

Pitt Rivers Museum ms collections

Spencer papers Box 1 H-K Letters with Gilbert Charles Bourne, Edwin Ray Lankester, Thomas George Bond Howes and miscellaneous

BOURNE

Letter H1

The Laboratory

Citadel Hill

Plymouth

Jan 8. '89

My dear Spencer

It is a pleasure that I have to write to you know often have I meant to but other correspondence has been so heavy that I have put off & put off till I was ashamed.

Now to go straight to your letter – Of course I am only too pleased to do anything that I can for you & you must not think of indebtedness or anything of the sort.

But I am I must say very sorry that you have such a craving to come home – partly no doubt because of sitting comfortably in my chair in old England, imagine you to be in a Monotrematous paradise & in easy reach of a subtropical fauna. And I am firmly convinced of this fact, that if ever wool sellers & tallow merchants are to be taught to crave after the higher problems of Morphology, you are the person to make 'em crave. I dont know another man so likely to make a lasting success in a new & peculiar field as yourself. Think now if Hoyle or Cunningham were Professors at Melbourne, a pretty show either of them would make amongst critical Colonials!

Howbeit I can understand your feeling of isolation & your want of Scientific Sympathy, & since you so sincerely wish to return to England & that quam celerrime I will do my best to help you – But first you must learn the details of recent events of the general events you are probably well acquainted by this time. Moseley's case is hopeless, hope that is to say as far as his even returning to the Professorial chair is concerned Nominally he is still Professor but within measurable time he must resign – if he does not die It is said Hickson was deputy last year & did well but in November the Electoral Board determined to invite candidates for a new election to the Deputyship. Foster & others urged Lankester to stand for the Linacre Professorship when it became vacant & he fearing that the Board should elect a man as deputy whose position and influence should give him a sort of vested interest in the chair itself when it became really vacant determined to stand for the Deputyship. Besides him Hickson – the then occupant, Hoyle, Jackson & Beddard put in. Now it seemed to me & to many others that the electoral board held one of two courses before them either to select the best man they could among the candidates – which was of course Lankester – or to maintain the status quo by re-electing Hickson. They did neither the one thing nor the other but elected Jackson, & it is my belief that they meant to signify the future choice in electing him. If so, it is most unfortunate. As much as I like & respect Jackson and value his help & friendship I dont honestly consider him to be the best man for the Linacre Professorship He has a developing influence on young students and erudite as he is his book lore is somewhat oppressive to the [illegible] whilst he lacks the originality & freshness of thought which stimulate enthusiasm. However the matter rest where it is Lankester is still at University College, & there is no vacancy at present. At the end of the year Moseley may be well enough to resign & then ERL will go in for the chair. He may get it then and there will be a grand shuffling of the cards. I do not think that Milnes Marshall will stand for the Jodrell Professorship it is ill paid compared with Owens College & I would advise you to put in for the Jodrell Professorship. Hickson, Hoyle, Beddard & Weldon will all stand for it & the contest will be keen I will keep your letter by me & will gladly undertake to do what you ask of me – viz cable out to you as soon as I am aware of a worthy vacancy and on hearing from you I will see to your testimonials. As for cabling by core signal, I do not think it will be necessary to do more than telegraph Oxford Owens London or whatever the vacancy may happen to be.

I have the copy of your previous testimonials & you had better send me any new ones you may have. I have been hard at work here since June, though I havent yet completed any vast quantity of original work I have a small paper on Tornaria [?] in the Press & lots of work half done & likely to remain in that condition for some time

I have much enjoyed the society of Weldon here – He is about as clever as they make them – very genial enthusiastic & only fails in trying to do too much. Alas! he is away at Cambridge for the next 6 months. he & I are about to embark on entirely new lines but I cant explain

them, it would take a folio. Suffice it to say that we both have nearly hewed our microscopes in pieces before the Lord & have taken the to the measuring tape & table of variations We are going to be [illegible] Zoologists Zoology Sir is running amuck among cells & gastrese [?] and Darwins work is being neglected. Nobody knows anything about heredity variation analogous variation under like conditions & perfect similarity under unlike conditions on the effects of [several words illegible] on the influence of surroundings and so forth & nobody tries to know anything more about these things by research. They cut sections & think that all is well. But certain Germans, Hensen, Möbius & Reincke hidden away at Kiel & called the Deutsche Kommission zu Untersuchung der Deutschen Meere in Kiel have been doing splendid work no plates, but sinus & measurements Nobody reads their work but it is splendid We are going in for it. Weldon is making a new developmental law, the law of progressive larval variation parallel with adult variation – very striking -- & is measuring 500 prawns in 10 dimensions. I am going to quantitatively estimate the pelagic fauna of the channel & measure 10000000000 mackerel. We are not so mad as we sound. Plymouth is an excellent place save for its inhabitants who are about on a par with your Colonials – but the laboratory is really splendid. I only wish it didnt blow S.W. gales so often.

I liked your paper on earthworms Gippslandicus very much but sighed over Colonial lithography. You will have to run those quarts transactions yourself. It is very good of you to think of me in the way of corals & skulls when you must have so much to occupy you.

Lankester shewed me your chick drawings they are very good.

Perhaps you know that I possess a very fat son born on July 15 – My wife was very ill afterwards & could not come down here for 4 months but is now nearly quite strong again. Hoping you & yours are well, & wishing you all happiness & prosperity in the New Year I am

Ever yours

Gilbert C Bourne

Letter H2

36 Banbury Road

Dec 5. 1893

My dear Spencer

I was “desolé” as the Frenchman says, when I returned to Oxford on Friday evening and found I had missed you – it was most provoking and unlucky that you should be here on the particular day that I was away. Is there no chance of getting another sight of you before you sail again for the Antipodes? I was fully expecting you to fulfil your promise of coming back here, on your return from Germany, to stay with me for some days, and I really am very cross with you in that you went and stewed away at literature in London, when the Radcliffe Library stood her, (where you ought to have been) stuffed with all zoological literature the most recent as well as the most ancient.

I am here til Tuesday next then I go up to Town to see corals which Howes has for me, (I hope). and probably I shall be there 2 or 3 days. then back here for a day or two, & then home for 3 weeks holiday. What chances are there of running against you these next 12 days? I have seen nothing of you since you were in England, & I want to explain to you & convince you that there is a kick left in Oxford Zoology yet. The fact is that there are no medicos working at Morphology now as there were in our time – they all take Physiology & get to work as soon as they can on Human Anatomy. The few we have are good – and intend to research – and our late productions Minchin, Pollard, Günther are thoroughly good men – as good as can be made anywhere. Quantity we cannot expect now, because there is no career in Anim. Morph. but quality we can get & are getting.

