



36, FINCHLEY ROAD,
LONDON. N.W.

December 2nd, 1912

Dear Monsieur Cartailhac,

At last I send you some of the ostrich shell discs and photographs of some of the other things which I found in some mounds in Kordofan and which I think may interest you. Also I am hoping that you may be able to give me some information. The mounds were of considerable size and there is, I think, evidence that they date back two or three thousand years. They are certainly pre-metal. Scattered every where throughout the mounds were a large number of ostrich shell beads and fragments of pottery such as that shown in photograph A, which I know from comparison with modern specimens was made ~~from~~^{by} beating out the clay on a string mat; the marks on the clay being the impression of string knots. Pottery is still made in this way in Northern Kordofan.

But besides pottery of this class there were a number of fragments like those shown in tracing B, which obviously belonged to a vessel of the shape indicated in tracing C.



I cannot find that vessels of this shape are known from Africa, either ancient or modern, nor have I been able to obtain any information that they occurred in prehistoric Europe. Their shape to my mind suggests that they were derived from a wooden proto-type something like the common wooden food bowls of the Pacific. Can you assist me with information or suggestions. I should say that with regard to Africa I have been in communication with Monsieur de Zeltner who has been exploring the Tuareg country.

Here is another puzzle, can you suggest any purpose for the objects shown about half life size in photograph D? They are made of pottery, and many show the remains of geometrical ornamentation which is commonly found on the Faragab fragments. Does it occur to you as possible that they represent the head of an ox in an extremely degenerate form?

Photograph E shows a fragment of pottery with geometrical designs.

What do you think of the bone shown in Photograph F? It was the only one I found with marks of a chopping instrument upon it. Do you consider that from the character of the marks it can be asserted that the instrument from which they were made was not of metal?



Do excuse me bothering you with all these matters, and also one other . You know, I think, that Breuil is coming over to give us four lectures at London University in February. I am secretary of the Board of Studies in Anthropology and have to see that things go well, the Registrar of the University has asked me to let him have a note of some of Breuil's doing and so on, so that he can send a note to the Times some little time before the lectures. Now I don't know anything about Breuil's history except that he was trained by you, has done a great deal of good work, and is, I believe, head of the cultural side of the new Institut de Paleontologie Humaine. I should be intensely grateful if you would send me, not later than the beginning of January, a short note about Breuil, which I could use as a basis in preparing something for our Registrar.

With regard to the pots and so on there is of course no special hurry.

I hope you will forgive me bothering you again, and with best regards in which my wife joins, you

Yours very sincerely,

Cy Seligmann