

✓ Alice Springs
6^m May 1897

My dear Spencer

Kind words, as you can
well imagine were liberally distributed
when we discovered that all
our most important letters had
been left behind even the wife
departed from her usual amiability
and reasonableness letting down
her back hair proceeded to demand
some unaffording hairpins - what on
earth caused the postal authorities
to depart from the usual custom
I don't know for the life of me
understand - all our friends post
on Thursday consequently we got

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none of the letters be most valuable
Henry Balfour Curator of Ethnographical
Dept University Museum Oxford wrote
me a most encouraging & quite a long
letter he says my paper is extremely
valuable because it "goes so much behind
the scenes" he urges me to write
a monograph upon the McDonnell
Range before - fancy me writing a
monograph - jumping Orincha! The
photos he praises highly regrets
that they have not been able to
procure a more extensive assortment
of native aboriginals & their economies
then he deftly puts in a plea
for contribution of implements from
his region - the Anthrop Institute of
Great Britain & Ireland sent me a
most interesting ^{thick} book "Notes & Queries
on Anthropology" edited for the Institute
by J G Garson M D & C Hercules Read
FSA

on second thought I have decided
 to send the book on to you &
 you can look through it & return
 by post. You will receive a great
 budget of Achelpa lore in separate
 registered enclosure - Providence seems
 to work in our favor (Lorain he'd
 induce Adams to fund the much
 needed \$5000 for the N.M. trip)
 for just in the nick of time
 an ancient Okhorabala arrived from
 100 miles west who was conversant
 with two paths of the Achelpa.
 You will find the notes very
 rough & perhaps a lot of needless
 repetition but being so fully busy
 - why was I idle? - I had to call to
 them off as quickly as possible.
 I have also secured three new
 Ceremonial pictures one connected
 with a place called Jovara on
 the

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for neston (Column II) path of
the Achipa - Achipa loton
& one of Kaadua harrak
loton in same locality see
notes and one Ujcamba of
Utluswela which I have not
seen before - you will gather
from the notes that the two
Ujcamba women who went
to Poraminua come from a
place near Utluswela where
they sprang up - you will see
photos in separate enclosure -
I sent all the plates, I thought
you were likely to require, by
Cooke, who will book them thro
to Melbourne from Oodnadatta
If you want any others just
let me know & I'll send them
along by post. The Achipa
word is the first real Anthrop

work I have done since you left
 I enjoyed it immensely & am eager
 to receive your letter to get at
 the questions contained therein I
 was surprised to learn from your
 Adelaide wire that you had completed
 three chapters of the magnum opus
 (see dictionary!) and I am especially
 anxious to see how you have dealt with
 the great Churinga question which
 summed up in a nutshell appears
 to be this first the Alchimga or
 plant, then the Churinga, then the
 Alchimga man who in his turn
 becomes Churinga & from which for
 all eternity re-incarnations of the
 original spring up those
 alchimga men whose names have
 been handed down in connection
 with certain localities the best
 from Karlaputapa for instance the

Spring up at Suanda may be
termed the aristocracy of the
tribe while those who spring
from Churinga not specially
mentioned in the traditions may
be termed the plebeians. There
cannot be two ^{living} representatives of
the Alchonga a man. When a man
dies he is done with, he is
not reincarnated but the alchonga
from whom he springs is
reincarnated again & again. If
a woman conceives at Turpee Bar
for instance, say two alchonga men
were left there - only one of whom is
represented by a living man. The father
of the child is naturally anxious
that his child shall become a distinguished
man. The old men are approached &
they decide that the boy is the
reincarnated alchonga alchupa. The

especially remembered Alcheringa man appears
 to me to be the beginning of a division
 into a superior & inferior class, at
 all the ceremonies it is the alcheringa
 man who sprang up or sat down
 who is personated we hear very little
 of the ordinary rank of file who sprang
 from obscure Churinga - there must of
 course be obscure Churinga for this
 reason, only a limited number of men
 are especially recorded in tradition each
 of whom may have a living descendant
 other children may be conceived though
 they must have an origin, then the
 Churinga of the Alcheringa man steps
 in & such children would spring from
 those Churinga. I think you clearly
 understand that all the Alcheringa men
 who sprang up or sat down had
 Churinga & some are spoken of as
 having large quantities, each Alcheringa
 man