Yours very sincerely

Gilbert C Bourne

I cannot remember your address so this never went, but I have turned it up at last

Letter H3

[40 Elm Park Road,

S.W.]

Dec 14. 93

My dear Spencer

I wrote to you a week ago – couldn't remember your address & only got it & posted the letter last night.

I was so very disappointed to miss you at Oxford - & was very X with you for not coming, as you promised to stay for a week [insert] with me [end insert] & work at your literature in the Radcliffe.

Now I must close I am afraid, as they are calling for me – Goodbye & good luck --- bon voyage for Australia – I am extremely sorry to have seen so little of you during your stay in England – but why so little at Oxford? You may ask why was I so much away? It was ill fortune

Yours very sincerely
Gilbert C Bourne
Corvarne [?] Court
Ledbury
my address not above

LANKESTER

Letter I 1

[The Briar Gate
331 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney, S.W.]
January 29th

My dear Spencer,

I am counting on your giving me a hour or two here. There are so many things I should like just to exchange thoughts on. Your films & phonograph are absolutely thrilling. It is almost like going with you into those remote places and the natives make it like going back 200,000 years. I dont wonder at your giving yourself up to their study – especially when you found you could really get a hold of them and watch them closely & record them as you have. I think I can remember being like they are when I was a very small child [insert] (4 years old) [end insert] – one stamped & cried out – with various rhythms – and we acted all sorts of make-believe characters & had quite definite ‘made up’ histories for them & for all sorts of things which represented them & objects totally different – and some of the children seemed to know & to guide these games with curious precision – just like those Australians do.

If you will let me know which day you will come to lunch with me, I will come and fetch you at 1 o'clock or at 12 o'clock & drive you here. I have more space here than I had at South Kensington and a garden of an acre. I think you said next Wednesday morning will probably suit you – but any day will suit me – if you will fix – as I am here all the time except when I go up to Wimbledon to golf, or merely to town in the evening. This house is only 35 minutes from Piccadilly circus by a No 5 Putney motor-bus. They go every seven minutes -- & actually stop at my gate. I am so glad to see you over here as I cant manage the voyage to Australia.

Sincerely yours
ERay Lankester

Letter I2

45 Grove End Road,
N.W.

March 25th

My dear Spencer,

I was very glad to hear from you – and I am sure that you are doing a good deal at Melbourne & have established Biology there in a sound position. I was very much pleased with your paper on “Mega-scolides” and its fine plates. What you complain of as to the absence of books – ought it seems to me to be capable of immediate remedy. The colony must have a great scientific library and the University is the place for it. I should insist at all times & seasons on this. Surely you get all the journals & transactions! It can only be necessary to explain this to the Government in order to have it remedied.

As to society. I believe that you are only a little worse off than you would be anywhere in Gt. Britain. It always occurs to men on leaving [insert] the [end insert] University – how gross & absurd are the interests and pre-occupations of the Philistine. There is no remedy for this. The only satisfaction for the man of science is in the pursuit of his enquiries and not even the approval of other men of his class is of much consequence. You are fortunate in having an income attached to your chair which renders you independent of all popular or Philistine

support. You are "on" – and you can do just as you like and smile at Mr. and Mrs. Philistine & poke fun at them.

Such a position does not exist in England. It is hardly possible to believe that you would like to give up Melbourne for £600 a year in London dependent on the chance of fees. That is what I hold – and any [sic] fear it may drop to £400.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Acland have conspired to keep me out of Oxford. I should not like Oxford very much – but I should like a fixed life-income of £900 a year. I suppose if Marshall goes there eventually you would have a good chance of the Owens College – but fancy giving up your present position for Manchester!

I liked Dendy's Helospopus [?] very much. Shall be glad of more from either of you.

Sincerely yours ERay Lankester

Letter 13

Oxford

Nov. 29th

My dear Spencer,

I was very glad indeed – to receive a fortnight ago the specimen of *Notoryctes* and now your letter. I hope to exhibit the beast in the Museum alongside other mole-like mammalia with comparison of not only general form – but skeletal modifications. I shall be very glad to have any other things you are able to send – and you may rely on my gratitude & anxiety to do anything I can for you – in return.

The state of things in Oxford is very bad – as bad as can be, Nearly all the colleges are dead set on running their institution as a mere classical & historical upper class of a public school. They care nothing for University aims & studies. Every year the men in power in the Colleges become more God-forsaken & contemptible prigs and pedagogues. Nothing can save the situation except a government commission which will make it law that the branches of science & modern study shall each receive so many scholarships & fellowships -- & shall also destroy by direct enactment the school-master foolery of college-lecturing & tutoring.

We are probably some years from this – and meanwhile things are very sickening – Our museums & laboratories are starved whilst the silly schoolmasters (tutors etc) go about saying what enormous sums have been spent and are spent on natural science! They rule everything: Elect Council -- & veto or pass measures in Congregation & Convocation. This is an institution for the promotion of learning absolutely 'run' or governed by the most ignorant, prejudiced, juvenile abortions who are admitted (God knows why) to a share in its control. To have to do with this – to see if every day – to be thwarted by it and to try to conciliate it – is quite enough to drive any one mad. // To change the subject. I wish you would write from time to time to "Nature" about any new things you do or get. And also say or say about such questions as "acquired characters" With best thanks Sincerely yours ERay Lankester

Letter 14

[Department of Comparative Anatomy,
The Museum,
Oxford.]

Jan. 28th 1898

My dear Spencer

I have not yet written to thank you for the skins of mammals & lizards you lately sent to me. The skin which is labelled *Conilurus pedunculatus* is not the skin of that animal but of *Sminthopsis psammophilus*. The *Conilurus* would be interesting for our collection as an Australian rodent – and as you intended to send one I hope you will be able to do so. I have just put up your certificate for the FRS – it is signed by Sedgwick, Sclater, Flower, myself & others – Weldon & Poulton are on the Council this year & so can not sign. I hope you will come in either this time or next.

By the bye I should like to have specimens of your new family of Hydroides for the Museum. I meant to have written at greater length – but am now in a hurry for a train. It is a long time since I heard from you. Shall you not be soon coming home for a visit?

Sincerely yours
ERay Lankester

Letter 15

25 Sheffield Terrace

W.

Jan. 1st 1899

Dear Prof. Howes

A Happy new year to you!

I suppose Spencer is gone. I think he is quite right not to apply for Oxford. He would not like it. He wanted an articulator for the Museum at Melbourne – you might let him have this man's address – if you have not given it to him already.

He appears to be a capable man.

Sincerely yours

ERay Lankester

"This man" = Moore of Liverpool!

G.B.H.

