

**Alfred Mansoor**

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Fax ( 707 ) 571-8044. Please call before you Fax

Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur Général  
Musée National Du Louvre  
Département des Antiquités Egyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris, France

December 29, 1997

Dear Dr. Ziegler :

Re : Gift to the Louvre Museum

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I am writing on behalf of the family of the late M. A. Mansoor, antiquarian in Cairo, Egypt, in the matter of a gift presented to the Louvre Museum, to honor the memory of the late Chanoine Drioton.

The gift consisted of a pink limestone standing figurine of a princess, height 10", from the period of King Akhnaton and Queen Nefertiti. This artifact was accepted by the Louvre Museum, after the recommendation of Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt and the scientists of the C.N.R.S., viz. Dr. Pierre Bariat and Dr. Philippe Blanc, both of the Université Pierre & Marie Curie ( Sorbonne ). This statuette, as well as others from the same collection was previously authenticated by the late Chanoine Drioton, the late Dr. Sami Gabra, the late Dr. Andreina L. Becker-Colonna of the San Francisco State University, the late Msgr. Gianfranco Nalli of the Vatican Museum, the late Prof. Pierre DuBourguet, S.J. and Prof. Sergio Pernigotti of the University of Bologna. The collection was also authenticated by at least 18 scientists, some of world renown, and including the late Alfred Lucas, Dr. Harold J. Plenderleith of the British Museum and the late Dr. Zaki Iskandar of the Egyptian Museum. in Cairo.

A friend of the family was recently in your prestigious museum and did not see the artifact on display, which caused us considerable surprise and substantial concern. I am sure you will understand we are interested to know if the removal is considered a permanent move, or, if the sculpture is on a rotation schedule, what the period of rotation might be.

It would also be of the utmost interest to learn who had the authority to countermand the orders of Mr. Hubert Landais, Directeur des Musées de France, who wrote on November 18, 1981 : " I thank you very much for honoring the memory of the chanoine Drioton.....It was at our last meeting that my colleagues assembled in committee.....asked to express their gratitude for this enrichment of the national collections. To this message, I would like to add all

my personal gratitude."

We also want to assure you that, of course, we are quite ready to supply you with any relevant information you might desire, to the extent that we are able to do so. If you wish to review the scholarly and scientific reports pertaining to the collection, we invite you to visit our site < <http://www.amarna.com> >. If you prefer a hard copy, please let me know. They will be sent to you.

We are most anxious to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of  
the late M.A. Mansoor

COPY

- cc: ✓ Mme. Françoise Cachin, Directeur des Musées de France  
Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President & Directeur du Musée du Louvre  
✓ Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, Inspecteur Général Honoraire des Musées de France  
✓ Dr. Pierre Bariand, Conservateur de la Collection de Minéraux de l'Université P. et M. Curie ( Sorbonne ), Unite' Associée au C.N.R.S.  
✓ Dr. Philippe Blanc, Micropaleontologiste a l'Université P. et M. Curie ( Sorbonne ) , Unite Associée au C.N.R.S.

# Alfred Mansoor

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Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur General  
Musée National du Louvre  
Department des Antiquités Egyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris, France

February 27, 1998

Dear Dr. Ziegler :

Re: Gift to the Louvre Museum

We wrote you on December 29, 1997 concerning a gift presented to the Louvre Museum, by the family of the late M.A. and Isabel Mansoor to honor the memory of the late Chanoine Drioton. We fear that our letter or your response may have gone astray and are therefore enclosing a copy of our letter.

As mentioned in our letter, we are aware that the gift is not now on exhibit in your prestigious museum and we respectfully request that you let us know the reason of its removal from exhibit. We sincerely hope to hear from you by return mail.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of  
the late M.A. and Isabel Mansoor

COPY

cc. Mme. Françoise Cachin, Directeur des Musées de France  
Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President & Directeur du Musée du Louvre  
Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, Inspecteur General Honoraire des Musées de France.  
Dr. Pierre Bariand, Conservateur de la Collection de Minéraux de l'Université P.& M. Curie ( Sorbonne ) Unite' Associee au C.N.R.S.  
Dr. Philippe Blanc, Micropaleontologiste a l'Université' P & M. Curie ( Sorbonne ), Unite' Associee au C.N.R.S.

