

copy of slightly
letter sent
attached sent
Feb 26/95 W.S.S.

Melbourne.

Feb. 23. 95.

My dear Thom

I have just got
back again from Charlotte Waters after
a warm & somewhat tedious time but
have got some very good things & feel in
a better position to write on certain
points than when we came back in August
last.

I have got certain valuable
forms only procurable after the rainy
season.

The contrast between the
country now & when we passed through -
especially on our return journey is something
marvellous. Along the Macumba &

Stevenson water is lying about everywhere:

The fella & foyder were both running for
a time but of course by the time that
the line at the Strangways was repaired
& I could get up things were getting
comparatively dry again. I got a

buggy at Oodnadatta & with 5 horses got
through to Charlotte Waters in four days as
the roads were either washed away or very

heavy + once or twice I thought it likely
that we should not get there at all.

My most important addition to our
animals is a marsupial - the size of
a big rat - which I fancy is a new
genus & if so a good find - also I
secured a good female *Urocyon*, a
big footed bandicoot (*Chirotopus castanotis* - the
native Tabarja which you may remember that
we were anxious to secure on the expedition
but could not as it is now getting very
rare) together with other new or rare forms.
Also I added to my knowledge of the
progs.

So far I have sent you the lists
available. I am sorry that you
feel disappointed at not getting them
earlier but I think that if you
consult such men as Dr. Günther the
head of the Zoological part of the British
Museum at S.K. he will tell you that
you could not possibly have expected

them earlier. The animal

collection had first of all to be distributed to workers at the different groups as no one man could pretend to identify those belonging to more than one or two groups at most.

They have been distributed as follows

- + Birds - A. J. North in Sydney.
- + Lizards & Snakes - Messrs Lucas & Frost in Melb. & Sydney
- + Spiders - Messrs Frost & Hoff. Melbourne.
- + Beetles - Rev. W. Blackburn. Adelaide.
- + Orthoptera - J. G. O. Tepper. Adelaide.
- Hemiptera (Beugs) - Dr. Bergroth in Finland.
- Hymenoptera (ants etc) - Mr J. W. Kirkby London.
- Also to Crustacea - W. B. Spencer.
- Amphibia - W. B. Spencer.
- + Mammalia - W. B. Spencer.
- + Mollusca - Prof Tate

Those marked with an asterisk you have had either complete or nearly complete lists of already - that is they were despatched to you at the expiration of four months from the distribution of the animals from Melbourne & anyone acquainted with the difficulty of the work will probably tell you that this is pretty rapid work.

As to full reports which include
of necessity in the case of my sections -
drawings of the animal - you will
easily understand that there cannot be
ready even yet. In my own case
I have spent all available time on the
work since we returned & know that others
have done the same. A decent drawing
of a frog say will take at least a
day's hard work or it may be longer
& a manuscript coloured will occupy
a good deal more time. This trip
up to the Charlotte Waters has of course
occupied a month of my two month's
vacation which has of course thrown me
back somewhat but in the end it will
result in making my part of the work not
a little better & has been worth the
delay which it has caused.

I am extremely sorry that you should
feel at all dissatisfied. Personally the
work of the expedition has - apart from my
University work - occupied all my thoughts
& energy & your letter has acted somewhat
as a 'damper'. You say 'if you

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will send the complete reports
 + plates home I will get the whole
 thing done here & get a good man
 to edit it.

In your absence at home we
 have of course been working under
 considerable difficulties. I need hardly
 say that I fully realize of course that
 you must see the reports & judge of their
 value before incurring any expense in
 publication but I was very much hoping
 that you would have seen them out
 here.

The difficulty in my own case
 is this. A full report such as

I hoped to draw up on the fauna
 of the Central desert region generally will
 entail or rather is entailing a great
 amount of work not only in regard to
 letterpress but also in the matter of
 drawings. Now suppose I draw

up such a report & some scientist to
 whom you show it at home suggests the
 omission of a considerable part of it or
 of a number of drawings or supposing that

39.85
You do not feel justified in going
to the expense of reproducing all the
letter then my time has simply
been thrown away. I have so much
publishing work about me this waiting to
be done that I must confess that such
a result would not be pleasant as it
would mean so much waste time.

Again I must confess to not liking
the idea of anyone editing my work
without my careful revision of proof
both of letterpress + plates. The latter
especially I very much desire to
have drawn under my own supervision:
the work can be done quite as well
+ I think quite as cheaply (except in
both respects with regard to the reproduction
of photogravures) out here as at home.

If you finally decide to publish
at home could you allow me (1) to
correct proofs of letterpress out here before
they finally go to press + (2) to have
the plates of animals drawn out here
under my supervision. I will of

course send reports to you as
soon as possible. With the plates
I will send an estimate of the
cost of drawing on stone & printing
off copies out here so that you can
decide in respect of them what you
think it best to do.