Letter 16

12 Park Lane W.

October 15th

My dear Spencer,

I was very glad to get your letter of June 23rd but unable owing to holidays & travels abroad to answer it before now. I am sure you will be a first-rate director of the Museum & congratulate you on this addition to your sphere of operations. I have thought a great deal about Natural History Museums lately & am anxious to tell you one or two of my conclusions. Firstly – a national or state museum has peculiar function of its own – distinct from those of an educational or University museum. The State Museum may comprise under its roof an academic collection – but its first & distinctive purpose is – “the procuring & preservation of the objects of natural history significance which are to be obtained in the national territory. These are to be preserved in the first place for the study of scientific experts: in the second place – so far as is convenient – they are to be exhibited for the instruction and edification of the public”.

I want to insist that the teaching of compar. anat. or zoology or other science – by means of series & dissections etc – has nothing to do with this. It is a separate & distinct aim. Also note – the procuring (i.e. sending trained collectors & skilled masons &c) is the business of the Museum – also the proper preservation of the specimens – & that too in large quantity. But the study and description of the collections is not a necessary & prime part of the museum's business. The museum says to experts “Here are the collections: Come & work them out.” The Museum can organize this – but it can not undertake by its own staff to describe every kind of natural product. The error has been made of trying to do this. It can't be done. You don't want a complete staff of experts. A really complete staff would (it is fairly estimated) number about 250 highly educated men! of whom 150 alone would be entomologists. The museum then collects & preserves & by outside assistance of specialists – voluntarily or paid – gets its collections evaluated – named – dealt with as scientific material. Such a State Museum is a sort of Record Office where the State documents of natural history are preserved.

/ A totally different thing is an Educational Museum where the aim is to instruct either the larger public or University students – in zoology, botany, geology, mineralogy &c.

By confusing these with the former – you may get landed in great trouble. Educationalists are rampant exacting sort of people – often blind to the real interests of knowledge. Hence whenever possible – one should set up the standard of pure knowledge – & leave the educationalists to manage their own business elsewhere.

You may be forced by educationalists – if you give way at all – to employ your space & your money – in setting out series of bones & viscera etc – with large wheels so as to hypnotize the gaping public – The public will think itself very learned for reading the blessed word “Mesopotamia” under some fragments of bone – but really no good is done. Whereas the exhibition of magnificent specimens of Australian fossils – minerals – corals – birds – without much more ‘science’ than a detailed account of the individual species – is really more exciting to the Australian public and more likely to lead to enthusiasm for exploration & research in their own country.

//Of course in /England one is not easily able to ‘limit’ the national territory – and has to follow the passed tradition by taking in everything & every part of the globe – At the same time – I believe that at the B.M. Nat. Hist. we ought not to try to teach systematic zoology nor comp. anatomy – but to procure & preserve the ‘records’ of the natural history of the world. & to

exhibit them (when space & their safety permits) in such a way as to excite interest in the thing itself – as a record of outer ‘nature’ – not spending time, trouble & money on great & wearisome series of a logical expository character.

I have given a great deal of attention to the proper sort of building for museums. My conclusions may be epitomized thus. The Museum should consist essentially of unit chambers 25 ft by 25 ft by 20ft high arranged thus [drawing] back to back – with windows facing the backs. The window should start 6 ft from the ground & run up to 20 ft – so as to light the back & sides.

The gangway should be on the window side. Table cases (sloped) under the window. The units can where necessary be run two into one – but this should only be done where necessary. No wall case should be more than 8 ft high. Such units are objected to as rendering police supervision difficult. To remedy this a gallery can be run along the mid-line (back) and a guardian kept on duty there. Large halls are an utter mistake – and only to be regarded as anti-chambers [sic] to the real series of exhibition rooms.

All small objects should be exhibited in slope-back cases – whose bottom line is 2 feet from the ground and top line 6 feet ditto (at most)

// As to Diprotodon – I shall be quite content if Stirling will furnish me with the means of making a composite cast – in which some pieces are even restorations. I hope he will do this.

//Another matter on which I am anxious to write you is that of your vacant chair of Geology & Mineralogy. Dr. J.W. Gregory of the Museum is a candidate. I should be extremely sorry to lose him – but I must say he is entitled to a better post than he can hope for at the B.M. he is a really gifted – energetic – modest admirable man. If you care to recruit your staff & to bring in new blood from home – this is really a great opportunity. I assure you in all sincerity that Gregory is not a second rate man whom people at home are glad to send off to a colonial post. He is – as you yourself were – one of our best. He ought to be kept here. But you ought to grasp him. I fully believe in the principle of developing your own men -- & unless there were a special opportunity of securing a remarkable man – I should think you were right to promote one of your own staff. But this is an exceptional case. Gregory is a splendid man – full of resource, enthusiasm & knowledge & toughness. Have you read his book on his expedition of the Great Rift Valley? I write as strongly as I can – because I think it preposterous that a man of Gregory’s splendid quality should be shut up in a back-room at my museum naming fossil Biyozoa – It is a duty to give this man the freest & largest scope. I did all I could to get Gregory in to the Professorship of Geology at Oxford – I was on the board & nearly succeeded -- I was dished by that old rascal Odling – who as Prof. of Chemistry ought never to have been on the board at all!

I believe I have never thanked you for your book on the Australian natives. It is a wonderful account & clearly of the highest value. Pray write to me whenever I can be of service to you in any way -- & write also when there is nothing of the sort

Yours sincerely

E Ray Lankester

P.S. D’Arcy Thompson was married the widow of W. Gilbert Child of Oxford

Letter 17

22.12.16 4 pieces

[29 Thurloe Place,
South Kensington.]

Dec. 19th / 16

Dear Baldwin Spencer

I have had to give up Pathology on account of the war & am back again here I shall be delighted to see you & have a talk on Friday afternoon – Will you lunch with me at 1.30 or 2? Or would you prefer to come later about 4 & have a cup of tea? Just drop a post-card.

I am very glad to hear about the Australian stone implements you kindly have sent. They have not yet been signalled to me. I have some interesting new things about “rostracarinales” to shew you.

I have been busy about the matter discussed in enclosed report

How delightful it must be to have this long journey over the sea but perhaps rather dangerous We are all rather repressed & upset by the war-conditions & the foggy winter.

Sincerely yours

ERay Lankester

Have you brought any films of those beautiful black fellows this time?

Letter 18
[29 Thurloe Place,
South Kensington.]

April 24th

[added] 1917

My dear Spencer

I was beginning to think that the box of stone implements might have been seized by German submarines – But they arrived yesterday. Very many thanks. They are very interesting – especially in the fact of the existence of such very rough shapes as some extended [?] – alongside of others much more carefully worked & some even polished.