dropped along the lines of routes
had several Churinga all women
who had Quebrera Miasma or
Numbung had Churinga
- It is the old men alone who decide
whether a child is the reincarnation
of some special individual they
sometimes affect an air of great
mystery lasting months or even years
to decide. When going through
my Achelpa notes please understand
that the class names written in
brackets are the actual classes to
which the alcheringa men descendents
now living or to arrive would
belong. You will gather from the
Notes that Echincha disease must have
originated very early. I think special
mention should be made of this
disease Eylesman considers it new
& peculiar to these times and places

mail left I found that I had
 forgotten to enclose the German
 note on sight & hearing I will
 send it in this letter also sketches
 of head mentioned in last letter
 I am also enclosing letter & drawing
 received from Eglonson - the skin
 disease he mentions is that referred
 to by Stirling as Psoriasis by
 the way Stirling refers to the light
 or sandy colour of hair amongst
 some of these patients but he evidently
 did not study them much or he
 would have noticed that it is
 always associated with light coloured
 skin do you remember the great Engouras
 tubra? she had very light hair & skin
 - the lightness of skin is most noticeable
 on the bodies - instances of light hair
 & skin is less common here than it is
 along the Hagh & Fonde Coasts - I am

Two samples of light have brought
to me by Corle - the spent a
week here & was in splendid
form - and robes - his capture of
Beathes would be considered as
a magnificent piece of work, for
truly he tackled them with
bull-dog pertinacity, much of
the time without rest & a very
slender allowance of sleep
I am especially proud of his
success because I have always
argued that Native offenders
could be captured without resort
to firearms, under the old
system the innocent were often
shot down while the guilty were
allowed to escape. I have written
the Commr of Police & the
Minister stating my appreciation
of Corle's work & hope that

They will reward him outstandingly
 to come down to my own purely
 private affairs. I must tell you
 that the Government ~~has~~ offered
 me the position of Resident
 Specially Magistrate at St
 Augusta at a salary of £400
 per annum, to begin with - ^{Hungston}
 would we direct asking if
 I would accept the position but
 on account of our work & for
 other reasons I declined with
 thanks my wife would have liked
 me to accept so that I found
 it difficult to say no but I
 am determined that nothing
 short of desperate ill health will
 drag me away from these luggers,
 until our work is through the
 press, in my reply to ^{Hungston}
 I stated that I could not at

at present accept any position
which would necessitate my removal
this between ourselves - Kingdon
communication was confidential.

In your Adelaide's time you state
that you will have nearly the
whole of book written by next
mail if this is so you must
have boxed material down with
a vengeance or you have been
working like a steam hammer.

It will be a difficult matter to
word up the handwritings of the
Evelia there are no people of that
lotus about here at present the
Wejeljiva did not travel at all they
sprang up & sat down altogether at
Imanda - is in the Creek at the
Bad Crossing Hugh River at a spot
called Atningalvia - Imanda properly
speaking is the name of a bay

hill near the bad crossing but the
 district in the immediate vicinity
 is called Imandu the Oknamadea
 country of the Urjipura is confined
 to a strip along the bed of the
 Creek (Hugh River) called Athingalva
 the Urjipura have always been the
 leading people in the locality
 and it was the great frog Kartaputapa
 by name, who was leading the
 Ingwira ceremony when the
 Achlpa passing joined in
 Yacwil - remembers Jacks highly
 elaborate personal son of the
 great frog - Jacks father was,
 by the way, the reincarnated
 Kartaputapa minus the big
 penis - the great Jack is an
 Eulia the reincarnation of an
 Eulia who in the alchomga
 sprung up at a place called

Okina on the Hugh 7 or 8
miles north of Bad Crossing -
note the frogs lived upon
Mungereu - The Uchiperu of
whom we had heard so much at
the Ingurua (small boats) spring
up along the Northern bank
of the Hugh Eritirara (opposite
to the Ungilua) at Bad Crossing
where they occupied a strip of
country & subsisted upon Amanga
(common flies) from here they
travelled away on - approximately
an East North easterly bearing
passing a place called Intilivua
and finally sitting down altogether
at Ar-tata in Sand hill country
four or five days ride from
Bad Crossing these places were
visited by a former owner of Mr
Bunce who is no longer in the

Country not known to any other
white man - they traveled above
ground and on foot and established
Othannakillan on route.


The Elhivora (Magadomeas qegas)
sprung up on southern bank of
Kugh & opposed the Uncheepira
where they occupied a strip
of country called Talpikillika

They subsisted on Inarlinga (Schedaa)
& after the Uncheepira departed
they assumed wings & mounting
high into the sky followed the
Uncheepira to Artuta where they
remained.