I trust that you will excuse
my writing frankly what I feel but
your decision to have the book edited
at home with the result of reports
of which we shall be individually
responsible being more or less mangled
without our having a say in the
matter is at first sight rather an
disheartening.

In the matter of
expense the decision to which you come
would of course guide us in the
amount we publish but if you do
not see your way to publishing the
zoological reports with drawings in full
as sent to you I should like after
knowing to what expense you think it
right to go to determine what shall &
what shall not be published.

I would also like to make a suggestion

with regard to the book & that is that
it be issued as is frequently done in
parts, with paper covers - each part
dealing with one or more sections, &
having its own price. There are for
example many science workers who
would like to have the geological
part without having to purchase the
zoological & so forth. Each part could
be separately paged, ^{& indexed} which would
save a considerable amount of time in
publication as the different parts of the
work could be going on simultaneously.
A very convenient size so far as plates is
concerned is that of the Proceedings of
the Zoological Society (London)

In Adelaide I endeavoured to see Stirling
& Tate on my return but they were both
out of town. I don't understand

Watts not writing to you for I know
that he has been very hard at work on
the physiography & mineralogy since
returning.

Winecke has pretty well done his work:

his map looks splendid, & he has also
drawn a very interesting diagram illustrating

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the temperature, barometric readings & direction of the wind daily during the expedition which will be of meteorological value.

As you say that you have heard little of the Exped. I am writing you out a rough general account illustrating it so far as I am able by the photographs though as I have few geological notes it will be deficient in this respect.

I trust that the negatives have reached you safely before this & are giving decent prints. They were packed as carefully as possible but I rather feared to trust them to the packing about which they are pretty sure to get on the way home & shall be glad to hear that they are not crushed about or seriously damaged.

At the Charlotte this time I took a few photos but not many. It was too hot & windy to do much usually & at other times the flies & mosquitos were too tormenting or the sand too thick to see. Byrnes did his very best for me & helped me in every possible

way since we returned in August
Coute & Filles have gone on working & sent
me good things down.

I send you by this mail a brief account of
the two new manuscripts which, so as to secure
priority, I published in our Royal Society &
also a brief account of the new lizard published
for the same reason.

As I told you
previously so many things are now being sent
down that if we do not publish just enough
to secure priority, we shall find ourselves foretalled
when the book comes to be printed.

Also I have written twice to "Nature" once
about the manuscripts & once about the so-called
'barking spider' as there have been some
remarks made about this in the press.

I am glad to hear that you have
seen Balfour at the Pitt Rivers Museum. He
is a first rate man in his work & I trust
that a good series of specimens will go home to
Oxford as it is the one ethnological collection
which is arranged so as to give a real idea of
what the subject may teach. Along with
my notes of the exped. I send you short
accounts of black ceremonies culled from Filles

of whom I saw much during my stay⁹
at the Alice. The notes collected by him
after carefully working for some years will
be of the greatest value. Some of his photos
also are most interesting & I trust that you
will get them reproduced. About all
my 'blacks' which were in a box by themselves
got smashed but filled. Can get photos of
~~some~~ natives which we could not in going through
the country rapidly as we had to.

I can only say in conclusion that I am
very sorry indeed that you should feel as
you evidently do about the expedition. The
working up of the material takes a longer time
than you evidently expected it to do but I
am quite sure that anyone connected with
it is doing his best to make the final
result so far as the publication is concerned
as successful as possible when all is
complete. I am certain that you will
feel well repaid from a scientific point
of view.

Thank you for the copy of "The Colonies &
India". I was very sorry to see in the
paper the other day that you had
permanently settled in England.

I have sent round your message

to the members of the expedition.

Yours sincerely

W. Baldwin

With regard to having the plates done at home:

would you mind letting me know your decision as soon as possible. I am anxious to know

because if you decide that the ~~original~~ plates dealing with animals are not to be lithographed out here it will make a great deal of difference to me. I have colour notes & rough sketches

of such animals as the lizards which together with the actual specimens will be sufficient to guide a good artist such as we have here working under my immediate supervision. If the

plates are to go home then I must make very careful detailed drawings which will entail a much greater amount of work. I send you

a few copies of papers which this lithographer has illustrated for me out here & it will be a considerable relief to me if you can see your way to allow him to do the work ~~at home~~

at home. I have been going over my new lot of lizards this afternoon. There are at all events

3 or 4 which we did not secure on the expedition + a quite new one which will bring our record up to some 40 species + 6 new ones - the best collection yet brought down though the older exped. went over the same kind of country before us + did better in lizards than in any other animals. W.B.S.