

P.S. -
What is the small
abundant fishy rat
resembling *Canthopis*?
and is it small? *Canthopis*?
The ordinary *Canthopis*?

Charlottesville

25 May 1958

Dear Professor

While sympathizing with your disappointment over the embryos, I am glad that the mole proved of some value, and gave you the opportunity so dear to all Scientists - of rolling over a brother in the Graft! Did you discover any traces of the embryos in the interior of the heart or had they already been born? When your paper on the reproductive organs is ready I should very much like to see it, as I am curious about this uncanny beast which smuggles its young into the world in such a mysterious manner.

The microscope work you describe must be very interesting and if I knew a little about the subject I think I would like it. No it is rather poor but more sure than minute and accurate research.

If any the specimen of *P. byrnie* must have come from Tom Stony as he is the only man I know who donates anything to the bottle and old junk emporium which does duty as a museum at the Malodorous Port. In all probability the specimen was sent him from Lond.

The animal that I think is *P. leucura* has as far as I could
capture, but as the old man still maintain that there
is a bear with a white tail, having a brownish tip, and
resembling *P. lagotis* it may yet turn up. The boys
also describe a yellow bear, smaller than *P. cristatus*,
with large head, medium ears, feet resembling those of *P. cristatus*,
and a short unincised tail. A Jim came on a few days
ago who saw several of them about twenty feet miles
North East of here, so I started a party off at once
to search, and they will probably be back before the week
is over. In any case the ultimate capture of this
bear is a certainty as the Jim are confident they
can get it.

Your letter should bring Horn to his senses, and if
he doesn't profusely accept your offer he is an idiot.
Brown's report on the H. T. will have public interest in the
zoological world, and their Swedish collectors are
coming down the line and no doubt sending home
specimens and reports. So, if William Sturtevant doesn't
make up his mind soon, he will be to some extent
foresighted, and may have to be content with the
common L. N. G.

Festor should describe Tater's condition exactly. He
is a regular old war horse, and, as you say, the doubt
is worth returning to -

I'll be off the Alice on the 19th, but as it has

7
been raining ever since he will have a very rough
and unpleasant trip and I do not expect him
here under a fortnight. When he arrives I will have
a chat with him about his Anthropological work,
and urge your recommendation. Still, it will be rough
on the unfortunate few real readers of the Book if he
has nothing of a lighter vein to address. Pages *Stenon*
with *Ceramodactylus damicus*, *Tiligna occipitalis* and
other flowers of the Philologist's playful fancy.

Joe Smoky, Magary and a gentleman right now
have been spreading themselves on the Native Question. The
latter thinks their rock pictures represent some stupendous
mystery and hopes the symbols may some day be deciphered.
Now, the world is badly in want of a new religion. Theosophy
is about played out, and want of cash will soon compel
Booth to retire. So I think if one were to decipher these
rock pictures and start a religion compounded of a
mixture of Theosophy and Doctheim with a few Native
high Priests, of the Malatua description, living in the woods
of the Paulinson Range, to form a background, there
might be money in it. A conjurer would be required, but
if a third rate female trickster can deceive an Abraham
Judge one should be able to educate a trigger to sell the
ordinary Public in a very short space of time. The programme
might be varied by having mass prayer meetings enlivened
with occasional jigs and Plantation breakdowns by
the

the fact. I think there is the germ of success in the idea
and I'll consult Coues when we meet.

I am sending you by this mail a female of *Antechinus*
which appears to have six teats, and a *Somatosorex* with
a long fattened tail which does not agree with any of the
described species. I am also sending four moles, two
of which are for French. The lizard family must have
had a free fight as their tails have undergone considerable
repairs. These and the two single specimens are the
only small lizards I have been able to get - *Sceloporus*
isn't around but I think I have secured *Apus Australis*

There will be a big field day here when Gillen
arrives and I intend adopting extreme Tory views
for the occasion. The result is doubtful, as it is
difficult to corner a man who trots out *Stall* of the
line strategy, and *Finnichta Big Headback* on the slightest
provocation. Possibly we may unite and devote our
combined energies to the characters of our friends!

The rain is still pouring steadily, and I can't see the
paddock thro' the window as yet - When it clears
up I should be able to bag a few moles as their tracks
are very thick in the vicinity of our well.

With kind regards

Yours ever sincerely

Professor W. D. Spencer

J. M. Lynd