I wish you would send
me a copy of the notes we got
from Jim about the opossum man
& the moon & about some old fellow
killing some men in the air by
poisoning his chewing gum. Tom has gone
the Orancha only knows where

find you not copy the notes into
my book. I would like to have
these notes because they might
lead me on to further similar
information. To give the everlastingly
anthropology a rest many months
for the apples which arrived in
splendid condition not one bad
one amongst them, the kids did
enjoy them & so did we, little
Jack sings your praises, saying
Amorta fessa, Bri counsels him &
"say Pufessa Jack not fessa" Jack
prefers his version & remarks
fessa gone Chappie - asturna chappie
they are everlastingly laughing about
Chappie every little girl in the
picture books is Chappie to whom
to read little Dorothy please
give my love to Dolly we send her
necklaces by mail it was highly

Delighted I believe she is
 making a necklace for your
 girls - Your trip should be
 well you are now - plus a
 difference in your holidays -
 I suppose she has wasted
 an awful amount of
 kindly sympathy upon you
 on account of your dreadful
 experiences amongst the
 blacks - I hope she has returned
 well & strong & that she
 left her home friends in
 good health - Our old friend
 the Okorabala approached me
 in a mysterious manner this
 evening after receiving a blue
 shirt & informed in a whisper
 that in a precautionary tone he
 was going to make blaavongeta
 in titeksama at which he smirked

me to attend but a duck arrived
I wouldn't miss it for \$50 & the
time a full description will reach
you together with photographs
Cattle troughs in several Churinga
steeds of Sugar ant Possum Rat
Kmulga and totems also one of the
Beel Bird totem on which in
addition to the usual concentric
circles there were ^{irregular} squares one within
another thus  This marking is
entirely new to me and I asked
him to let me have the steeds
so that I might make enquiries he
would not give it to me - (between
ourselves he does resent my returning
those Churinga to Ingwira Jack & then
this from his manner & from one
or two things he let fall after
the second steed!) he has taken
all the steeds down they will be

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distributed between you Swelling &
Manuella I asked him to take
the Bell Bird to you pointing out
that in Swelling's hands it would
not appear more rare than the
ordinarily marked Churinga, he
has also an interesting article
"Ichialu" used for magic purposes
by Wation Kacks who are half Lurpa
half Arunta. I got all the
information I could about it from
the prisoners & witnesses (it was
found in possession of a prisoner)
& photographed it with ^{some} other articles
used for magic purposes - you
will find information amongst my notes
& you will ^{see} ^{it in} photo referred to - these
arrangements of magic articles makes
a rather interesting photo so I have
sent on the plate with others - you
will doubtless note the difference
in

between the two Ochencha Uvina
Erukhadina (Dead man hair
medals) - the Marimanga trade
their magic knot. It is down
through the tribes. They alone possess
the secret of making this article &
imbuing it with its magic power -
the labor crew here shudder at the
sight of it - You will find your
unctious friend ^{Legs} amongst the mails
photos. He scambled into my den
last week for the first time since
the Enigma. One of the first
questions he asked was Thina
Kūhida there is the young one,
that's you! your full designation
is Ahetta Kūhida the young stomach
I conveyed several messages from
you to show him your photographs
he conveyed a message from the
Uladupera Chief to the effect that

When he had secured sufficient
 Undastha he would come in
 & perform Jabara Trinja
 There has been a proful death
 of Undastha since the Ingorewa
 Courmonis & they don't altogether
 like the Rapok Sabalata - Legs
 wanted to know what the
 old Schumpa said to you
 on your return, several of the
 men have made similar enquiries
 and in a letter troubled on
 my mind as to whether I've
 always told the same lie. I
 too am anxious to know what
 the old Schumpa said, he
 hadn't, nor had Fison, the
 good manners to acknowledge
 my paper - perhaps they were -
 like I am often am - too busy to
 be polite - The big collecting tin

Two is almost full so I have
packed it up and am sending it
on to Fogarty by mail. Wells
tells me he will cost it nearly
as cheaply as the ordinary courses
and in any case I think it
will be safer on the mail than
on Camels where it would receive
so much handling. I have added
a few Phas Escanda by since
last mail - Will ask Fogarty to
send it on by mail from &
it should reach you with the
Negatives - Will send you some
Undalka shortly, I have some but
I am keeping it in case the old
fellow with the Sun Quabara should
turn up - There must be many
hundreds of Ceremonies in the tribe,
for each Achevinga man whose name
is preserved in Tradition has a special

Ceremony I hope to get many more
within the next twelve months.