Such assemblages of stone implements made today by one group of people – make it very difficult to understand the dominance – if not the exclusive presence – of special forms in inaccessible deposits of our prehistoric grounds [?] &c No doubt there is a tendency here to overlook rougher & non-typical pieces of worked flint. But the succession of 1. rostro-carinates 2 leaf shaped or tongue or almond-shaped palaeoliths 2. Mousterian flakes whether scrapers or lance heads – seems to be a fact. it is true that rostro-carinates are occasionally found of later [insert] (even much later) [end insert] age than the pre-[illegible] & middle Glacial. & that roughish scrapers occur all through the stone-age—but there is a very marked succession of forms – The most interesting facts of late established [insert] by Moir [end insert] is the discovery of largish flints (seven inches or so long) which are definitely half-way between rostro-carinates and tongue-shaped Palaeoliths. They occur (very rare) in Chellean gravels. They are a great puzzle – because one can't see why the makers should have made tools which were neither rostro-carinates nor palaeo. tongues – but intermediate. One would have thought that they would have made either the one or the other. The [illegible] forms seem to be of no special advantage.

It is difficult to think about scientific work now -- & difficult to get paper, printers & illustration. We are all full of hope now that America is in -- & the Russians have chucked their treacherous Romanoffs – and our advance on the west front is perfectly splendid. But we are threatened by great shortage of normal food – we can't deal with the submarines (I have been assured of that by American admirals & navy men) We can only hope to wear them down & ut – Some people say Germany will crack up before the autumn: others say we shall be still fighting for two years!

Meanwhile we old ones are getting older & older & anxious as to whether we shall endure through so as to see the day of final victory & peace.

I confess I feel tired & worried – I want to write – a lot – about one thing & another – and yet can't stick to any such work – I get head-ache & nerve-worn if I do – It is partly “senility” and partly “war worry” – I got out a very good number of the [illegible] a month ago – all about the dear old subjects – marine animals & embryology &c – but it all seems so remote – an incredible fairy-land which is abolished by the awful realities of the war.

A very interesting book you ought to see is D'Arcy Thompson's 'Growth and Form' [insert] (Cambridge University Press) – very learned, historical, philosophical & mathematical But although almost fascinating it really amounts to nothing. Mathematical expression of the facts of form & structure does not help – nor can it until we know a vast deal more of the extrinsic forces – which act on organic form & so-to-speak model it. One only line of progress is by the inductive method & the hypothesis of Darwin – the theory of historical succession and of the facts of heredity correlation &c.

Please write to me whenever you can find time. Have you any more about your beautiful naked fellows? any more phonograph records? With sincere thanks for the specimens & every best wish

Yours sincerely
E Ray Lankester

HOWES

Letter J1

[University of London
Burlington Gardens, W.]

[insert] F. Major has been working in Dublin, cleaning out after Lydekker; & they would like to keep him there, Like their blooming cheek! We are having larks in London just now with the

native Africans run wild at the Earl's Court Show! Saw a fight among them the other night.
[end insert]

27.7.1899

My dear old W.B.

Sitting here, stewing with the heat & invigilating, the opportunity at last arrives of writing you a line. It must be a business line & things must go categorically: but before I proceed believe me when I say that the pressure of my numerous & various occupations has alone prevented me from writing you sooner. Your letters of this 3rd [new page] April & enclosed draft reached me duly – the latter just in time to be cashed! What asses the B.M. clerks must be, trad-tapers [?] with a vengeance!!

Firstly as to business. I am sending you a tin-lined case per Sutton containing your top-hat, the glass bowl my missus sends your own, the several replicas of fossil vertebrates, a complete set of 'Sir' Progress' [?], the Huxley & Hooker Medallions, & other odds & ends which you left behind & which have been slowly accumulating – not to forget your photographs & lantern slides. Soon after your return there came [new page] letters from A. Thomson of Oxford & the Agent General & these I at once returned. I duly sent your books back to Edwards, & forwarded to you letters from Sydney & Melbourne, which I hope you duly received.

Your fossil Marsupial plates

Proofs of these reached me on Feb. 9, & I forwarded copies to you of both plates & block. One the 10th I returned the others to Filater (keeping the originals in my own possession) complaining that one plate was out of focus & that most of the high lights & "life" of the drawings had been lost. I refused to pass them, & requested that copies [new page] might be sent you, the printer being meanwhile told to try [illegible] better results. This has been done, & nothing further seems possible until we hear from you. I presume you will be sending the MS. & that you will want me to "read" your papers in autumn.

Forsyth Major sends you a case full of things which you will find enclosed with your own. I enclose with this his list of its contents.

Anthropological photographs.

A. Thomson, Haddon, & that chap Hutchinson have all been copying a picked few. The latter said that he had your sanction & for Haddon I hold myself responsible. [new page]

And now as to your fossils!

I send you Archaeopteryx, L...saurus, Opeelia, Odostonna (a recent beast), Bothrid...pus (2 sets), Cephal...pis, all of which I have purchased & paid for. Conning von Zittel's Reptiles from Münnelieu, which you will also find, the enclosed letter will explain. You bully d-!! & what a good chap von Z. must be!! I wrote him that you would acknowledge receipts on the arrival of the things in Melbourne.

[new page] Concerning Fragman's Cladodus, [?] which you must have, I enclose his letter – that of the "canny" Scotchman. The allusion to Krantz is in reply to a question of my own. Just you take him in hand yourself, & make a good bargain, for the Cladodus thing is worth your getting.

I think this is all I have to write concerning your various commissions, except to say that I am sending you a statement of our financial relationship & shall be glad to know how you wish me to dispose of the balance. The bills I will retain until our final settlement, when I will send them you in one batch altho', [new page] at the same time I believe I gave your Registrar a legal receipt for the whole sum paid me in 1897. I consider v. Zittel has saved you about £8. And now as to other & more personal matters. In the first place, I did my duty toward Zietz & got him at once elected a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Soc. He went through with a bang! & will of course have heard from Sclater long ago. As for the Royal Soc., I was bitterly disappointed at not finding you 'in', especially as I want to put up Alcock & Dendy. This ~~letter~~ [insert] former [end insert] I shall see to at once, but do [new page] not like to tackle D. until you are in. What do you think about it. Mrs. D. called on us last week, & said that he badly wants to get away from Christchurch & if possible to get home. And I hear murmurs of discontent on Ben...ss's part. And what of Hill! Is there any truth in the report that your demon may be moving on & that Hill is likely to join you. What a profoundly effective result would follow were it so – you & he would be well matched & would make things burn with style. And while I think of it, what is this rumour about Mary Wield – viz. that the little silly has gone & entered a convent or some such establishment & become a catholic & [illegible] & [illegible] [new page] combined. Do you know the rights of it? We heard it from our friends the Fullers', with one of whose girls Mary W. has become very friendly

