



R. ISTITUTO DI STUDI SUPERIORI  
IN FIRENZE

DIREZIONE DEL MUSEO ZOOLOGICO  
DEI VERTEBRATI

Firenze, 19 Via Romana

li 27<sup>th</sup> March 1903.

Dear Colleague,

It is indeed late to answer your most welcome letter dated Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1902, but I awaited to inform you of the safe arrival of the specimens you had so kindly forwarded to me, and they have been some time on the way. The two cases reached me yesterday in perfect condition, and I can hardly find words sufficient to express how pleased I am with their contents and how grateful I am to you for giving me such a splendid selection and such a fine representative series of the most characteristic objects of the Central Australian tribes, not a few of which were new to me, except for the figures and descriptions I had seen in your valuable book. Pray accept my heartfelt thanks, and if in any way I can do for you what you have been so good as to do for me, it will be a very great pleasure to me I assure you.

Yesterday in unpacking and sorting the contents of those two cases I passed several joyful hours; as I have said all was in prime condition, the only item missing are the "Three nose-bones of the Binbinga Tribe" N. 20. I fancy that they must have been accidentally left out when the two cases were packed in Melbourne,



for they were certainly not in either of the cases<sup>30</sup>  
when they reached me, for I unpacked the specimens  
myself and carefully examined the packing materials.  
Should they be found I should be much obliged if  
you could send them to me by sample post as they  
are of special interest. - Of course the Stone-  
implements and weapons had the greatest interest for  
me, and I am delighted with those you kindly  
selected; the two knives of quartzite and the  
double bladed chisel or adze are splendid speci-  
mens indeed. That bone dangle (human tibia?)  
is also highly interesting, I have a similar one  
from Peru! The stone and wooden Churingas  
were again quite new to me as also the singular  
"beaked" boomerang. I suppose that you did not  
meet with the stone axe and the stone sick  
or "battle-axe" (Kulungu) in actual use, for  
you say in your work <sup>that</sup> they were nearly  
obsolete when you first <sup>visited</sup> the Central tribes. I  
have a fine series of hafted axes, but I should  
greatly value a Kulungu, should you ever have  
a specimen to spare.

I can easily understand how soon you must  
have been since your return and hope that we  
shall now soon have the intellectual treat of  
being able to read and consult your new work  
which to all Ethnologists will be of intense interest.  
Will you publish it in England through Macmillan,  
as you did the first?  
I see from the papers he issues, that our friends

Dr Roth is not losing his time in the N.E. corner of your great Land; thanks  
to him and to you and Mr. Gillen, the strange folklore of some of the yet  
unsophisticated Natives of Australia will be saved for Science and this  
from what I hear, in the nick of time! It is a pity indeed that the Western  
and N.W. tribes have found no similar investigators, for from what I know  
they were in many things peculiar.

The day on which I can welcome you to Florence will indeed be a very  
happy day for me; meanwhile please use me freely if I can in any way be  
of service to you here and don't forget that you have a sincere friend  
and admirer in this ancient city. With cordial best wishes and renewed  
thanks, I remain, dear Colleague,

Truly yours  
Henry H. Giglioli

Professor W. Baldwin Spencer

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