

Greek & Roman Dept.,
Royal Ontario Museum,
100 Queen's Park,
Toronto, Canada M5S 2C6

21 Nov. '74

Mr. H.N. Chittick,
British Institute in Eastern Africa,
The Mansion House, Chiromo,
POB. 47680
Nairobi.

Dear Mr. Chittick,

Your letter of 4th Nov., with its Aksum offer, came as quite a surprise to me. I am sorry to have kept you waiting for an answer, but have some encouraging news to report. I have taken up the matter with my Dept. head, ~~and~~ who is amenable to the suggestion, and it looks as if I may be able to get leave of absence for the month of March to join you at Aksum. That is, if your offer of fares paid still stands. There is a slight complication in that I have already arranged 3½-4 months away next summer, to allow me to take part in the Carthage project and other such undertakings, but we are taking up the matter with the Director and hope for a favourable reply. March is usually a rather dead time of year here, and any chance to get away from the Canadian winter at that stage is welcome.

Now, are you prepared to pay for a one-month stint only? That is the most that I can reasonably hope to ask for. I haven't investigated the fares, but imagine that even a one-month excursion ticket would be close to £500 (though possibly means could be found of reducing this - e.g. if I can get a charter flight across the Atlantic). I'm prepared to settle for maintenance only when I arrive; the ROM will probably decline to pay my salary, but I'm prepared to take the loss.

Would there be a chance of examining other collections in Ethiopia for similar material? Asmara?

Could you please enlighten me on the Ethiopian antiquities laws?

If there is any chance of getting a representative sherd-collection or the like out for the Museum this would obviously make my participation easier to arrange - though it is in no way a pre-requisite.

I hope to have some firmer news from this end within a week or so. Please note that I shall be disappearing to England from 12 Dec. to 2 Jan. My address there is: 51 Kenley Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT1 3RP (tel. 01-942-8463).

With kindest regards,

John Hayes.