# ALFRED MANSOOR

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2212 Hillside Drive

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January 19, 1999

Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur Général  
Musée National Du Louvre  
Département Des Antiquités Égyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris, France

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Dear Dr. Ziegler :

Gift to the Louvre Museum  
In Memory of the Late Abbe' Etienne Drioton

I wrote you on December 29, 1997 and again on February 27, 1998 ( copies of letters attached ) regarding the fate of a gift from the Mansoor Family to the Louvre Museum , in memory of the late Abbe' Etienne Drioton. To date we have received no response, and unfortunately due to personal circumstances I was unable to pursue this matter earlier.

Briefly, the gift given to the Louvre Museum , viz. a statuette of a princess in pink limestone from the Amarna Period, ca. 1350 BC, has been removed from public view in your prestigious Museum and its fate is unknown.

We are aware that there may exist a controversy regarding this sculpture and are wondering if its removal is part of a normal rotation schedule in your Museum or is its removal considered to be permanent.

An early response to this letter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of  
the late M.A. and Isabel Mansoor

- cc. Mme. Françoise Cachin, Directeur Des Musees de France  
Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President & Directeur du Musée du Louvre  
Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, Inspecteur General Honoraire des Musees de France  
Dr. Pierre Bariand, Conservateur de la Collection de Minéraux de l'Université P. & M. Curie ( Sorbonne ) Unite' Associee au C.N.R.S.  
John M. Cochran III, Esq., Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, Paris

LOUVRE

Département  
des Antiquités  
Égyptiennes

Monsieur Alfred MANSOOR  
2212 Hillside Drive  
Santa Rosa  
California 95404 2316  
U.S.A.

Paris, le 10 FEV. 1999

CZ/bd n° 0586

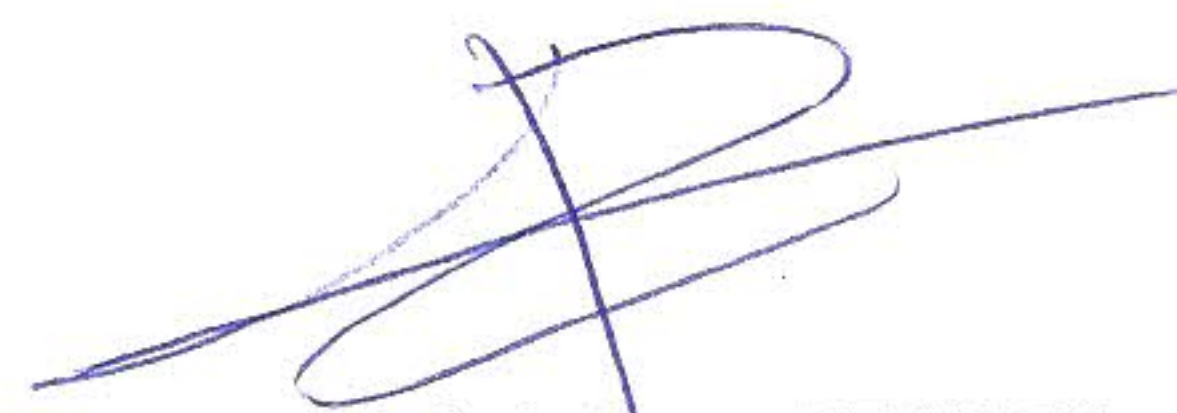
Monsieur,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 19 janvier 1999 par laquelle vous m'exprimez votre surprise de ne pas voir exposée la statue n° E27215.

Faute de place, malheureusement, nous ne pouvons exposer toute notre collection qui comprend plus de 50 000 numéros, et nous le regrettons infiniment.

En espérant que cette réponse vous conviendra,

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.



Christiane ZIEGLER  
Conservateur Général,  
Chargé du Département des Antiquités Égyptiennes

# ALFRED MANSOOR

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2212 Hillside Drive

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February 22, 1999

Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur General  
Musee National Du Louvre  
Departement des Antiquites Egyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris, France

Dear Dr. Ziegler :

Statue # E27215

Thank you for your kind reply to my letter of January 19, 1999.

We are pleased to know that this Amarna Princess is in the good care of your prestigious department, and hope that it will be on public exhibit again soon.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of  
the late M.A. and Isabel Mansoor

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cc.  Mme. Françoise Caohin, Directeur Des Musees de France  
 Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President & Directeur du Musee du Louvre  
 Dr. Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, Inspecteur General Honoraire des Musees de France  
 Dr Pierre Bariand, Conservateur de la Collection de Mineraux de l'Universite P. & M. Curie  
 John M. Cochran III, Esq., Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, Paris

For believers no amount of proof is necessary. For non believers no amount of proof is sufficient.

