

(17)

TELEPHONE NO. 2

LANGLEY LODGE,

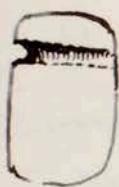
HEADINGTON HILL,
OXFORD.

June 7. 1915

My dear Spencer

Many thanks for your letters. I am much distressed to hear that my letter written to Mrs Spencer never reached her. You must have thought me both rude & ungrateful, whereas I would not be rude & I could not be ungrateful after all your kindness. I expect that the letter must have been given to a steward to post & he may not have thought it worth while. I apologize for the seeming neglect. I am sorry that you have been exercised in mind over my box. Don't worry about it. From what you say about the things which you are so kindly adding in the way of specimens the consignment will have greatly increased in interest by the time it reaches me. I shall be awfully keen to see what

you are adding to my series here. Also
Kenyon's selection is sure to be of much
interest. There is a type of stone axe which
I am most anxious to get examples of -



The kind with a well-defined hafting
groove round it. With the exception
of America (where it is very common),
Australia & to a limited extent Denmark.
This type is rare, & I badly want Australian
examples for comparison with New World ones.
So if you can persuade Kenyon to let any
of them go, they would be of very great interest
here. Stone implements fascinate me & are
very absorbing, & the show at your museum
was a revelation in Australian varieties.

Thank you so much for having thought
to send me the news of Sir F. Sibbo's death.
I should have remained ignorant of it but

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LANGLEY LODGE,
HEADINGTON HILL,

for you. I am extremely sorry to hear OXFORD.
the sad news, as I got very fond of the old
man when I stayed with him. He was
awfully kind & genial & I should think
would be greatly missed. I am very sorry
for Miss Suttor. Miss Stirling is in
London & I am greatly hoping to see her
& get her to stay with us. As usual she
is busying herself with doing work for
others (feeding Belgians just now).

The war certainly keeps us alive here, &
the appalling waste of life recorded day by day
makes sad reading. So many of one's friends
have gone under already. However I must
say I feel optimistic still, in spite of the
mean, barbarous methods of the Germans
who are no better than mere cutthroats.
Their "blockade" by submarines is a stupid
& ineffectual bit of boorish spitefulness.

strategically it is worth next to nothing & no
one is frightened. I only hope that when they
go under, they will be made to reap the full
reward of their savagery. Oxford has a
bare third of its complement of undergrads, &
more are largely physically unfit, Americans
or other non-combatants. Pretty well every
athlete has joined the forces. I expect you
say that Ponelton's son was killed recently.
He was a very nice marching chap &
a magnificent footballer. Jenkins on
(the embryologist) is a great loss from the
Oxford Museum. He has just been killed in
the Dardanelles. This all very sad, one's
friends are going so fast. As to the net
result of the war I still feel quite optimistic,
but the sacrifice is awful. The Australians
have been doing splendidly & I hear that their
taking of the high ground when the landing
on Gallipoli was effected, was as fine an
achievement as ever was.

I have been awfully glad to read lately

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that the Australian drought is over &
that there are good harvest prospects. I hope
it is true. We are having a drought-
here now & gardens are suffering badly.

My wife, I am glad to say, is quite
recovered from the effects of her operation,
& is as energetic & busy as ever.

Have you published your guide to the
Melbourne Museum yet? Some day
I should be awfully obliged if I could have
a photograph or drawing of your fishing
kite from the Solomon Is.^{ds}. I was only
able to make a very rough sketch in a hurry.
I will post to you a copy of my short monograph
on Fishing-kites which will show why
I want to get all records I can of the
practice & varieties of apparatus.

Did I tell you that I picked up on the way

home a number of fine Melville J. P. spars
they were given to Dixey in Port Darwin &
he passed them on to me. Nothing like
your magnificent series however.

I will write to Mrs. Spencer, in a day
or two & hope my letter will have better
luck than the last. Please remember
me very kindly to Kerwyn, the Grimwades
& my other friends in Melbourne - I also
send my very kind regards to Mr. &
Miss Spencer, I hope you are all quite
flourishing.

My wife joins me in all kinds of
messages ("tante cose" as the Italians say)
to your good self

Dovey
Henry Balfour