

4. Dr. A. A. Führer at Camp Kapilavastu to W. C. Peppé in Birdpore, dated 19 January 1898.

Führer congratulates Peppé on his excavation and asks him to look for an inscription. Accepts his invitation to see the excavation but cannot get away 'even for a day' because of the damage the coolies would do to his own excavation work. Hopes to come on 15 February and offers to take over Peppé's excavation.

Camp Kapilavastu, the 19th Jan. 1898

Dear Mr Peppé,

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your very kind letter of yesterday's date, and take this early opportunity of congratulating you most heartily to [sic] your great success in excavating part of Piprawa-kot. Kindly see carefully whether the stone chest or any of the other stone bowls found do not contain inscriptions, anything may give a clue for the date of that stupa.

I should be delighted to accept your kind invitation to come and see the excavation, but I cannot leave the excavations here, not even for a day, as the coolies, 200 at present on the work, would do a great deal of damage to the buildings now being unearthed, if not properly supervised.

I shall, however, be glad to come on about the 15th February, when the Nepalese Government will close the work for the season here, but if you like I shall be glad to continue the excavations from about the 10th March, and make a determined survey of the buildings unearthed and careful drawings of the relic caskets unearthed and their contents.

If you approve of it, kindly discontinue the work of excavating until I can superintend it, as the coolies might disturb the original plan of the buildings, if not properly looked after. I need hardly say that I will make no use of your private information and keep the whole matter to myself.

If you wish to send me a few lines, kindly address c/o P. O. Shohrutganj, Basti District.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

A. Führer

P.C. Kindly excuse bad handwriting, as I am suffering from writer's cramp.