# ALFRED MANSOOR

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2212 Hillside Drive, Santa Rosa, California 95404 - 2316

Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur Général  
Musée National du Louvre  
Département des Antiquités Egyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris Cedex 01, France

Dear Dr. Ziegler :

March 3, 2001

Gift to the Louvre Museum  
Statue # E 27215

We corresponded briefly in 1997, 1998 and 1999 , regarding a gift from the family of the late M. A. Mansoor and Isabel Mansoor to the Louvre Museum, to honor the memory of the late Abbé Etienne Drioton.

In your kind letter of 10 February 1999, you indicated that due to the extensive nature of your collections it was not possible to exhibit your entire Egyptian collection. However, we note that this artifact, which has been in your possession for almost twenty years, has not been exhibited for over 15 years.

Doubtless, you are aware that there were accusations of forgery, which were never substantiated by fact, regarding the Mansoor Amarna Collection, and my family is anxious to know if that is the reason of the object's disappearance from your exhibit.

At this time, I would like to remind you, Dr. Ziegler, that the artifact in question was acquired by the Louvre Museum, at the recommendation of Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, who had been familiar with the Mansoor Amarna Collection for many years and was aware of its " reputation." In her 1992 work, " La Grande Nubiade ", Dr. Noblecourt describes " *Comment une oeuvre d'art entre au Louvre* " " *Il est nécessaire de le faire d'abord analyser au laboratoire des Musées nationaux, pour réunir sur lui le maximum de preuves " matérielles " de son authenticité.....* "

Other than its acceptance by the " laboratoire des Musées nationaux, " two additional and independent reports were issued by Dr. Pierre Bariand, Conservateur de la Collection de Minéraux de l'Université P. et M. Curie ( Sorbonne ) Unité Associée au C.N.R.S and Dr. Philippe Blanc, Micropalaeontologiste a l'Université P. et M. Curie ( Sorbonne ), Unité Associée an C.N.R.S. ( cf. <http://www.amarna.com> for these reports ).

We understand your reluctance to exhibit this artifact due to the "controversy" surrounding the Mansoor Amarna Collection and , therefore, if you prefer to believe the unfounded and unsubstantiated accusations of forgery and discount the opinions of

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2/2 Dr. Ziegler

Dr. Noblecourt and your own "laboratoire des Musées nationaux" and its scientists and the experts of the C.N.R.S., and are not willing to exhibit the artifact in question, on a permanent basis and as of a definite and stated date, we wish to withdraw the gift and respectfully request that the artifact be returned to the Mansoor family.

We sincerely hope that you will view this letter in the spirit in which it is intended and we will be anxiously awaiting your prompt response.

With our best regards,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of  
the late M. A. and Isabel Mansoor

cc. Mme. Françoise Cachin, Directeur des Musées de France  
Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President et Directeur du Musée du Louvre  
Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, Inspecteur Général Honoraire des Musées  
de France

COPY



**Alfred Mansoor**

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May11, 2001

Prof. Dr. Christiane Ziegler, Conservateur Général  
Musée National du Louvre  
Département des Antiquités Egyptiennes  
Palais Du Louvre  
F-75058 Paris Cedex 01, France

Dear Dr. Ziegler:

RE : Gift to the Louvre Museum  
Statue # E 27215

I wrote you on March 3, 2001 concerning a gift to the Musée Du Louvre, to honor the memory of the late Abbé Etienne Drioton. I fear that my letter or your response may have gone astray and I am therefore enclosing a copy of my letter of March 3, 2001.

If you have responded, I would appreciate your sending a copy of your correspondence, if not, your prompt response would be appreciated.

If the matter of the return of this artifact is not within your jurisdiction, I would appreciate your giving me the name, title and address of the official who is empowered to make such a decision.

I will be anxiously awaiting your response.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the Family of  
the late M.A. and IsabeMansoor

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cc. Mme. Françoise Cachin, Director Des Musées de France  
Mr. Pierre Rosenberg, President et Directeur Du Musée du Louvre  
Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt, Inspecteur Général Honoraire Des Musées de France

Enclosure : Copy of letter of March 3, 2001