subject concerning which I should like to talk with you. Trusting for a favorable reply.

Yours sincerely,
Fred Field Goodsell

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تورکیه امریقان بورد هیئتی

استانبول مرکز پوسته خانه سنده ۱٤۲ نومرولی قوطو - تلفون: استانبول ۱۸٤٥

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OFFICE OF F. F. GOODSELL, FIELD SECRETARY

BOX 142, CENTRAL POST OFFICE, STAMBOUL, CONSTANTINOPLE

TELEPHONE: STAMBOUL 1845

April 23rd, 1928

Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey
Director of Antiquities
Aman, Transjordan

Dear Doctor,

Just two weeks ago my friends and I were having a most delightful visit with you and your wife. We shall never forget your kindness to us during our brief visit there and, more than that, we shall never forget the delightful way in which you answered our many questions. It was a great experience especially for Dr. Alexander, Dr. Hope and Miss Calder as they had never come into intimate contact in this way with eastern friends before. I knew I was giving them a surprise. We reached Haifa on the following Wednesday evening. Miss Calder and I immediately sailed for Constantinople while Dr. Alexander and Dr. Hope took the train the following noon for Cairo. You will probably hear from them when they have an opportunity to write.

I reached Constantinople last Monday evening. Just a week has passed since I arrived and I have had time to talk over the question of your part in revising the Turkish edition of the Psalms concerning which we talked in Aman. Mr. MacCallum has received my report of my conference with you and asks me to confirm the points which I made in setting the proposition before you. These points were mainly:

a) that what we desire is a revision not a complete new translation; a revision which will be worthy in modern Turkish form of the text of the Scripture.
b) I proposed that you undertake to deliver your manuscript of the complete revision of the Psalms not later than June 15th, something over two months hence.
c) I proposed that we offer you a remuneration of seventy-five cents per page taking the pages as given in the small sized text of which I gave you two copies.

I had also suggested that possibly it would be necessary for someone to meet with you during the summer to review and "control" your revision. Mr. MacCallum suggests that we leave that question in abeyance for the present although it may seem desirable to carry it out. What we would like to propose

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in order to keep in close touch with each other is for you to send us your revision of the first ten pages as soon as you have finished them. We would like to have this first portion in hand not later than May 30th. We will go over this and on the basis of an examination of it will be able to give you any suggestions which might assist you in your work. We will be sending you within a day or so some books which you desired, mainly dictionaries and other versions.

I am writing this letter to confirm my conversation with you on the understanding that I would wait one week after returning to Constantinople to ascertain the opinion of Mr. MacCallum and his advisors as well as await any letters from you which you might care to send. I have had a delightful little note from your daughter at Constantinople College. She seems to think that you would be delighted to take up this work. I hope that nothing will prevent your carrying it forward as rapidly as is consistent with a high standard of work.

Please give my cordial greetings to your wife and accept my respectful salutations.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Field Goodsell

Fred Field Goodsell