

44  
Ellamurte

14<sup>th</sup> Apr 1901.

11 P.M.

My dear Professor.

I rode through from Kenbury the night before last so as to get a day to answer my mail in, & on arrival, I found three ancient waiting for me with about a score of good genuine Churina of the Gam & Emu Totems. "Gam" are always liberally scored & marked. ~~naturally I scored~~ some, but devoted all yesterday morning to trying to get the history relating to the ticks - you may recollect our conversation at C.W. on Blackfellows in Alcheringa times apparently existing without any totem proper at the same time as those interchangeable people & G's prook-prooking the idea, and as these churina now in hand, bear on the subject, I want you to enquire carefully as you go along & see what you can make of it. The Pontiff may drop on something & then will declare he was aware of it all along which is relaxing. I think his idea was that the blacks did not care to tell the totem but that is not so as they would not hes-

- itate to tell me if they knew for one moment, my theory is that perhaps these were exceptionally talented people or were superior to the ordinary double carcass people but their full performances have been lost in the distant ages. Wherever it is Blackfellow only, he seems to have been very powerful & if he had a totem it would not have been forgotten but retained for in their memories for the glorification of that section don't you think. Also the re-incarnation of the Blackfellow is associated with a totem which he probably obtained through his mother. Also do not forget to enquire re the change of sex in re-incarnation & if you have time, let me know how they account for it. This is all in case I do not happen to see you near Alice Sp<sup>o</sup> & talk things over quietly when you are both more sober than at Ch. Kindest regards & best wishes to you both, as well as to Chavee. & hoping the eggs were fresh when they reached you.

Yours sincerely  
Rossa

Be careful & do not spoil my market "Verb. Sap"  
Many more Churinga promised me when I am ready.

Wooden - from 15 inches to 3 or 4 ft.

Erliä. Emu.

g.	1.	Choorra-tarka	Male	Panunga
g.	2.	Indoor-innida	Female	Panunga
g.	3.	Käyer-yinjida	Female	Panunga } Sisters
g.	4.	Joor-pa	Male	Bulharra.
g.	5.	Kurn-koonida	Female	Panunga.
g.	6.	Mye-ong-onyä	Male	Apungata R. 6
g.	7.	Carpulla	Male	Apungata R. 6
g.	8.	Lay-tcher-inya	Male	Panunga
g.	9.	Erre-lannana	Male	Panunga.
g.	10.	Lerree-irida	Male	<del>Panunga</del> Apungata R. 6
g.	11.	Ooltarrida	Male	Apungata R. 6

Emu totem from "Imurtoolitcha" near the Hugh Harb. In the Alcheringa, these + many others started from Coraberra between Temple Bar + the Jay, they had many churina + had some on their heads. - they crossed the Jay Creek + got to Turbillara + stopped there + showed their Churlina + quabara to the Emu men there + then on to Indooritcha the other side of Hugh Harb + made many more Corroborees. (the above + some others went then to Imurtoolitcha). The others went on West to Quarta-toona + near here there was an old man called Mäka-coorna. A Black fellow (no totem at all - This old man heard the noise of the Emu men jabbering + stood up + looked out + saw a big dust. - the old man had a stone axe. The old man Mäka-coorna called to the Emu men by putting his hands to his mouth +

making a noise like an Emu & then he saw the big mob coming up & they all had churina on their heads. when they came close up, the old man tried to round them up & to kill them - "Mada-coorna" had no totem - he lived on "Inmoota" (the herb in Creeds after rain like Cress) his re-incarnation who was the father of "Looltche" who is mother of a lubra here was of the Paritcha Rab totem (probably Battongia) Looltcha is of the See totem). The Emu mob spread out their wings & charged at Mada-coorna who jumped onto a stone & a gumbree marks the spot. as they passed the stone Mada-coorna jumped down & killed one of the Emu men with his axe this Emu man was lagging behind. the others ran on & got into a big cave & Mada-coorna gathered many bushes & porcupine & closed the opening of the cave & lit the bushes & porcupine & waited. by & by after a bit he opened a hole in the bushes & he saw two of the Emu men dead & he looked further & saw the others running away out by "Apowara" (Belt Range) Emu centre. he left them & came back to the two smoked Emus. & cleaned off their feathers & took off their churing & cleaned out their guts & made a fire & put in the Emus & cooked them & while they were cooking he ate the guts & then he took out the Emu meat & cut it up & smashed up the bones & eat the marrow & when he was guffill he lay down & went into the ground. <sup>find</sup> the waterhole marks his spot (& various other things show that the occurrence really took place for do they not remain there as silent witnesses to this day). Informant "Olperinya" of the Emu totem assisted by Illpultar alias old man Crow & Lattchee of the Yam totem.