

Alfred Mansoor
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Phone: 707.578.4755 Email: amansoor@sonic.net

August 6, 2009

Mr. Henri Loyrett, Président-Directeur
Musée du Louvre
Pavillon Molière
75058 Paris-Cedex 01-France

OK

Dear Mr. Loyrette :

Louvre Statuette E27215

I must confess that my several attempts to convince you to make a rational decision regarding your artifact # E 27215, have totally failed and I am sorry.

I have given you every opportunity to settle this matter in a friendly and honorable manner. Yet, all I have received from you is total silence and I do not appreciate it. It is only with the kind interference of H.E. Ambassador Pierre Vimont that I heard from you and then again total silence, regarding my letter of May 29, 2009. I appreciate that you have other business to attend to, but frankly I consider this matter to be of the utmost importance, not only for my family but also for the reputation of Dr. Etienne Drioton, Fr. Pierre DuBourguet, SJ and Dr. Christiane Desroches Noblecourt and, of course, the Louvre and the CNRS.

“émettons quelques doutes sur l'authenticité de la pièce en référence” is not a valid reason to condemn an artifact. Couldn't your staff, or yourself, have consulted with your scientists to come to a serious conclusion? Mme. Noblecourt did ! Or are they afraid of the results? When the late Etienne Drioton saw the collection at my father's gallery in Cairo, he expressed the desire to acquire it for the Egyptian Museum. But being a prudent man, he sought the advice of the late Alfred Lucas and had him examine the artifacts scientifically. Mr. Lucas confirmed the authenticity of the objects. Your staff can tell you who the late Alfred Lucas was. So, why spend millions of Euros to staff your national laboratories, if you don't consult them?

In my last letter, I asked you to respond by July 15, 2009, even by email, if more convenient. I offered you more time, if necessary, to solve this matter. I offered to send you other artifacts for your scientists to examine. You preferred to ignore my offers and listen to your staff's subjective opinion. Your département des Antiquités Egyptiennes staff may have convinced you to ignore my requests, but it will be a pyrrhic victory for them, since they would have destroyed the legacies of Chanoine Etienne Drioton and Fr. Pierre DuBourguet, SJ and the stellar reputation of Madame Christiane Desroches Noblecourt. And let's not forget the integrity of the Louvre, the laboratoires des Musées Nationaux and the CNRS. If petty politics is what drives your Egyptologists, and that is what you accept, *tant pis!* Wildung is history and they owe him no allegiance whatsoever. They never should have! I must admit you have a difficult decision to make, but this is what separates the men from the boys !

Now, I must yield to demands of other members of my family: if you wish to keep the artifact, nothing would please us more. However, it must be exhibited as stated in my previous letter, and

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soon. If that is not acceptable, then we must demand the immediate return of the artifact. Failure on your part to respond before September 1, 2009 will force me to take appropriate, if unpleasant, steps for the return of the artifact. To be honest, we consider this artifact to be in hostile hands and we must protect it.

Please review my letters carefully, since they contain facts you may have overlooked and may not be aware of.

With my regrets,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of
The Late M.A. Mansoor

cc. His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Vimont
Dr. Catherine Brechignac, CNRS
Dr. Arnold Migus, CNRS

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August 14, 2009

His Excellency Pierre Vimont
Ambassador of France in Washington
Embassy of France
4101 Reservoir Rd. NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-2170

Your Excellency :

Louvre Statuette # E 27215

As you are aware, I wrote Mr. Loyrette several letters regarding the status of the above captioned artifact. In my last letter, dated May 29, 2009, I asked him to give me an answer regarding the fate of the artifact, by July 15, 2009, or to let me know if he needed more time to decide what course of action he planned to take. Unfortunately, it seems that we have both failed to convince him of the urgency of the matter, because I have not heard from him since. Two and one half months and no answer !

Your Excellency, I frankly find it ludicrous, that the leader of one of France's greatest institutions has so little respect for his correspondents and donors. No one should be so humiliated by this seeming indifference.

