

29, THURLOE PLACE,
SOUTH KENSINGTON.

April 24th
1917.

My dear Spencer -

I was beginning to
think that the box of
stone implements might
have been seized by
German submarines -

But they arrived
yesterday. Very many
thanks. They are very
interesting - especially
in the fact of the existence
of such very rough

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Shapes as some exhibit -

alongside of others which
were carefully worked
& some even polished.

Such assemblages of
stone implements made
today by one group
of people - make it
very difficult to understand
the dominance - if not
the exclusive presence -
of special forms in
successive deposits
of our prehistoric periods.
No doubt there is a
tendency here - to overlook
simple & non-typical
pieces of worked flint. But

4
definitely half-way between notched and
longue-shaped Paleolithics - they occur (very rare)
in Chellean flint. They are a great puzzle -
because one can't see why the makers should
have made tools which were neither notched
nor pointed - but intermediate. One
would have thought that they would have
made either the one or the other. The transition
forms seem to be of no special advantage.

It is difficult to think about scientific work
now - & difficult to get paper, printers &
illustration - We are all full of hope now that
America is in - & the Russians have ducked

the succession of 1. rostro-
 -carinales - 2. leaf-shaped
 or tongue- or almond-shaped
 pebble-like - 3. Mousterian
 flakes, whether scrapers
 or lance heads - seems
 to be a fact. It is true
 that rostro-carinales are
 occasionally found of
 later age than the pre-Cry
 & middle glacial. &
 that roughish scrapers
 occur all through the
 Stone-age - but there is
 a very marked succession
 of forms - The most
 interesting fact of late
 established ^{by Traill} is the discovery
 of large flints (seven inches
 or so long) which are

(Even much
 later)

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SOUTH KENSINGTON.

than treacherous Romanoffs -
- and our advance on the
west front is perfectly
splendid - But we are
threatened by great shortage
of normal food: we can't
deal with the submarines:
(I have been assured of that
by American admirals
& navy men) - We can
only hope to wear them
down & out - Some people
say Germany will crack
up before the autumn:
others say we shall be
still fighting for two years!
Meanwhile we old ones

are getting older & older
& anxious as to whether
we shall endure through
to as to see the day of
final victory & peace
I confess I feel tired
& worried - I want to
write - a lot - about one
thing & another - and
yet can't stick to any
such work - I get head
'ache & nerve-work if
I do - It is partly
'Sanity' & partly 'war
worry' - I got out a
very good number of the
Q. J. M. S. in a month
ago - all about the dear
old subjects - marine

is by the inductive method & the hypotheses
of Darwin - the theory of historical succession
and of the facts of heredity, correlation &c.

Please write to me whenever you can
find time. Have you any more about your
beautiful naked fellows? any more
photograph records? With sincere thanks
for the specimens & every best wish -
Yours sincerely

E. Ray Lankester -

animals & embryology be -
- but it all seems so remote
- an incredible fairy-land
which is abolished by the
unful realities of the war.

A very interesting book
for insight to see is O'Leary
Thompson's 'Form and Form'
(Cambridge University Press)
- very learned, historical, philoso-
-phical & mathematical. But
although almost fascinating -
it really amounts to nothing -
Mathematical expression
of the facts of form & structure
does not help - nor can
it until we know a vast
deal more of the extrinsic
forces which act on organic
form & so to speak model it.
Our only line of progress

SOUTH KENSINGTON S.D.

8. 45 'M

24 APR 17

Quinlan

~~South Kensington~~



24 APR 17

Professor Sir Baldwin Spencer M.S.

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70	200
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The University

Melbourne,

Victoria

Australia

