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Alice Springs
30th July 1897

My dear Spencer

I have just packed up
& registered 50 or more pp of
manuscript and am heartily glad
to get it off my mind. I
nearly basted myself to get
the Larrea notes copied out
before the mail arrived knowing
that there should be a bag
of queries en route. The line
was interrupted south & two
of my operators were away
so that I had very little
time for writing, fortunately
the interruption came on the
evening of the day upon

Which the ceremony was concluded
had it occurred one day earlier
I could not have retained the
closing scenes - When the mail
arrived with only your letter I
ramped around furiously - The
postal authorities in Adelaide in
answer to my enquiries stated
that they held two registered
packets from Melbourne addressed
to me but posted too late for
last mail - always remember that
registered packets require to be
in at least an hour before letters
if you have a monthly postal
guide you will find the exact time
stated therein - Corrie arrived at
Oodnadatta last train he is bringing
on my mail when he arrives at
the Charlot's I shall arrange either
to send & meet him at Forreshorbank

or get him to hand mail to a
 Camel Caravan which passed Cw
 yesterday coming north. I am
 anxious to have plenty of time
 to study the relationship manuscript
 & work out replies to queries -
 My trip to Ilyaba was a
 great success & although I parted
 with some of my hide I enjoyed
 it very much. I spent three
 days there with the Niggers &
 only wish to the Lord that
 I had known them that you
 wanted a sketch of an
 encampment - I could have got
 it there to perfection & may
 never have such an opportunity
 again. You will find as a
 result of the trip three interesting
 ceremonies amongst the natives but
 the drawings I expected to get

Turned out to be natural, but
somewhat fantastic, markings on
grey metamorphic granites - these
markings were, according to the
Natives, done by alcheming a man
In the matter of loot I did
not fare very well - the Yaruampa
people after taking me to
their Sibatulung a round man
hole in the face of a rock
which was in the alcheming
a Yaruampa nest; gave me
three Chewinga one of which I
am sending to you. The whole
trip covered about 200 miles
I also visited Sibatulung of
Fish Ingitshika & Arakwita
but did not get any more
Chewinga - I was scrupulously
careful not to hint that I
wanted any of those I got were

An entirely spontaneous offering -
the niggers out there were evidently
glad to see me and quite as
a matter of course showed me
their Ceremonies - amongst them
was the old broken armed man
who attended the Egunera he
was there on a visit - I have
asked the old men to come in
& am expecting them daily. While
I think of it how have you got
into that Cleve Hopkins of yours
that these people are palaeolithic &
you are entirely wrong & I made
no mistake in including that
ground as - these people most
certainly did grind their axes
but not their knives - 20 years ago
I got these axes & chisels from
the local niggers & immediately
ground. I have found at different

Periods old axe blades - one of
which I think you have mounted -
always found - further than this
the old hammers have shown ^{but} the
place in this locality where
they procured & chipped the stones
& afterwards ground them by
rubbing against hard stone - axes
are still made in the same
manner by Kutianga & Naramungo
blocks in the outside districts
where tomahawks are not procurable
The Kutianga is used for fighting
& on war expeditions - The resin
hafted stone knives are used
for fighting - I have often seen
them used here in the early
days & only last year at
Tumants Creek - they rarely use
resin hafted knives for cutting
up game that is generally done

with pieces of Quartzite or of flint
 quartz than in the M^l Hay
 locality. I visited a hill composed
 almost entirely of this latter
 rock and at one spot there
 is unmistakable evidence that
 for many hundreds of years
 this spot has been the source
 from which this class of flints
 has been drawn - the Niggers who
 took me there said that the
 flints were traded all over
 the country North South East &
 West - It is the custom for men
 to carry a piece of flint in
 the hair for cutting up game -
 The Lord surely takes an interest
 in our work, my religious would
 probably lead you to believe that
 I had been to Salisbury to attend
 Court what I wished to convey

has that I had witnessed the
ceremony performed in Heabury
fashion - for some time I have
had some Heabury blacks here
with whom I had often spoken
about the Naninga & other matters.
a young fellow arrived with a
sheep party from Newcastle Waters
and as I would have it he
belonged to Udiara district, the red
men of ~~Heabury~~ that district at
once proposed that he should
be fixed up - you can imagine
how I choked - the result you
will find set out with much
detail - the photographs, some
of them, are excellent, and
they are genuine - I developed
the Naninga pictures in fear
& trembling knowing that if
they did not turn out well I

might never have another chance
my first training pictures were
very superior to them on the
following day I found them
preparing for another such
ceremony - with perfect weather -
I nearly fainted with emotion -
Every thing was done in good
old abakwinga style, no
modern nonsense & no clipping -
I do wish you could have
been here. I have seen many
such ceremonies but none so
elaborate & none carried out with
such attention to detail. Lately
these ceremonies in this locality
have been much curtailed, the
boys are not submitted to discipline
and a few months ago an
Arakwata was seized & sacrificed
in the bed of the creek at Mudd's