University College. What luck is Minchin's, but what is the explanation of Fowlers's having been passed over. Is his social difficulty the cause, or has Weldon a job for him in Oxford, or what? Woodward, Bernard, & [illegible] flourish & send you greetings. Moore is now on Tanganyika with £5000 behind him. He is accompanied by an Irish Landlord, [new page] his friend, & a 'Keeper' who is a skilled taxidermist, the Landlord paying I think 1/2 the cost of the expedition whatever it may be. E.R.L. worked loyally for Moore (too loyally since he is spoiling him in his over-estimation of his abilities – he little dreams of my side of the case!) & secured him, with Sclater's aid, £500 from an anonymous donor who turns out to be (and pray keep it quiet) A.J. Balfour! Bight gave them £500 if not more, & the Chartered Company agreed to frank a 'Surveyor', with a view to alluvial deposits. This notwithstanding, I greatly mistrust Moore's work & his "halocynnic" theory, for it is too strained & thus too prone to sacrifice accuracy of observation for mere sensation, & as to [new page] his literary abilities & research they are scamped & nowhere at all. Oh, the pain & anxiety that he has caused me, & tho' I have rubbed his nose in the literature he will not study it. [insert] He will become a guinea pig! [end insert] I hear the Bownie [?] was grievously disappointed at not getting Oxford, & well he might be. I presume you have read of the Poulton statue (of Darwin). I hear it adversely criticised, but have not seen it yet. Doing this with one hand, he gave a deuce of a time with the other over some fresh changes for extra reprints & authors corrections at the Linacre. To boom in his game! Poor Alleyere [?] Nicholson was indeed a good & an under-valued man. I knew him in [new page] person & always found him most honourable & industrious. He died quite suddenly from an attack of perforating spleen of the duodenum – a terrible end indeed. A. Thomson seems to have commenced well & becomes already popular in the Northern Metropolis, but he gasses & will gass [sic] to the end. I presume you know of Lord Kelvin's retirement, & that Glazebrook (whom I think you know) has accepted the Directorship of the New National Physical Lab.

As for Hatteri, all is going well. My youngsters lived for between 3-4 months & died of kindness & over feeding. I have now about finished the work on their skeleton, which I shall be writing up in autumn. [new page] Altho' detailed & interesting in its way it does not reveal much that is startling. The Batachian [?] alliance is strengthened by it. Ell. Smith has started on the little beggars brain & Bles [?] on the V,G's so that the great Arthur will not have sent us the material in vain.

At S.K. things are 'a hum'. It is now decided that the London Univ. shall go into the Imperial Institute, & we are to have £800,000 spent on the [illegible] (Victoria & Albert) by museum. This will give us a grand art pile which will cover the whole of the waste land on the East side & a Science building on the West – vis-a-vis with the Imp. Institute. The latter will be in the style of our College (from which no finer building is to my mind yet or likely to be put up on the familiar ground); into it our Physical & Chemical people & the Science Library will be transferred, & in time it will be extended as at least a science museum. The road will be arched at its ends & planted as a boulevard, & when next you honour us you will see the lean & hungry science students courting that aesthetic fiend the "art girl" on the way, standing ground of their fortunes. Donnelly [new page] has left us & is [illegible] but he was 'cute enough to' get the foundation-stone of the new [illegible] museum laid before he left. We had a Court Function, at which Levée [illegible] was compulsory, & when it was over it was intimated to us that it would be as well if we Professors of the R.C.S. who had not been to Court would go. There were 4 of us (Perry, Filden [Tilden?], Farmer, & me) two went! The wife, with the instincts of a mere [female], insisted on my being photographed, & upon my soul if the Missus would like a copy you have but to say so & it shall be sent. Only when (& if) you get it, don't laugh! Its too serious! And poor Flower [new page] gone. He will be much missed, & as President of the Zoological he was perfectly ideal – a man whose like they certainly will not see again. He was cremated at Woking, & a service was held at the corresponding hour in his parish church, at which he was a constant attendant. You have of course seen E.R.L.'s notice of him in "Nature" (most excellent, but inconsistent, since he would have told you a different tale viva voce) & Bell's in the "Athenaeum" (positively disrespectful & rubbish). At the Zoo. the Duke of Bedford is talked of as Flowers successor, but I should prefer a more strictly scientific man had I a voice in the affair. At the B.M. [new page] the great E.R.L. leads the life of a recluse, positively banning [?] out all intruders on his sacred presence & seeing little of even his staff. he may have plans, & indeed there is already experimental evidence of a big improvement in the arrangements of the bird gallery, but if he wants to do anything he must attend for more than 3-4 hours a day & be a little more communicative with his men. I hear that the Treasury have sanctioned H. Woodward's

continuing in office for another year, which will be good for E.R.L. since [new page] he does not yet know the ropes & H.W. does. A. Smith Woodward will not like this, but he has done well enough & has but to bide his time. I wish I could get something better for my man Martin Woodward. He had a shot in London but missed it, & it is my ..tions [illegible] that the Treasury are costive in his case – pleading ‘the non-renumerative nature of the work!’ Old Haddon is very fit, & but for a gross and mischievous piece of bungling on Mc. Alister’s part he would by this have been enrolled in a responsible position as Anthropological in Cambridge. I suspect Mc. A. is either jealous or afraid of him, & he certainly cares for nought [new page] anthropological but mere physical measurement treated as supplementary to surgical anatomy. still old H. is I think safe, & it is but a matter of time. His collections are grand, both from New Guinea & Borneo, they have been given a couple of beastly old & foul smelling cottages, in which to work & store his things pro tem. Foster is doing all he can for him, & would at present eat McAlister without salt!