Holy Alcheringa what a collection I
could get together if Providence would
only move Pallorsall in the right
direction, happy thought I must try
another found this mail using the
name of the great Alcheringa frog
Kartaputapa - by the way I see by
papers that my friend Father
McKellop of the Daly River mission
is in Adelaide, in very delicate
health, he has been under some serious
operation in Sydney, perhaps it is
just as well that he is about
during the observant Eymanns visit
I know that he intends going to the
Mission Station - the thought of being
able to spend a month with McKellop
on the Daly makes me Turgee like
a thoroughbred at the starting post

Holden Coult something of my dream &
he suggested that I should take the
trip down country & ask the Govt to
let me spend six months with him
in the Western Country - I would not
care to do this, my ambition, as you
know, is to establish a record of the
hives right through the Continent from
the settled districts in the South
to the settlements on the Northern Coast
It's a funny world, if I had heaps
of money I suppose I would look
upon such ambition as utter fatuity
- You more than anyone else are responsible
for having developed ^{or at any rate to a great} this peculiar form of
madness - I sometimes try to explain
to my Wife how much such a trip
would mean she hates the idea of it
& comforts herself with the assurance
that I shall never have the necessary means -
Winnecoo Journal - I I I I from beginning

to end

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I must write and thank him for it. What
do you think of it? which of the two
maps will be adopted by Gool? Horn
must say something on the subject
will think that he can make no
reply to Wainwain's charges. Those who
read the journal will think that he
has acted meanly. How does
Stirling feel about the Kudungwa robbery
will add a line tomorrow. I hope
We haven't all the of stopping
of the Achilpa Col I between
Thoricrita & Achilpa isthuda & I
can see no chance of getting them
just now - good night - would
give something to be able to join you
in a week -
of the note the two Angcamba women
who journeyed from Angururungwa
to Doramuna were of Juwila class
& named Abmoara & Kuperta

no descendant of either living last
descendant of latter died two months
ago -

Note the Athongara stones carried
by Raikichara are Zircos, and
postling you some

Note the marches of Achipa
where the language was changed
the classes were split in two,

persons to changing language only
four classes existed the Athumalabwipa
did this so that the people might more
easily know their relationships -

I have just received a very
cordial wire from Sterling and
am sending him a bundle
of photos which will gladden
his heart & give him an
idea of how much he has
learned during the last three
years. I shall send him a letter

The prints must not get out of
 his own hands & that he is
 to be made of them printed
 words is published. By god how
 a greasy old dog at the
 door greasing all over his face
 & saying Unta Quabara pitchini
 You Quabara come I must again
 adjourn. A decidedly interesting
 ceremony - Achilpa of Arapara
 particulars & photos by next mail
 Note - On Nov 12th from Quabara
 Uyeamba of Urteuwilwa you have
 not filled in name of place in
 note book - Quabara Eria with
 big head decoration is of Ilkaia
 Quab (Amatunpa) Uyeamba big
 two decorated figures
 with group, is of Urteuwilwa -
 taken before your arrival - Quab
 Ing... Chindanga is of Achilpa

Notes - We have Quab Achelpa of
Arapera near 8th see notes. This Quab
represents the Inyura Community met
by Achelpa at Arapura on the
line of route, Column II, by Mordana
decorated with Churing represented
the Kowowa carried along by
Achelpa - Note Wrachizma
mentioned in Achelpa Wandung
Column II is I think the
Houghton. I have reason to believe
that there is a still more
Western Column but there is very
little hope of getting any information
about it. Community today connected
with Col II Achelpa - four decorated young
men eating Kungumba (playing about)
these are of the wandering mob - they
are expected to be out in the bush
feeding, by this they return to camp
where an old man is sitting down

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with Huntington as the performer rather
upon them - which was not the intention of
the party. Aitchison & otherwise Dolly
has sent the Keddies a message
each, she packed them up herself
& brought them to me. I suggested that
she should send a paper yasher
& she replied "me asdun long a Brian"
Wells is taking care down for 15/-
a very reasonable figure. I hope how I
must scrounge a few lines to
Stirling it has been an awful
scramble to get through this week
business of my time was taken
up over the novel Achilpa
My very remost remembrances to
your wife but her that if the
Northern trip ever comes off I
shall take the greatest care
of you - My wife is loving

