

*August 10, 1919*

*Dear Lawrence;*

*I am writing this on the eve of our departure for Abydos, Egypt. I have instructed my solicitors to send this to you in the event they have received no contact from me for three months.*

*If this letter has come into your hands, then the worst has occurred. I am either incapacitated in some fashion, or more likely have gone to my death.*

*If you have confirmation of the former, contact members of the expedition to arrange for my transport back to Boston. It is my fondest hope that recovery will be swift, and I will be able to tell you all in person.*

*If you have received confirmation of the latter, then these pages will offer you some guidance regarding what may come next.*

*First, if you have not been contacted by my estate lawyers in Boston, you should know that I have left the house and all of my goods and finances to you. I believe that this will provide you with an ample income to pursue your studies. With wise investment, it should see you through to a comfortable life.*

*Second — please settle a sum of \$1,000.00 in cash from my estate on Miss Anne Regiman. Her address is 1483 Wyatt Street in Boston. I would prefer you attend to this personally, and convey the news of my death.*

*Third — expect some inquiries. I can not tell you when or where these may come from. But tread carefully if you are approached by strangers wishing to discuss me or my work. Tell them nothing - or as little as possible - and do not trust their intentions. No matter how pleasant they may seem to be on the surface.*

*I know that I have been secretive regarding details of this expedition. I have done so to protect you. I believed, that in this case, your greatest safety would lie in ignorance.*

*Even though the solicitors uphold the most rigorous standards of safe keeping for documents, I can not trust more detailed information to paper. I had hoped to be*

able to tell you all, when this trip was done – but I suspect now that day will not come.

I know too – as intelligent and capable as you are – you are unlikely to let matters lie. I hope that you will be provided a full accounting of what has occurred.

If you feel that the information you have received is vague, or incomplete, reach out to my expedition photographer Oliver Hascomb. He is on staff at the University of Chicago in the United States. If he proves reticent to speak, remind him that “we walk on only one path, when in truth there are many”.

I must close and put this in the hands of the solicitor firm. Our train leaves in less than an hour, and I still have much packing to finish.

Keep well my boy. Know that I regard you as a son, and that I wish you all happiness in the future.

Fond Regards - Your Uncle

Jackson F. Beecher