

Alfred Mansoor

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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

COPY

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 Nolli 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.

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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

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- 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.

