

Cooktown. 6.

2 March 1899.

My dear Spencer.

Thanks most sincerely for your book, which has just arrived. Of course, so far, I only have had time just to glance over it, and I beg to congratulate you most sincerely and heartily.

How I do envy you having seen those wonderful Totem etc ceremonies. I only wish we had something comparable with them up here.

Last November and December I was working all up at the back of Princess Charlotte Bay, and was present at the

first and fifth, of the
six initiation ceremonies
which take place in that
particular tribe (the Koko-wara).

I also went in very carefully
for their social organization,
and found the 4 primary
groups (with similar rules)
as we meet with so com-
monly elsewhere. This fact
was of no little interest,
considering that it is the
first tribe north of Cooktown
(among the coastal tribes.)

Where these exogamous groupings
prevail under definite terms. I
believe however that Koko-wara have come from the west
in the initiation ceremony.

(The higher of the two which I
witnessed) masks were brought
into requisition, - there I per-

manently recorded with the
camera, - pointing of course
to a New Guinea ste element.

I am off now to
Cape Bedford to get taught
the local grammar which
the missionaries have been
writing down for me. I shall
then make a surprise visit
among the pearling fleet,
fishing somewhere in the
vicinity, - I believe they
have some native women on
board, which is contrary to my
regulations. I will not allow

any women (aboriginal) on these
vessels. I expect to be back here by end of
the month.

Well good bye for the present,
and thanking you again most
sincerely

Believe me
Always truly yours
W.E. Roth