Your Excellency, I am not a six year old, throwing a tantrum to obtain another piece of candy. I am a seventy eight year old man, trying to do my best to salvage an artifact which constitutes a legacy, which cannot be replaced. For almost seventy five years, my family has been privileged to be the guardian of a collection of Ancient Egyptian artifacts. And yet, it does not belong to us, nor the Louvre, nor any other entity. It belongs to mankind. It belongs to history. And this we were told by, none other than, some of your greatest scholars and scientists.

When Dr. Noblecourt suggested the gift to honor the late Etienne Drioton, we were elated to know that we were entrusting the artifact to trusted friends, but now, I frankly think the artifact is in hostile hands and we must protect it.

No viable solution will be found, if the decision rests with the current management of the Louvre and its conservators. Sure, we can demand the return of the artifact and get it, but at what cost? It would be a hollow and pyrrhic victory for our opponents, since it would destroy forever the legacies of the late Abbé Drioton and Père Dubourguet and, of course, there is the fabled Mme. Noblecourt, who cannot defend her actions at her present age- she is ninety five ! No, Your Excellency, we cannot allow this to happen to people we have known, admired and respected all our lives. As far as the reputation of the laboratoire des Musées Nationaux and the CNRS are concerned we leave that to your government to worry about.

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Since, for obvious reasons, I “ can not do business “ with Mr. Loyrette, I am asking for your further help, as follows :

- 1). Ask the Minister of Education to appoint one or more people- none with a preconceived opinion- to solve this matter. They would have to judge the artifact on its own merit and intrinsic value and, in essence, follow in the steps of the previous committee which accepted the artifact. **No member** of this committee should be currently associated with the Louvre, for obvious reasons, since “ eye experts “ will make mistakes, i.e. judge the artifact on its scientific and historic value; petty politics, should not enter the discussion, since we all know where this is going to end. Prudent individuals, - Drioton, Noblecourt, DuBourguet and others – have listened to science, to confirm their opinions. The current Louvre authorities have an additional forty years of technology at their disposal and they cannot make a decision ? That’s ridiculous.
- 2). Contact Mr. Loyrette and ask him to make the hard decision. Hard decisions are what separate the men from the boys!
- 3). Do nothing and let me know. I will do whatever is necessary to achieve our goal and protect all involved.

The prestige of the Louvre is on the line and the choice is yours. I have put my trust in you and I know you will do what is right. Again, we are prepared to supply you with any information, documents, artifacts, anything, to solve this matter. If need be, we will meet with you, your representative or anyone, anywhere- even your office or in the Louvre- to solve this matter. Once **YOU** decide to get involved, I trust that you will handle this in a businesslike manner.

You know, Your Excellency, life is tough; it is tougher when you deal with biased individuals.

In the meantime, if your travels ever bring you to the Los Angeles area, it will be our privilege and honor to show you some of Ancient Man’s greatest creations. And please, bring with you a scientist or two from the CNRS. They will be allowed to take samples from the stone.

Again, thank you for trying to help. Please rest assured that had this matter not been very important to us and all the people involved, I would have never bothered you.

With all my respect. Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of
The Late M.A. Mansoor

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September 15, 2009

His Excellency Pierre Vimont
Ambassador of France in Washington
Embassy of France
4101 Reservoir Rd. NW
Washington , D.C. 20007-2170

Your Excellency :

Louvre Statuette # E 27215

I wrote you on August 14, 2009 and I fear that my letter may have gone astray in the mail. Therefore, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of said letter.

I would appreciate knowing what you plan to do, so I can figure out my next steps in order to retrieve the artifact from the Louvre.

An early response will be greatly appreciated.

With all my respect. Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of
The Late M.A. Mansoor

Enclosure: 1

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*Ambassade de France
aux Etats-Unis*

*L' Ambassadeur
N° 1719*

Washington, September 28, 2009

Dear Mr. Mansour,

I have forwarded your letter of August the 14th to the competent authorities at the Louvre Museum.

