

Maie Springs  
John Deer 1895-

My dear Spencer

Very many thanks  
for your long & interesting  
letter & thanks again for  
the books you sent -  
Bried Malfour Bri declares  
that he is going to send  
you a big frog "a cup of  
rain" the wife was greatly  
pleased with the Henryson  
times book which we all  
consider very beautiful. I had  
a characteristic letter from  
French last mail so characteristic  
that as I read it I could  
almost hear him stutter.

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sent the wife a new Song  
of which she speaks very  
gloriously unfortunately it  
has gone astray in the  
post Apropos of songs please  
tell Mr Spence that the  
songs she recommended me  
to buy in Melbourne are  
greatly appreciated here.  
So far I have not been  
able to persuade the wife  
to try the effect of that  
green mounted blouse. Your  
parcel of tobacco was duly  
conveyed to old Poel whom  
it has utterly demoralized  
she bids me "Gaba" thank you  
longa Puff-fessa me by fellow  
look out - longa rat + all  
about lizard by bye longa

Cold weather" I hoped to  
 send you a photo of her  
 an natural by this mail  
 but when after handing her  
 your tobacco I approached  
 her on the subject with  
 exceeding delicacy, she gave  
 me a look which I shall  
 never forget & scathingly  
 remarked "You all same Euro  
 you can'ta shame! You no  
 big fellow master! You  
 peccaniny master" The emphasis  
 on the peccaniny was some  
 thing to remember for ones  
 lifetime since then she  
 turned to the subject to tell me  
 that "that one big fellow master  
 Puff fessa no yabba like it  
 that, him no potografum potografum

potografum lubra all day  
Very good longa bushie lubra  
No good longa Station lubra<sup>n</sup>  
& in a final burst of indignation  
she ~~went~~ wound up by saying  
"No good no good potografum  
lubra coed!" Since then I  
have thought it wise to treat  
her with the utmost civility  
I am sending you a parcel  
of photos by this mail including  
set of Rurdatcha pictures & also  
set of Illapavinja (lubra  
Rurdatcha) for which I have not  
sent any of these pictures  
to Stirling nor do I intend  
to for the present time I  
know how you propose utilizing  
them. This Illapavinja business

was a revelation to me. I had  
never heard anything of it  
until the day the Higgins  
with whom I was talking about  
the various causes of death,  
mentioned Illaparringa. I then  
investigated the matter. I had  
great difficulty in procuring  
the Nardancha pictures & greater  
still in getting the Illaparringa  
On the whole I think myself  
I have done a good deal of  
useful work since last mail  
I have as far as possible replied  
to your questions (for which many  
thanks) but there is much still  
to reply to & it may be a  
long time before I can reply  
fully. The Poraemgwan business  
I have started on & I have got

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Particulars of one singular  
Ceremony connected with it  
that official relation this  
ceremony has to the Customs  
I cannot yet understand but  
I hope to unravel the mystery  
later on. Am sending you  
in box one newspaper, new  
to me also some rare ligands  
If the beast is new let  
me know & I will get some  
more, unfortunately this specimen  
is not in very good condition  
I placed it in spirits without  
opening the abdomen & during  
the hot weather decomposition set  
in, the contents was something  
awful my den was scarcely  
habitable for a long time I  
attributed the peculiar odors

to my friend Mr. Alarmonja  
who spends much of his  
spare time squatting in  
the center of the floor -  
per Marsh's Camels I am  
sending a large box of  
Native implements which you  
will find a valuable addition  
to your already well collected  
The box will be sent from  
Podnadalla to Melbourne direct  
& should reach you in about  
a month from now. I shall  
be very anxious to get  
your next letter to hear  
how you got on with Stodong  
& Wuncebo. Stodong wrote me  
on the day you went  
to Mr. Laffey he says "Spencer  
comes up with me tonight to

to fix up finally about  
the illustrations to your & my  
own paper. I am going  
to insist upon having the  
thing well & amply done as  
the chief element of an  
Anthropological paper are  
the pictures. If Horn don't  
agree then I presume you  
authorize me to deal with  
your paper as I would  
with my own - that is to  
tell him he can write the  
"Anthropology himself" to  
this I have replied "If  
Horn does not do the  
work as you & Spencer wish  
I think it should be done. I  
shall certainly withdraw my  
notes & send them with additions



to the "Anthrop last in  
 London". I would <sup>like</sup> you the  
 other day suggesting that you  
 should take copies of the  
 initiatory series <sup>now</sup> I did this  
 because of the risk of their  
 being broken in transit. It  
 would be a matter of  
 very great difficulty to  
 replace them. What a splendid  
 addition the Kurdatcha &  
 Illapavinja pictures would  
 have made to the Hornum  
 volumes. I shall be glad <sup>to</sup> what  
 plates you have decided to  
 let them have for the book,  
 use your own discretion  
 entirely as to how they  
 shall be used. The ordeal  
 by fire in Kurdatcha appears

