



Royal College of Science,

Dublin.

Oct. 23 1900

My dear Spencer -

I was very pleased to hear from you this morning. It is very good of you & Gillen to devote so much of your time to studying the natives, though they are well worth it & I for one, most certainly believe that you are doing the very best Biological work that can at the present time be done in Australia.

Give my kind regards to your wife
I tell her - how I know her for
letting you go - My wife & I
know full well it wrenched this
must be to her - and to you; but
it is, after all, much worse
for the waister than for the worker.

I am in hearty work &
publish her for a popular account
of the repetition; but the publishing
trade is thoroughly upset owing
to the wars & the elections -
I hope, however, it will be

not early next year -

My colleagues & I are at
work on the memoir - but it will
be some time yet before it is
published - It will come out in
parts & will be published by the
University of Cambridge.

I wish we were more forward, so
that we might possibly have been of some
use to you.

May I make a few suggestions -
I hardly like to say your work is
simply magnificent & far ^{stronger} ~~superior~~ ^{puzzles}
valuable to every thing ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~trick~~ ^{trick}

We got very interested in 'Cable's article'
There may be something in it

of comparative as well of intrinsic
Literature. I have a suspicion
it is sometimes - or has been magical -
& it may have been a mnemonic.

The difficulty of drawing all the stages
is very great & also unsatisfactory
so we devised a method of describing
the processes - so that anyone can make
them. It is always necessary to learn
them first - you can't write it down
for seeing a native do it - at least
we could not. When one ^(A) has learnt
a fig. he must do it very slowly &
dictate to the other ^(B) & when a dictation
is finished. A. should read it out to
B who has not learnt it previously
& if B. can do it for dictation only
it will probably do - even then it
is as well to go over it again to preclude

2

Oct 23/1900



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sources of error - as a description
 may stand for ~~no~~ more than one way
 of doing it - unless it is very carefully
 worded. The systems we elaborated
 consisted simply of speaking of radial
 & ulnar strips is a loop over & thumb
 consist of a radial and an ulnar
 thumb strip - or synthetically a
 thumb loop - But I will send
 you a sample of two shortly
 perhaps you will be able to improve
 on our nomenclature - At present
 we have only our rough field notes
 I have not re-written them - we
 may possibly slightly alter the
 descriptions.

I have not yet looked to me as I
with a project whether you recalled
constellation myths - There may
prove important & it is very
desirable to map the constellations
This can only be done by learning
the first & by taking star
maps with you - a celestial
sphere - If you is impossible
a 2 part report to sketch
the constellations so as to be
recognisable to some -

A star myth may allow the
recognising the same constellations
would go along way in an
argument for racial & cultural

2
affinities - for some are not
very obvious -

I think you would find Rivers'
genealogical method of great value -
I can get more numerous & more reliable
information by that method than by any
other known to me - because one
is always dealing with accented people
It was published in the Report of
the Assoc. of the Brit. Assoc.
(1899 M.C.F.) - I will get the
text in hand a copy for one or
two of the cards to send as a
sample -

I will ask Rivers to write
to you re color vision & my spirit-
psychology that he thinks you could do

You really must take a
kinematograph - a biograph - or
whatever they call it in your part of
the world - It is an indispensable
piece of anthropological apparatus.
Get an ordinary commercial one
If you order for London - I think I
would place myself in the hands of
the Warwick Trading Coy. 4 Warwick
Court. High Holborn W.C.

I have asked them to send you a
catalogue & to write to you as well
I have stated what you want it for
I have no doubt that your films
will pay for the whole apparatus
if you care to ~~sell~~^{let} some of them
be copied by the trade.

I had my films packed in
tin boxes with a deep flange & a
false bottom, below the latter

Oct 23/1900



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I placed calcium chloride
 to counteract the humidity of
 the damp atmosphere of the
 etc. - but you did not have
 this difficulty I suppose.
 How the rim of the deep flange
 I placed india rubber stripping
 to keep the joint airtight
 & to have a trouble of unrolling
 but I think I would in future
 have ^{each} all flanges done up in 2 1/2
 this way but in case that it be

at with a knife a serious
of the same way; but you
need not, I suppose take the
precaution either.

I hope you will take
a Phonograph - one ~~of~~
Cylinders seem badly attacked
by a fungus - or something
I that sort a we did not
know how to prevent it.
The new phonograph that
takes a cylinder of 8" &
diam. is the best, as it

3
gives an open - or wider speed
~~pointing~~ - which results in a louder
& less tiring record & one in
which the tone is very much better
than in a small ordinary cylinder
I persuaded those to take
one out of Barnes with me

this year & by Colleague
Wilkin has bought one
but it is a bit can become
as the turn pot is so large
& it is very expensive. I
think I shall one will have
to do for you - but you
should by all means take one

You will have a difficulty in
getting your natives to see bodily
beauty -

If I think of my big dog
I will write to you from time
to time -

Yours very faithfully,

A. C. Haddon

Of course I need not press
on you a study of decorative
art - cicatrice markings -
& so forth -