So far I have not received any answer. I will of course let you know as soon as I get any indication on their behalf.

In the meanwhile, I am

Yours Sincerely,



Pierre Vimont

Mr. Alfred Mansoor
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Santa Rosa, CA 95404-2316

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October 7, 2009

His Excellency Pierre Vimont
Ambassador of France in Washington
Embassy of France
4101 Reservoir Rd. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20007-2170

Your Excellency :

Louvre Statuette # 27215

I sincerely appreciate your letter of September 28, 2009. I can only hope that Mr. Loyrette and others treat this matter with the consideration it deserves.

Your Excellency, I thought you might be interested in the following: the City of Nancy, birthplace of the late Abbé Etienne Drioton and the Centre Scientifique Etienne Drioton will be celebrating his 120th anniversary in November 2009. My brothers, Edgard and Michel, will be attending some of the celebrations and will offer the CSED two Amarna artifacts to honour his memory and achievements. These have already been accepted by the CSED and will be on public exhibit in an appropriate venue dedicated to the late Abbé. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend. I recently had a heart pacemaker implant and my cardiologist suggested I “ stay close to home “.

Again, thank you very much for your help in this matter. I hope to hear from you very soon.

With all my respect. Very truly yours,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of
The Late M.A. Mansoor

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October 22 , 2009

Dr. Henri Loyrett, Président Directeur
Musée du Louvre
Pavillion Moliere
75058 Paris-Cedex 01-France

Dear Dr. Loyrett :

Louvre Statuette # 27215

His Excellency Monsieur Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France in Washington, told me that he forwarded to you my letter of August 14, 2009 and to date he has not heard from you. I have not heard from you either, since my letter to you, of August 4, 2009. You will agree that since my first letter to you, dated February 10, 2009 and my other correspondence with your Ancient Egyptian Department, since July 25, 2008, (!) no progress has been made, regarding the return or the exhibit of the above captioned artifact.

In that regard, I wanted you to know that my brothers, Edgard and Michel, will be going to France and other parts of Europe, in November. They will be in Paris between November 17 and November 19, 2009, included . I would appreciate your handing them the artifact in question, when they come to see you. They will sign the appropriate return form, which you will be kind to prepare for them.

Of course, if you intend to exhibit the artifact in your Ancient Egyptian Department, you may keep it. I appreciate that you have had other pressing business to attend to, but I assure you, that the fate of this artifact is very important to us.

Thank you for understanding our position and your cooperation in this matter.

Your prompt reply, regarding the return or exhibit of the artifact, will be greatly appreciated. An email will do.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mansoor, for the family of
The Late M.A. Mansoor

cc. His Excellency Pierre Vimont

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*Ambassade de France
aux Etats-Unis*

*L' Ambassadeur
n° 2221*

Washington, November 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Mansoor,

Following your recent letters with respect to your request forwarded to the Louvre Museum, I have received confirmation from the Museum of their position concerning the authenticity of the artifact you have given to them.

According to their research, this artifact cannot be considered as an authentic piece of archaeology and there is no intention therefore, on behalf of the Louvre, to proceed with an exhibition of this artefact. As an additional information, my interlocutors in the Louvre have informed me that this gift, as decided in 1981 per Michael Mansoor, come with no obligation to expose this artifact in a permanent way in the Museum, as no written documents has been found that could conclude to such a transaction.

Accordingly, it seems to me proper for you to contact directly the Louvre Museum to discuss whatever steps you wish to take, now that this information about the Museum's position has been forwarded to you through my modest mediation. I hope that these indications may be of some help to you and wish sincerely that you can reach with the Louvre an agreement that will satisfy both parties.

In the meanwhile, I remain,

Yours Sincerely,



Pierre Vimont

Mr. Alfred Mansoor
2212 Hillside Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-2316