

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Dec 3. 1900

Dear Prof. Spencer

Dr Haddon has asked me to write  
you in connection with your proposed expedition  
which I am very glad you are able to undertake.  
Haddon tells me that he has already mentioned to  
some biological netted Iles in Torres Strait. I hope  
that the paper will be published shortly when I will  
send you a copy; it mentions Iles as a proof  
of <sup>a specimen</sup> ~~the~~ genealogy. In Murray Isles & Melanesia Iles  
are to collect specimens including practically everyone  
on the islands & find it a very useful method of  
collecting ~~information~~ statistics about social customs &  
also about such matters as average number of children,  
etc. ~~It is~~ I am afraid, however, that it is  
less suitable for Australia, ~~which~~ ~~is~~ for small isolated

communities like those of Torres Straits. It was also  
especially useful there in that many of the customs were  
more or less things of the past & would be difficult  
to prove satisfactorily in any other way.

I am also very much interested in the senses  
& especially in vision. I am sending you a small  
parcel, containing cards for testing ~~an~~ acuteness  
of vision & sets of patterns for collecting  
colour vocabularies.

The former I have found by far the most satisfactory  
method of testing acuteness of vision & have used it  
for a few Australianis. The problem is to find  
the greatest distance at which the position of the  
E can be recognized (I adopt 8 lines as 10 as a standard)  
The subject can show the position of the E by holding up the

E provides a table or better still by using the large  
E. It is also sent ~~attached~~ as part of a bar  
board with a mark like to show the position to the  
investigator.

In writing this, I should be very glad if you would  
let me know if Dr. Eglmann (mentioned in your work on  
p. 24 of your book has published his work). I am  
very interested to know what method he used.

The set this I am sending is a collection of  
stones papers which are the same as those which  
I used for collecting the ~~stones~~ stones name is  
Tom's ~~stones~~ & elsewhere. I always collected the names  
independently from a number of different stone natives  
& then compared the results & inquired into discrepancies.  
In the *Austrian* *metals* I have collected, there were a  
very limited number of names which were used with any  
degree of unanimity & consistency, although no others  
were used by some individuals. I am also greatly interested

like derivation of some words I was able to trace the  
source of nearly every new word in Tom Stans.

I am still now interested in other languages & should be  
very glad if you would look to me for hints into Holopon's  
words which you would be doubt set in Malabar. The  
words are also extremely useful for whom names as  
they give on a large variety of shades & tints.

I am very sorry that my work on this subject is not  
yet published as it is impossible to say all that

I should like to say in space of a letter, but if  
you would <sup>not</sup> ~~do~~ any of the derivations, they would  
be extremely valuable. Examination of these words is  
not so difficult. The best instance for this kind of  
~~Malabar words~~  
being in Politzer's Wörterbuch. In any of the lists, it  
is not well to get all the European you can get <sup>under</sup> the  
exact to some conditions (ie of illumination, cleanness of  
atmosphere, etc.).

Hope that you will have every success - be it that  
all work forward to you being your thanks very

Yours sincerely  
L. M. R. Rivers.