Your Arunta Book! How well it’s being reviewed & how much I have enjoyed reading it. Did you ever send Haddon a copy – the poor old chap has not received it if you did [new page] & seems a little disappointed. And what the pity of ----- to do you mean by sending me that entire Horn volume, & all the way from Melbourne too! It now adorns my shelves & is highly prized, but really old man you shouldn’t! Now I must shut up, as Beddard’s greasy carcase looms in sight (he has just finished a book on “Cetacea”! I wonder what he will go for next – the Sea Serpent perhaps – think I’ll suggest it). Au revoir, my kindest regards to all at home in which the wife & Daisy unite, & with all good wishes for yourself. I am, as ever
Yours ever G.B. Howes

[insert] we are going onto the Northumberland coast on Aug. 14th [end insert]

[new page] R.C.S. 27.7.99

I have been staying in Cambridge lately, & people of our kidney there are much concerned about Willey, who seems on his beam ends. Now that his Balfour scholarship has run out he is idle, & they blame E.R.L. holding him bound to find [insert] him [end insert] a job, as he gave up a small certainty in Columbia College for at his request in order to take the Balfour thing, W. will go for Minchin’s post at G... [illegible] & I much hope he may get it. H. & McBride were both in for Min Coll [?] the latter being apparently either dissatisfied or unpopular in Canada. My own men are coming on. One [new page] (a chap of [illegible] Lout) has been commissioned to go in for a 3 years fish-hunting on the Nile, in order to obtain material & coloured drawings for a Monographic vol. which Boulanger will contribute to Anderson’s “Fauna of Egypt.” Another (E.L. Jameson) is now entering into an arrangement to go Pearl shelling, with all else that he can achieve, in the [illegible] Islands (E. of New Guinea) for a syndicate in the City. A man named Wickham is running it, & you must not be surprised if you see Jameson with a letter from me some fine day. he is c... [illegible], young, & fully competent for the task, but Irish!

And now you old d-I, au revoir!

Letter J2

[insert] I shall of course send “Nature” to your father.

Greetings to Gillen, altho’ I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance. [end insert]

R.C.S.

24.4.01

My dear W.B.S.

Your note reached me while on my Easter vac. in time only for this week’s “Nature”, & I have accordingly sent in a short statement emphasizing your good father’s action & not otherwise contradictory of previous announcements in the same pages. It is indeed good of your governor, but think how proud he must feel of you! Most sincerely do I hope you will come through & that when this reaches you you will be in possession of good health & many new facts. Let me know if I can do anything for you, here or elsewhere.

I have no very special news, except that the main topic of interest in sci. circles here is just now the London Univ. They are keeping us all very busy, with meetings of all sorts; & if plans in prospect are realised we shall create a new departure. We are determined to ensure the individuality of the Colleges, & to that end are hoping to so arrange that (examining or what is taught) the College Exams. shall count as equivalent to the Intermediate. This, after all, is but the prevailing continental method; & following that, we are hoping to arrange for a school-leaving exam., conducted by the schools by [illegible] under proper supervision of the University, wh. shall work as a matriculation. Properly done this should all simplify matters &

materially lighten the burden of the scholars, while it will all make for the compulsory development of the modern side -- & as a consequence the throttling of some of the school-masters! A branch of science in a elem. degree is to be made compulsory for the matriculation of all comers; but not so Latin unless changes are made, & this I personally regret. English-composition, elem. mathematics, one language, & one science there must be. I am Chairman of the Zoological Board, & we have commenced by ruling that Univ. Coll. & the R.C.S. are the only places in London fitted to adequately teach zoology as a pure science! Not that we decry the smaller places, but that we want to force them to develop & go ahead.

I have just heard from Hill, & he remarks that he is full for some years to come [?] with mammalian material -- so full that he offers me the human [?] embryos wh. he & poor dear P... [illegible] were to have worked out I shall of course accept. He gives a glowing account of [illegible] your Univ. buildings; & this reminds me that ours here are now assuming proportions. The next time you come you won't know S.K.

We are getting excited [illegible] the Royal, & quite expect that Alcock, O. Thomas, & Bridge will get in. Dendy will probably have to wait a year, & G.C. Browne may or may not. Willey is going to Demerara to replace Quelch whose morals are said (by Sir Thomas) to be "too oblique" for even the W. Indies. The Colonial Office are keen on developing the Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, & insist on Herdman's going out for a year to give them the start. He will do this & in all probability take Jameson & leave him in charge. I am hoping too that Pace may succeed Hely in charge of the Ceylon Museum, & I have a man shortly going to join Holt in the Irish Fisheries, so that you see the old shop at S.K. is keeping the log rolling. Poor Woodward is my greatest care. It is, however, more than likely that Haddon will be err long resigning Dublin, & as there is talk of his post then being made a full-time one with decent pay & a score [?] for a pension, I shall go neck & shoulders for W. as his successor. Moore is just bringing out his book No. 1 -- & is really trying to write English. he will have some sensational sketches & plenty of lies -- but he shows no signs of scientific worth. Rather is he a d-d nuisance in the restlessness begotten of his travels. E.R.L. still bounds only more so than ever. He is just now in Paris on that Academy affiliation job, under wh. you no doubt know that M.F. & Co, would make the Royal Soc. an Institute, having aims beyond those of science & a restraint of membership to boot. May God forbid!

Now I have given you news, real & personal, & hope it is of the kind you prefer. Generalities would be wasted on you in your present surroundings. I cannot, however, omit to say that the war still flourishes, costing us from 2-3 millions a week, & that our two-pence on the income tax (now 1/2 in the £) & the tax on sugar (which means the rise in price of all grocers commodities) make some us wish we could join you.

You know, I presume, that John Anderson of Indian Journ is dead, that Dr. Tanner no longer torments the House of Commons, & that the 1891 Bishops of London & Oxford will yet again trouble the sleeve-board.

Now, au revoir, & I am the more mindful of you from having to-day received a paper from one of your people on your indigenous Amphipods & but useful work it is that you are doing. Long may you go on & prosper, & if there is anything that I can do send me word at once & it shall be done forthwith

Ever thine
G.B. Howes

Letter J3
[Board of Education
Secondary Branch
South Kensington
London, S.W.]
R.C.S. 30.V.01
My very dear W.B.

I hasten to tender you my most profound sympathy, & that of all known to you among my family circle & friends, on your sad bereavement. It seems too terrible, & I pray to God that it may not so alter your plans as to in any way modify the Grand course you have in prospect. You will perhaps have seen that I am doing my best in "Nature" to keep your memory green & your movements known, & were I to send you the individual congratulations on that p...-cable-tapping apparatus, you would take heart. Your postmaster deserves a monument. Congratulations hearty [illegible] on all you have thus far achieved.

As to Chapman, we have been much exercised, by a letter received by him from Hall & our big ms from teh Agent Gen.; while to complicate matters, Gregory is pressing him to go out soon. After mature & full consideration, especially in view of your statements concerning buildings in prospect, we have decided that he had better depart in Feb., so as to be about at the time of your expected return. Moreover, it is desirable that Chapman should have time in wh. to arrange for the passage of his wife & 2 children, to put his private affairs in order & to finish as far as shall be possible, his Funafuti work. Judd has just put all this before the A.G. & we hope matters can be thus arranged.