(E.)
Park - There are two Aradurta now
camped on the Aurumochi hill
I hope to get a picture of
the Koperka Kaduma Ceremony in a
few days - My pictures of the
Kertua would have been more
numerous ~~but~~ only that I was
short of plates that no spools
for the Camera Code gave me.
I am seriously thinking of getting
a good Snapobot instrument this
bull's eye camera is not to be
depended upon only one picture
out of half a dozen is worth
printing. The lens can't be much
good. A man named Foster who
is on a prospecting tour through
the country arrived here the other
day with a camera which made
be given him away - it is an
Eastman Kodak cost him \$25 or so

London takes of rollon films nearly half
plate size can also be used for half
plates the exposure is regulated from
100th part of a second up to 3 minutes.
When taking a picture you just press a
button the exposure which releases some
mechanism connected with the lens & the
exposure is regulated by two tubes which
fall according to the speed at which the
inst. is regulated - Baxter told me he
could not procure an inst. like this in
Adelaide - he has sent to Paris for something
superior so that he must be an enthusiast
at the game - I had a fine half plate
picture of the *Ilyaba Unjamba Mitchelliana*
but in lifting it from the rack
I let it fall on the floor & smashed
it completely - the *Elpidea* mitch. I
could not get the weather being
very cloudy with drizzling rain.
In a few days I am off to Mitchell

a place in the same country about
60 miles ESE of here, the blades
tell me there are some good
ildinga there in Caris and a
by ertnatulinga. I shall send you
copies of the drawings. I hope
the boys will add a letter to our
fund of information - so that I may
learn as much as possible about
the place I have sent to
Atlonga for the boss man of
the place - The blades also want
me to visit Ilgardinga a
spot around which many myths
are entertained there too I
hope to pick up a few ethnological
tidbits - I was delighted with your
letter - by jove it is a pleasure
to work with you - you so
kindly appreciate every thing the
one fly in my ointment just

at present is the absence of
 your questions to which I
 would like to have sent replies
 This mail - the Age etc which
 you mention was printed in
 at least one of the Adelaide
 papers tho they spelled my
 name correctly - you are said
 to have gathered the information
 during your months stay here in
 connection with the Horn Sept^{rs} =
 I imagined of course tho I
 know it can't be helped. I can
 quite imagine Carlos malicious glee
 when you showed him the paper
 he would see from Oveladatta
 the other day saying that he had
 avowed there "Plunder Sober Sorry"
 I hope he has not been fool
 enough to go through his money
 though he might as well do
 that

as lose it in shares as I have
done - my losses since I left you
in Melbourne total over £1500
and I have finally given the
game up - the infernal calls
killed me rather than keep
on paying them I have forfeited
several blocks of shares -
I am sending you by this mail
box containing 2 small Mangaroo
Nanunga horns at Larina ceremony
bottle containing foreskin of the boy, this
may interest some of your University
colleagues if not pass it on to Fensholt
and tell him its a new sort of
bottle 2 Chellara 1 bottle containing 3
red tailed Aurungazoo lizards & some others
to fill up 1 bottle containing a small
~~from~~ Mesopotamian & some other things from
Berrons Creek. I am sending on this
last because it appears new to me
new sp.

and McKay says the blacks assure
 him it is fully grown - Some feathers
 for your Nartunja - String made by
 Kefleche from Quira fur - 3 Arungquilha
 sleds from Nyaba - Small bag and all the
 + 1 Yarunpa Churinga - let me throw
 name of lizard (red tailed) + the rat -
 which I fervently hope will turn out
 to be something new - Some of the feathers
 one one of the Nanninga rubbed off
 during the performance but you can easily
 stick some on again - The big Kangaroo
 Nanninga was a thing of beauty + a joy
 for ever + I would much like to have
 annexed it for you but it would have
 been an awkward thing to pack send
 over + it would have cost you a small
 fortune to get a case, with proof made
 for it - The pictures you require I
 will try + get in time for next
 mail - Sterling tells me that he is going

to have another try to get our
Govt to start a movement whereby
each Colony should subscribe £500
so that the various workers in
Austⁿ Ethnology could undertake
a comprehensive work on the
subject - all the work except the
publishing to be done as a labour
of love - What do you think of
the project? he had Corle up
at St Vegeans for a night & tells
me there was much talk of
great consumption of tobacco &
Whiskey! - he hopes that we shall
be able to get all the pictures
published, in which case he says
the book will be a desirable edition de
lux. I shall be greatly relieved in
my mind when I hear that McMillans
have accepted the book but I have
put the slightest doubt about them