To have astonished you & I  
you ask why on earth it was  
not discovered before. I have known  
of it for a long time. I went  
into the Murdatcha business  
thoroughly some years ago but out  
of mere curiosity but did not  
make any notes at the time  
other than mental. Many  
thanks for the Horn illustrations  
they are really magnificent  
I feel quite proud of all  
Vernon's gallery, by the way  
Byrne tells me he has  
bagged two specimens at  
the Charlotte I suppose he  
will send them on to you  
Before leaving Allende I had a  
lot of lantern slides made at  
Baker & Rouses from my

my negatives & after labelling  
each plate I arranged with  
B. & R. to send them on  
to you in Melbourne by the  
mail. I have written them  
vigorously requesting an explanation  
I was anxious that you  
should be provided with decent  
characteristic scenes of Cent. Coast  
Aust. instead of that vile gibberish  
label which you exhibited when  
I attended your lecture. I wasted  
about 2 dozen plates trying  
to make slides last ~~week~~ month  
& then discovered by writing to report  
B. & R. that the particular brand of  
plate I was using was only  
suitable for making slides by  
contact. You can imagine the  
language I used in condemning that

respectable firm they have since  
 sent me to Ilford plates & I  
 hope to send you some good  
 results by next mail. My lantern  
 is a great success we had  
 an exhibition in the County  
 one night attended by an  
 enthusiastic audience of mygers  
 whose respect for my magic  
 powers have been thereby greatly  
 enhanced. This confounded  
 Anselm's camera has nearly  
 broken down & I have  
 trusted about 3 doz plates in  
 experimenting, but of all  
 every plate was badly fogged  
 when we remedied this I  
 found that every picture was  
 out of focus & then went  
 to Baker & House asking to what

But when the lens was to be reached  
out they replied "not at all  
for instantaneous work"  
more ~~factor~~ experiments, more  
failures, more language, more  
and hot wires asking for instructions,  
suggestions from B & R that I  
should test instrument by  
focusing this I did with good  
results but the Conformed camera  
requires focussing for every picture  
& I understood from them  
Adelaide that no focussing was  
necessary the lens is branded  
E+tra rapid Synchrostat Series C No 1  
is this the correct lens? So  
far I have only succeeded in  
getting one or two good pictures.  
You will see from my notes that  
I have got further particulars of

an interesting character about  
 the initiatory ceremonies. I felt  
 cocksure that I had learnt everything  
 there was to know about these  
 ceremonies but Mr Fison's question  
 "Are you quite sure you have learnt  
 everything? It is so difficult to  
 know when one gets to the bed  
 rock with these people" started  
 me making further enquiries &  
 these notes are the result. Do  
 you think they should be included  
 in the Horn article if so send  
 them on to Sterling. Or keep them  
 for future use just as you think  
 best. What do you propose doing  
 about these Kurdaicha & Illapara  
 I would like it published in <sup>the</sup> <sup>title</sup> <sup>joint</sup> <sup>names</sup> by the Anth Inst  
 with illustrations if these is

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done will you require the metal plates sent to Melbourne? If material of that sort is kept too long in hand there is a danger of someone else nipping in & in that case all our trouble goes for nothing. Will Stirling rewrite my notes & put them into decent form for publishing? that was the understanding between us when I gave them to him. I am glad you have made up your mind definitely to edit & carry them through ~~the~~ at all hazards. There is no doubt about your having done the lion's share of the work & you should receive a perfectly free hand from Heron, if it were not for your conduct

believe the public would have  
 heard any more of the Horn  
 Expedition or its work  
 don't forget to send me the  
 name of the Kwidaitcha lizard -  
 It will be a very big undertaking  
 to try to work out every division  
 of a tribe down to the family  
 but ~~we~~ will try & have already  
 begun - I think you are wrong  
 in supposing that the skin is  
 Ochmannasilla is a special  
 affair I have gone very thoroughly  
 into this matter & am convinced  
 that it in no way differs  
 from other Ochmannasilla  
 The fact of the majority of  
 the men living within the  
 same district being of the  
 Ochmannasilla only, seems to me



to point to its being an  
 ordinary rock and a piece of  
 course I shall not neglect  
 any opportunity of getting  
 further information on that  
 point & I hope to visit  
 Nottingham for that special  
 purpose shortly after time  
 amongst the failures with the  
 Auschütz Camera - to my infinite  
 disgust - says a series of pictures  
 connected with the latest  
 information about the initial  
 series and I only know where I  
 shall have another opportunity  
 I was arrived safely glad you  
 thought of sending me more spirit  
 and sending you in two separate  
 cases parcel halves Cal Ethel  
 the beast was dead + in a well



will gladden his crusty old  
heart - which I think of it  
might I suggest that you get  
your little steamer or that pimply  
boy with the melancholy visage  
(He always appeared to me to be  
mourning for the pigeon he slew)  
to arrange your anthropological  
photos in a scrap album.  
They look so much better in  
an album than they do  
get trocked about - Don't think  
me impudent for making this  
suggestion - My wife is up  
to her neck in Christmas preparations  
The Station Master from Barrow  
& Tennant's Creek will arrive  
in a day or two for the  
annual race meeting Martin  
of Tempe Downs rather visitors

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Are expected so that we shall have a homeful for Christmas we were fortunate in procuring the services of a really good woman when our former entertaining friend does not involve extra work for wife - Poor old Byron will be alone for this we hoped to have him with us but unfortunately he is at present without an assistant & cannot therefore get away. I hope to make a little fifty pound note out of the meeting unless my judgment has erred in backing certain horses. Tom does not expect to be here so the wife is building a special plum duff to send out to him.

he feels poor & is near death. I  
 very recently his present colleague  
 is a whiskey & swelling leprosy  
 named Keen whom you saw  
 here. My kindest regards to  
 Mrs. Spencer. We join in  
 kind regards to yourself &  
 little Br. Send love. Remember  
 me to any mutual friends  
 in Melbourne. May the  
 coming year be full of  
 happiness & prosperity for you  
 Yours

Yours most sincerely

A. Fisher

PS

This has been a very busy month with  
 me. I have not yet had time to read  
 Kametsoi & Kurmai & I have only just dipped