We are busy & much exercised here over two chief topics, one the London Univ – the other Gregory's withdrawal from the Antarctic expedition. Concerning the former, we have boards, committees, & all sorts of organizing bodies going it hard, with revolutionary projects in view, if only money be forthcoming. The Gov't, in cutting the Univ. adrift, have clubbed down a paltry £8--- for the first year, & think with the C.C. £10,000 will about pay working exes. & the Administration Officers. We want a Carnegie—who, by the bye, has first offered £2,000,000 to put the Scottish students of fur [?] – to my mind a very doubtful means of disposing of his wealth. We are hoping to arrange a school-leaving exam. which shall rank as a matric, as is done on the Continent & in Scotland, & to ensure that the Elem. College courses shall rank as an Intermediate. Concerning Gregory's affair, there may be two sides to the argument, but to me his action seems strange. The power of the Captain seems the great stumbling-block, but under the English law that is absolute as involving life & limb, & it is said that, all done, G. has been granted facilities far in excess of Mgr, Thompson & all his predecessors. Moreover since the sci. subordinates are being chosen largely from among his friends with whom he can work, they bid fair to be as useless without him as they are unknown. It is a mess! & I fear it is the old story of too many cooks, while Poulton, in rushing into print with a manifesto, has been most injudicious. I hoe you like the Royal Soc. list, A... [illegible], Gregory, A. Smith Woodward, & Evans, are good enough.

Have you heard of this probable mare's nest, into wh. P.L. Sclater & E.R.L have tumbled – the so-called Giraffine [?][illegible, possibly horse]. All that there is to show at present is a couple of bandeirs [?] (one from the body of an undoubted native) wh. might be bits of a reddish zebra. To these PLS. has given the name Equus Johnstoni. Later comes to him a drawing, d...ing [illegible] a sort of a cross between a red-backed antelope & a striped legged & pumped zebra, but with cloven hoof! said to have been since "lopped off". While to E.R.L. comes a letter (like the rest type-written) saying that 2 skulls & a skin are on the way, but there is need of caution, as zoological thieves are about! I was in the chair, on the most memorable night concerning the affair at the Zool, & on that of the meeting following P.L., claiming that his specific name must stand, proposed a generic Giraff-combination amounting to "striped ass." I have further reasons for suspecting a "plant," & believe we are in for a repetition of the pedimentated filobite & the Arachnid found know as Giboulb... And for my own part I sincerely hope it may be so, as it will teach both these big men a lesson.

Moore is slackenin, & has never settled down since his return. He has just finished one of two popular books, wh. will have pretty pictures but some d-d [illegible] of sentiments. Boulanger has just published his book on the Congo fishes & fisheries, wh. is grand, & you must get it if he does not send you a copy.

Entre nous, I am hoping to induce Mrs. Sladin [?possibly Sclater], who is intent on something substantial for poor dear P's memory, to put all his eggs into the anthropological basket & resume the committee records & all else, on this [illegible] you have so magnificently laid down, which yet there is the chance. I am holding out baits of immortality, & hope I shall succeed.

Your Wipujaudia [?] paper is now published. & of the 10 copies I had sent him, I have posted one each to F. Major, Gromwold [?] (who asked for it) to A.S. Woodward, F- Lydekker, to Beasley (Osborne's man) to Thomson, keeping one myself, & intending to send one each to Scott & Osborne. D'Arcy writes me that he "don't at all agin" with you so far as he can "make up" his "mind from pictures figures alone" & that the beasts resemblances to Trichosorum [?] seems far greater than you admit! I don't suppose this will distress you. More later on, meanwhile may all that is good by yours & your life & that of Gillan [sic] safe & sound Yrs ever G.B. Howes

Letter J4
[Ingladene,
Barrowgate Road,

Chiswick]

29.6.02

My dear W.B.S.

A piping holiday, one of the series we have encountered after a lengthy period of rain & cold (wh. by the way must be cyclic, as I have it in my diary for 1890 that it was then the same & a repetition of '79) compels me to remain indoors, & what more profitable than to write to you. This time I have but one letter, & that of Mch. 8, to put me to the blush. Let me, in the first place, congratulate you on your good health & safe return & your glorious work in prospect. Steele (who [insert] is [end insert] a pious enthusiast & nothing more) spent a day with me last week & he tells me you seem to be a wee bit lame! Can this be, & if so, what is the cause. What a fine fellow he is. He gave me a field day with his Land Planan..., his Preipatus, & the rest, & gave & promised me treasure galore. On finding the rooms in wh. we sat was Huxley's old study, he went nearly frantic with delight, & insisted on writing his name in his pocket book on Huxley's desk, the inscription being countersigned by me 'neath a copy of the verse inscribed on Huxley's tomb! If this is not pious enthusiasm such as one rarely meets, I don't know what is. Poor d-!! I hope he will survive his operation, wh. you doubtless know is for a calculus in his kidney. If this comes off all right, he is going to give us an exhibit at Belfast, & he is yearning for the day when he can set eyes of Hoo..er [illegible], Lubbock, & others he worships as our pioneers!

Your graphic description of your journeys has give me much pleasure, for I have read & reread your letter. It was a great relief moreover, when, in March, the wife & I called on your Mother & sisters, to find that they had none but good news of you. We were anxious to a degree, & your good people cheered us somewhat, by giving us a photo. of Gillen & yourself, with your natives & the dawg. Did I understand that the faithful beast was one which simple [sic] followed you, & not a pet of one of your party. If so, he deserves to be memorialized! How anxious was your wife, & how delighted she must have been to receive you back in such good form. Give her my love, & tell her she is the brick I always thought her to be. Poor dear Woodward! Awful is the only word which will express his fate. I need not tell you what I have lost in him; but all the same, Moore has not fallen behind my expectations, & except for a d-d careless habit of misspelling common English words, he has done his duty by me. He is at least enthusiastic, & but needs to be kept in check. What do you say to his posting a notice that "This apparatus (incubator) must not be tutched" – which notice fell into the wily students hands. Nor has he been more fortunate in the recent P.Z.S., where thrice in 30 lines he has written "bucklemons" (buccal of course intended) The extraordinary thing is the Sclater did not spot it in editing this work!

You will not find such things in Moore's books, simply because a sister type-copies & corrects his MSS and this reminds me to remark that his record book, to be published almost immediately, will not be so bad. I hope he sent you the first one.