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Doing so if the manuscript is submitted to a qualified man - there appears to me to be so much in the work that should interest thousands of people amongst the cultured classes outside the purely scientific world - I wish you I regret that so much of the detail is so unearthy but you can please yourself how much you put in or leave out. I have thought it best to send you everything. I think I told you last mail that I had written to Nemecsek for a map in doing so I explained briefly the sort of map I wanted & what it was for - he sent me a map which I intend using for plotting in the hives & says he will be delighted if he will allow him to do any work of this sort, says it would give him the greatest pleasure & thinks you

could not object. I have written Hanbury
him for his offer & saying that I
would communicate with you from
them he would probably hear more
about the matter shortly - I propose
therefore that when you have decided
as to how many of the wandering
tracks you wish plotted that
you send the data to him, he
would lay the tracks down with
much greater accuracy than I could
& in any case they must to a
great extent be only approximately
correct - I have wherever possible given
the English names of places mentioned -
in this connection please note that Ilyaba
is a few miles South of Mount May
which is a large mountain north of
the McDonnells - You will see ~~it~~ from
Ilyaba notes that a correction will
have to be made in the Marchings of
Yarumpu

Stirling tells me that Horn & Munnick
 nearly came to a big lawsuit but
 that Carlos the contrary backed down &
 gave up papers & withdrew the map
 Munnick's sailing to Field wades out
 that Watt backed down after threatening
 to run him (H) over a big lawsuit.
 I am curious to know the precise
 facts - have you seen Watt since
 your return you never mention
 him in your letters - neither he or
 Stirling were remembered in the
 Jubilee decorations - much to my surprise -
 expecting that I would get the K.C.M.G.
 I indulged in some jokes at such
 hampered gargaws which I has
 treated with silent contempt - this made
 me feel sure that there was something
 in the wind - he tells me that he is hard
 at work on the Reproduction feat & hopes
 to publish a paper shortly but his time

is so very limited" which made me
smile - now that 'tis free of Hospital
duty I should think he had heaps of
time - Show you word too hard
over this book of our old fellow
I always feel abit uneasy about
you knowing how prone you are
to burn the candle at both ends,
take things easily & your work, &
what is of infinitely more
importance, - yourself - will be all
the better for it - Next mail
should take is very near to bed
rock in most things, after that
as you say any additions will be
in matters of detail - the legend
legend extends at any rate to the
Funde & I think we shall find it
very nicely distributed though Customs
& beliefs vary considerably in different
localities. I think this mails notes clear

up the origin of the Iwumbwanga
 & if it does not entirely elucidate the
 Chweringa problem it goes so near to
 a perfect solution that I doubt whether
 we shall get deeper - there is one thing
 to be considered with these proper ideas
 & traditions we cannot expect everything to
 fit in with mathematical exactitude - If
 the wanderings of the Totems is startlingly
 like the wanderings of the Children of
 Israel - I am daily expecting to meet
 with the tablets on the mount - What
 does Dr. Fison think of the wanderings?
 do they know of anything similar?
 I am glad Corle took the Ichiata
 to go - I rather meanly begged him not
 to give it to Stirling & that he should
 do so ^{photographed it &} extracted all the information
 I could about it from the Niggers
 Stirling made a tactical error, he should
 have taken him to Mr. Sofly before he

went to Melbourne - Martin of Pompe
Downs has been staying with me for
ten days he is a fine fellow - most
English fellows are - He has given me
a most cordial invitation to go out
there and spend a few months amongst
the Swatcha - without throwing anything of
anthropology he takes an intelligent
interest in our work & is one of the
few men in this country who will read it.
Here I might live for a century without
learning anything of the Swatcha but
given 3 months on Pompe I could, with
nothing else to attend to, do a lot of
good work & I seriously contemplate
asking the Govt if they will without
debiting my leave of absence - of which
I am entitled to 8 months on full
pay - allow me to spend those months
there before I leave the Country - Thus I
trust my Govt will do if the

book is a success - which of course it
 must be - I am strongly of opinion
 that ~~the~~ marriage is regulated by totems
 and there despite what we have heard
 to the contrary - there is a tribe up
 the Alborga spreading away to the
 Mangroves who call themselves the ^{Andikimya}
 spreading the Jurecha Tongue & these
 people - so one of them told me regulate
 their marriage by the totems - so far I
 have not been able to solve the Elrapanna
 problem but probably before this letter
 reaches you I shall have done so - I
 am getting the Station Master at
 William Creek to get in a certain
 intelligent black who is said to be
 learned in Kalar lore - My first
 informant especially stated that he could
 only marry a woman of a certain
 totem - Kempe is a friend of mine
 & if all else fails I will see what he

