

SUDAN GOVERNMENT ANTIQUITIES SERVICE

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KHARTOUM

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From:

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Directeur du Service

CA/SCR/ 2-L -19  
XR/CA/45

Khartoum, 4<sup>th</sup> August 1957

Mr Robichon,  
5 Av. Lycée-Lakanal,  
Bourg-la-Reine, France.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 1<sup>st</sup> August 1957. Excavations in the Sudan are under the rule of the Antiquities Ordinance n°2 of 1951. According to the provisions of the law, licences for excavations can be given only to Scientific Missions supported by Official Institutions such as Universities or Museums, therefore the Mission Michela Schiff Giorgini would have to be patronized either by an Italian University or a Museum. The excavations proper must be conducted by an experienced archaeologist: the previous work of Mr. Robichon is in itself a guarantee to this Service.

The figure of 20,000 £ you mention to excavate Soleb, would be, at first sight, sufficient. However, I wish to warn you that you will have to undertake, at the expenses of the Mission, a certain amount of work to strengthen and repair the existing remains.

Owing to local conditions of climate, work can be done only from October to January. It ought to be possible to get a house to let from local inhabitants, pending your arrangements you could possibly use the Government Rest-House opposite Soleb Temple.

According to the Antiquities Ordinance, at the end of excavations, objects found are divided between the Antiquities Service and the Licensee- one half for each- provided that any monument of outstanding importance for the History of the Sudan will be kept by the Antiquities Service apart from the division.

Publications of the results must appear within three years of the completion of the excavations.

Application for a Licence to excavate must be sent to me. I will then submit it to the Museums Board. Since there will be a meeting of the Board early in October, I should be grateful to you to send me your application before the end of September. In the meantime, should anybody else ask for the same site, I will consider that you have an option on Soleb.

Yours Sincerely  
Jean Vercoutter