

(5)

ETHNOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT  
(PITT RIVERS COLLECTION),  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,  
OXFORD.

23.9.98.

My dear Spencer

You are quite right, I ought to have written long ere this. I think my last to you was written in December last or January. I seem to have had a very busy year & have been abroad a bit & hence my correspondence has I fear got a bit disorganised. Pray forgive. Things here are much as heretofore, the chief excitement is caused by Laubkester's translation to a higher sphere & of course the question of his successor.

Now I am very sorry that you don't mean to go in for it, there are so many who would welcome you back here,

estimable man & an able one, I imagine that his chance is distinctly good. All the same I'm sorry that you don't put in, I always hoped that you would come back to England, here if possible, but I can well understand that Australia has its fascinations, & the fact that you have included honours in the Zoologist's journal must make it hard to leave a part of the world where so much Anthropological research remains to be done, & must to do so quickly. Your work & Jillett's will prove of very great value & we all look forward to its publication. Your preliminary papers have interested me greatly. What a capital chap Jillett must be, he seems to have used his opportunities. I was very pleased

& you have been gaining so much experience of the A.K. at large. The difficulty, to my mind, about the post is that nearly every one is a complete specialist, almost a one-group man, and for the purposes of the Honour School it is surely desirable to have as much of a generalist as possible, not too much biased by ideas as to the special & overstretching claims of any one group. I don't mind saying this to you as I know that you can teach the subject from a general standpoint. I suppose that Weldon with his experience of teaching can do so to some extent, & he seems from what I hear to be a candidate. Of course Bowne has acquired a good deal of local influence & he is also a very



with "Tommy" Roth's book, which came  
as a surprise to me as I had no idea  
what he was doing or exactly where  
he was. The information is most  
valuable & well collected & illustrated,  
the deductions must be taken cum  
frano, the terminology in many  
instances fairly "gives one the blight"! I  
wonder if he would collect a few  
specimens for my museum. There  
are so many things I want. I was  
of course delighted with the Horn exped.  
specimens which are a grand addition  
to the museum. I have just received a  
lot of things from a certain E. Clement  
who travelled in W. and N. W. Australia  
up country. He brought back a large  
collection. Do you know of him?  
What is your opinion of Louis de  
Rougemont, we are having a dose  
of him in England. He appears to



have been in Australia all right & <sup>32</sup>.  
Some of his information seems good, but  
he is being so exploited by the magazine

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people & has to UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, <sup>OXFORD</sup> exaggerate  
so stupendously to sell the magazine  
that one doesn't know how much to  
believe. Is any thing known of him in  
Australia. From his account he  
lived no very huge distance west  
of the McDouell Range, & it seems  
odd that the Horn Exped. should not  
have heard rumours at least of him.  
I should like to get hold of him quietly  
over a pipe & pump him a bit. We  
had him at the Brit. Assoc. I almost  
envy a man who has seen a sperm whale  
150 ft long, or rather a man who has the  
pluck (or is it cheek) to say he saw one  
(& caught it)! Tylor is quite well,  
getting rather old perhaps & he may  
forget things a bit. He will be back  
here I fancy about the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. I will  
ask him about Miss Howitt's MS. of  
which I had not heard, I will ask



him to let me see it, & if I can help in the matter I shall be very pleased. I don't quite know what he has done about your own proofs, I thought they were entirely in Trayer's hands. The latter is a capital man & I am very glad that he is helping. I hope however that he will abstain from editing your paper & will merely revise it in so far as its form may be concerned from the publishing point of view. I hope the work will soon see the light of day, & that illustrations have not been skinted at all by Macmillan.

I wrote to Jellie some good time ago asking him if he could very kindly let me have photographs of his natives especially such as deal with arts, Customs etc. I have not heard from him & I dare say he is far too busy to attend to "begging letters", so I have

worried him again. Photos I find are so important an adjunct to a Museum that I try to beg all I can for a series I am making for the Museum. My funds don't allow of my buying many in the open market, & the trade ones are apt to be unsatisfactory & made up. I am very glad that Howitt is still working away & has a book on the stocks, his work is so excellent & careful.

I wired Parkinson his cruise around I greatly wish I could get to Australia & see the Museums, but I don't just yet see my way to being away long enough I have no understudy who can do my work in the Museum, & I have some papers I want to get off my hands. Can you or anyone trace out & map the native trade routes in Australia generally, I wish one could feel a bit clear on this point, the general lines of



dispersal of ideas from one part to another, & the extent to which the fragments of New Guinea & Malayan Culture have penetrated along trade routes (or long standing lines of communication) from the North into the remoter parts of Australia. I am busy with a monograph (to give it so dignified a title) on the Musical bow, & have a very wide distribution for it over the world. So far as I can see the evidence points to dispersal from one or at most two centres, dispersal in early times, but I don't want to theorize & shall stick to description so far as possible. The more I go on the more I see that it is still dangerous to form theories, & I prefer to collect & collate & leave the theories to fit themselves out of masses of facts not small groups of indifferently connected examples.

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I wish that men like Howitt & Fison, Gillen & The "Pakeha Maori" would appear in England & come & chat over pipes now & then. I was of course delighted to see Fison when he was over, but had very little opportunity for quiet talk with him. I see you refer to "Old New Zealand" in a former letter, it is one of the best of books & simply execruciatingly funny, a talk with the Pakeha Maori would do one no end of good. My work lies amongst the arts & appliances of Man & my main object is to trace the histories of things back as far as possible using



modern 'survivals' to fill in gaps  
in the Archaeological record. Customs  
myth etc. I hardly dare write  
about as the difficulty of getting  
hold of them completely is so great,  
& it is hard at home to sort the  
fact from the lies in the ordinary  
published accounts of more or  
less inaccurate observers. More.  
Our Tylor has a natural  
aptitude for this line of research  
& I can be relieved of the responsibility  
which he can so well tackle. He  
really is wonderful in a way,  
& is one of the very few stay-at-homes  
who can make much of the subject.  
He is at present ranning his head  
against Tolens, & is somewhat-

fogged just now, but I fancy that  
your work has clear matters for  
him, though it is the N. American  
side of things with which he has  
been dealing-

Ansion of All Souls is to be our  
next Vice Chancellor, I hope that  
he will view the Museum with  
a kindly eye, though I have  
my doubts. Science I fancy  
does not mean very much to  
him. Carfax Church has been pulled  
down leaving the tower only, to

the great improvement of the  
traffic arrangements & also the appearance  
of that part. The Brit. Assoc. at  
Bristol was pretty successful, the  
heat was awful however. We had  
a few N<sup>o</sup>. 1 size cranks around offering  
papers, & it was amusing booming them



off. There were some very good papers too. I was up the Norwegian coast this summer, mostly north of the circle, with my wife & boy. We had a jolly time in the Lofoten Is<sup>les</sup> & Tromsö, but the weather was bad & spoilt a lot of small trips I wished to make.

Now I must dry up, or I shall weary you. I hope that you & yours are in the best of health. It is very jolly hearing from you now & again. When do you next come this way?

Remember me to Fison & Stirling if ever you come across them -

With kindest regards

Very sincerely

Henry Malford.

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EXTD

10.15 AM

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