Can do though after some information
with which he furnished Sterling it
is doubtful whether he would get the
truth - The Niggers in that locality are
utterly demoralized so far as old customs
are concerned. I wish you had accepted
his invitation he is a splendid fellow
and as he is unquestionably a descendant
of Edward III you would have had
the satisfaction of barding in the
scales of a semi royal person! -

Evidently you are chortling with their
appreciation of your collection & I must
confess that I am a bit anxious to
see it - do you think you have a
little of everything & is there any special
line in which you are weak if so let
me know - A trigger arrived from Snyaba
today - sent in I suspect to see if the
Camels had arrived - I brought half a dozen
of the Arung quailtha sticks a la Drumlinga

you can have two or three more
 if you like to labor on I hope to
 lend you the Atungquittha spear
 + roomera arrangement — Martin
 tells me — this between ourselves — that
 an old man out in his locality has
 been killed for divulging locality of
 Chewinga to Corle. this upset me terribly
 I would not have had it happen for
 100 pounds & I am going to write Corle
 strongly about the Chewinga business, there
 must be no more utnatulunga robberies I
 bitterly regret ever having countenanced such
 a thing & can only say that I did so then
 in ignorance of what they meant to the
 Nation — to fully realize this once requires
 to go as I did a few weeks ago with
 with back Nation to their utnatulunga
 & watch them reverently handling their
 treasures — it impressed me far more than
 anything else I have witnessed. I have
 many

James visited Extratulinga in this
locality with the blacks but the
saga they now has always created a
certain amount of incongruity troubled
the scene of its solemnity - You
say there is no doubt about me being
made an Honorary Member of the Antiquary
Society when the book is published "what - &
Stealing a fellow of the same Society -
I'd rather remain pontiff supreme of
the Rapparees - I have decided not to
go North this year - it might interfere
with our work - Lagos copied the
rock paintings from my drawings (!)
As to my going over to Melbourne
when the proofs come out I cannot say
anything just now but I think it is
very doubtful I want to build up
my shattered finances a bit & then there
is this Lovitchka business which would
come in nicely for the 14th or 15th edition

of our work - I sometimes have dreamt
 in which I picture you next year
 figuring in London Scientific circles as
 Hansen is today - Oh the pity of it
 if people only took as much interest
 in ethnology as they do in the profoundly
 uninteresting north pole that a work we
 could produce - the dream is gradually fading
 away as you will probably guess when
 you read my modest proposal about
 the Luvitcha - There is however a mass of
 work to be done yet in the Ranges
 although we already have sufficient for
 a bulky volume - I hope that your proposal
 pulling in some of the language, in the
 north white do you think - no one seems
 to care much about the languages of
 these people - If you do not care to
 print the all the wanderings how would
 it do to merely plot them on the
 map reference with the appendix

I agree with you entirely about placing
the detailed account of the Engowara in
the Appendix - ~~That~~ ^{As} a matter of Engowara
the blacks contemplate a monster Engowara
to be held here about Xmas at
which the Charlotte, Finsie, Hugh &
Annes Reservoir blacks are to assemble
word has already passed through the
tribe and it only needs a word from
me to set the whole thing going - So
far I have told them to wait & I
would let them know later on - I hardly
feel up to going through last years
experiences alone though if it did come
off on the scale they propose I dare say
we should gain a mass of new material
- Don't fidget in that Cozey chair you
could as possibly come & I most certainly
would not go through it with anyone
else - The Finsie blacks tell me
that they have no intentions of

holding a big Engwura in that locality
 - then first of all did the Chewinga
 come in - that question is a pose
 but you will find it dealt with
 in my notes - it dates back I think
 before alcheringa man and I am
 inclined to think that originally it
 was meant to express the spiritual
 part of alcheringa animal or man
 the meaning of the term I take to
 be "sacred" - in the sense perhaps that
 the Sacramental wafer is sacred to the
 Roman Catholic and not in the sense
 that a Koria Urdna ~~for~~ (wh. is not Chewinga)
 is sacred - ~~the~~ one thing is certain
 & clear as day and that is that
 the Chewinga found when a child is
 born is the emblem of the child
 in its spiritual form - I have given
 this matter much careful thought for
 hours & days I have threshed it out

