

7. Letter from Dr Führer in Camp to W. C. Peppé at Birdpore, dated 24 January 1898

Acknowledges Peppé's plan of excavation, photo and copies of the inscription. Declares that the casket 'contains real relics of Lord Buddha' and is a 'great find'. Hopes to come to his excavation on 15 February when he will explore other mounds. Will be glad to see Peppé and Smith in camp but warns them it is 'a trying ride'. Asks for notice of their arrival. Unable to make out the whole inscription.

Camp, the 24th Jan. 1898.

Dear Mr. Peppé,

I am exceedingly obliged to you for so kindly sending me a plan of your excavations, a photograph of the relic caskets and the copies of the inscription on the lid of one of the bowls. From a cursory glance at it, I can safely say that your shrine contains real relics of Lord Buddha, as the reading "Bhudasa Bhagavoton" is quite clear. This is indeed a great find, and you have done a great service to ancient history by unearthing it. The place is still within the environs of Kapilavastu, at least within the country of the Shakyas.

I shall be glad to follow the plan of the buildings, when coming on the 15th inst, and if [] [] [] to explore also the other mounds in the neighbourhood and the ancient road to Kapilavastu, you mention.

I shall be glad to see you and Mr. V. Smith, if you can arrange [] []. But you will have a very trying ride, as the distance from here to Birdpur is certainly 18 or 20 miles if not more. Kindly let me know [] [] [], when you intend to come, as it is very difficult to get provisions here and I [] horribly [] anything.

As soon as I can make out the whole inscription, I shall let you know.

Yours sincerely
A. Führer