with hoaviest headed of the tribe
it is only the hoary headed ~~to~~ from
^{whom} we can extract information on this
subject now that we have got so
close to the bed rock - the younger
men like OTOKO & Jim don't know
& the old men ~~only~~ by judicious
silence pretend to know more than
they really do know if you can
understand what I mean - A thing is
Chewinga that is everything Chewinga
spelt in Capital letters please - there
can be nothing impossible where
Chewinga are concerned - Men sprung
from Chewinga, that is from something
sacred in the animal or man, just
as the Virgin Mary appears at Lourdes,
though unless you want to bring down
upon me the anathema of Holy Church
don't quote me as saying so - I will
think though that this marks holes

will make you fairly happy on the subject — With regard to the food of the natives you can I think safely say that they eat everything except mushrooms which they believe to be poisonous — an arum quilla growth produced by a falling star — I think the fact of people of certain totemic classes Totems being confined to certain localities points back to a time when marriage was regulated by the Totem — otherwise why this restriction — Marriage between two of one Totem though legal is not very common — I shall try and extract the reason for knocking out teeth — I did not mean to convey the impression that in the alchering^a to feed upon a certain animal or plant you must belong to that special Totem — what I did mean to convey was that certain totems

fed exclusively upon their own animal
or plants for instance
Udavoranga grab upon Udavoranga
Iduameta " " Iduameta
Ukscamba " " Ukscamba
Okwia " " Okwia
Arunga " " Arunga
Yarumpa " " Yarumpa
Ingwaninga grab " Ingwaninga
Okraucinna snake Okraucinna

but on the other ~~the~~ hand

Echappa fed upon Oradora seed
Anthenna opossum upon gum leaves
Etica Turkey upon Grasshoppers
Unamaitja pheasant upon Rhodora buds
Whitjiva upon Mungers

120 on

I could for the life of me
understand why some Totems only
eat ~~the~~ food which belonged to
their own totem while others were

not so restricted - I thought at one time that in this difference lay the much wanted primary classes but I could not waste anything out of it - it was so in the alchering^{as} & the alcheringa men know what was best - He know that now although a may eat of his totum ford he can only do so sparingly - No hot stones used in cooking - my notes on the subject are meagre but so far as they go they are reliable I carefully watched the blacks cooking Euro & Mallaby at Alyaba & have since seen them cooking Echidna - the true cooking tallies almost exactly with an account Corrie gave me of what he had seen the western blacks doing with an emu - You will find amongst the photos two of Gleeson - about the best of a whiteman I have ever taken

(P)

The Tuggers do not look upon the
Magisteria creatures as being an
intermediate stage between the alchemical
animal & man - they were men they say
only that they were unfurnished - I
cannot help thinking that the
initiation rites had their origin
in this tradition - the blacks believe
that unless a man is operated upon
he will grow stiff & clumsy & enactor -
either that or the women - could
such a thing be possible - were at one
time the actual rulers and for some
reason imposed the rites upon men -
there is the tradition of the Uathippa
women performing the operations: in
this last ceremony the Warpa is
carried off on the shoulder of a
woman in the manner in which the
Uathippa women carried the Warpa -
Uathippa women marched across

the country from West to East in the
different parts of the tribe - The
women at the initial stage of the
ceremony assume the arms of sword-
apulla are always made to run from
West to East with the main body
at the Eastern end because it was in
the East that the women ~~of~~ ^{of} Sal down -
When the Murtja is coming in on the
days of the operations the women
have the apuplla turned their faces to
the east while the men of the Murtja
party approaching bombard them with
bark - ~~thus & other~~ the idea evidently
being to drive them away - of all these
things are capable of explanation if
we could only get it and I shall
not be surprised if we get evidence
which clearly points to the sites
originating new women - I shall
continue digging -

Marsdenia ⁱⁿ *lecheana*

31st Florida plant with fruit (of the
Rigs very fond) goes to you in small
parcel so that species may be determined - it
is a Cyperus you will remember the
Anungare or Alladapera operating upon
Suapetua Creations of that Island -

Millions of official duties this
morning - Hope you are all well

Cowle not yet arrived Charlotte I
shall have to send to Horsehoe and to
meet him - My love to the little
Mrs & all sorts of messages from
Bri & Balfour - kindest regards and
all good wishes Wm Spencer &
yoursell from wife & self

Yrs ever sincerely
J. J. F.

Your former leaves for Adelaide not mail &
Abell follows her by October mail - We shall
be sorry to lose her but she has earned my
resentment by robbing me of the best money I ever had
- her very hard feel -