Sincere congratulations on your grant & the new buildings in prospect I hope, above all things, now that you are a millionaire, you will not forsake your Museum work. Of all men of whose doings I would write you, Elliot Smith comes first. His memoirs on the Brain, two of which we are publishing in the Linnean Trans. & of which one has already appeared in the P.R.S. & another is now about to appear in our Linnean journal, speak for themselves. They are collectively the best that has been done in cerebral topography these 30 years, & I count the awful grind of having seen them through & "read" them in his absence, an honour. In him we have a born neurologist, who has begun to work on the obtaining of a position such as would cause many men to stop. Have you heard of his investigations on the Upper Nile. Some American explorers having unearthed a succession of graves (a veritable Cemetery) ranging from the Coptic back to the pre-historic period of about 8000 years, it became evident that all the bodies were preserved owing to the dryness of the atmosphere. The Egyptian Govt. sent him off, bag & baggage, for 2-3 months, to do his best wit these; & he writes me that, in all the 400 [insert] bodies [end insert] the brain, tho' shrunken, is preserved (wherefore the habit of aspirating it thro' the nose must have been a very recent one). He has seen the muscles, the diaphragm, the limb-pl..., the sp..... nerve! &, in 20 cases, the eyes with lens *in situ*! Hairs, nails, teeth, are all preserved *in situ*, & in the case of some of the children the [illegible] intact. The Yankees have promised him a large volume, with photographs ad lib., & he tells me that he has already data sufficient to prove that Flinders Petrie's speculations, as to the nature of the early Egyptian & the people who in prehistoric times inhabited the Egyptian lands, are greatly in error.

You will, of course, have seen the announcement of the wonderful work that Andrew's has done in the Egyptian desert. The discovery of Eocene Proboscideans [?] and others Mammalian genus, not a whit less important than the best of the American Eocene, to say nothing of the association (as in S. America) of the Ge... [illegible] & the Giant Snake! And as to the d-d Okapi, about wh. such a sickening fuss has been made & over wh. E.R.L. first missed (owing to the slowness of publication of the Zoolog. Trans.) making a beastly mess. Thank God, the creature is now in the hands of Forsyth major, the one man competent to do it justice; & for my own views upon it, let me refer you to my as yet unwritten British Assoc. Address.

I am much interested in your speculations on the future of Biology as an Educational subject. With us Botany has always had the pull, but under the coming London regulations Zoology of a very elem. & field type, is to be an optional subject for matric. And this reminds me that you should witness (in the Lond. Univ. Gazette) the fact that, having ordained that Latin for the future shall be optional for Matric.!, the authorities appropriately commence by inscribing on the mace (given by Roscoe as Vice-Chancellor) a latin [sic] sentence ending with Vice-Chancellarius!! We, at S. Kensington, are contemplating a novel departure, largely done to our Mechanician [sic] Perry (who, as you probably know, has lately become the hero of "practical mathematics") & his refrain, that he is at a loss, by lack of knowledge of the animate world. He says that if he could but find out how the organic being stores its energy he could solve the problems of the future; & so impressed are we all but Judd with his arguments, that we have resolved for the future to enable it compulsory on all students going out in everything but mining, to have a short course of about 25 lectures & appropriate practical work in Botany, Zoology, & Geology to the cutting down of our present Geological Course. It will be an interesting experiment if it comes off, & I, for my own part, shall go for such topics as architecture of bone, sources & disposal of energy, & the like. As our new buildings progress, we are working for the future, & among our latest acquisitions we reckon the entire Subject & Author Catalogues of Field, which no one else would take in London, & which are to be continued under a clerk set aside for the purpose, as a central object in our great Science Library that is to be. Unkind things were said in my hearing at the Berlin Congress last autumn, as to our English lack of interest in Field's work, & I resolved there & then to remedy matters, which, thanks to [illegible] I have succeeded in doing. What a ghastly business in [illegible] which lies at the door of your accountant! But how has it come about that such an act was possible. There must have been some disgracefully loose management somewhere! I am so sorry to hear you have had to give up your house, for from all I know it to be a beautiful place, the parting from which must be to you all a wrench. You have the satisfaction however of getting among your College friends, & I could but wish that old Moore, of whom I have often heard you speak, had lived into the present. You will have read about our Coronation surprise, but on the whole it will have done us no harm, if only that it has given us a trial of patience, to wh., as a nation, we have risen nobly. I would that you could see the Westminster Annexe—a lath & plaster extension of the Abbey from the towers to the street. It has been built as an entry for the Royalties, & to provide the necessary robing rooms for the King. It is a triumph for the modellers art, & one cannot believe it to be anything but a bit of the grand old building which has stood from the first. It looks dirty & weather-worn, & as if by fate, there contrasts with it a recently refaced portion of the [illegible] tower & a statuette of Edw. VII as spic as a new pin. We are keeping up our gas & electric illuminations & many of our stands, in order to provide a f... [illegible] for a "recovery day", if not for the actual Coronation yet to come! The rapid & remarkable progress which the King is making towards recovering, gives the lie to the idle talk about his habits & health, which has reached a positively repulsive stage.

Now I must close, not however without sending to you one & all our love & the best of good wishes. We are all fit, & hope you are so too. Daisy is growing a giantess & is doing well with her education.

Let me have a line soon, to say how you all are how you find Chapman going on, & whether you are intending to remain in Melbourne. And until then, believe me

Ever yours sincerely

G.B. Howes

I am running Dendy for the Belfast chair, & hope I shall succeed. Also look out for my review of vol. 4 of Huxley's Reprints – in wh. M.F. & E.R.L. have printed 'The End' with 7 important omissions!

Have you seen Chun, or the baldiria Arise. He has dredged in 5,800 faths. I think – deeper than any-one else. He says that with the opening & closing net he gets Radio... & str...ds at 2,500 faths. He has rediscovered the group App...aria (2 species), has found a giant [illegible] (as has Gilchrist at the Cape) & also an Octopod with [illegible] eyes (?has not Hoyle already described one). He has also got the Polaqui Holoth... (Pelagothurnia) & deep sea fishes most gruesome & grotesque. Other things in keeping

Letter J5

[Royal College of Science, London

South Kensington, S.W.]

28.8.02

My dear old W.B.S.

I was rejoiced to get your letter of July 8, as was my wife to receive that of yours, telling us of the success of your lecture. I should much have liked to have been present to join in the applause, & I congratulate you on so hearty a reception & on having received justice from those in high authority. Old Haddon applied to me a little time ago, for the loan of some of your letters, & I lent him the best & most useful I have. He has returned them, not saying what he intends to do with the information he may have gleaned; but I suspect his British Assoc. Address to the Anthropological Section, wh. is to be on Totemism. You know of course that I am President of Section D. I am in for a short resume of the main lines of progress during the last 28 years ([insert] period since [end insert] last B.A. meeting in Belfast) with a defence of the morphological method, & an attempt to refute Patten, Gaskell, & to show that L... [illegible] is not an Arachnid. D... [illegible] is President in Chief, but he cannot raise the score that Tyndall did in 1874.

I am flattered in what you say of my stray postcards compliments to Sayce & other deserving people. I have run in his Blind Surface-dwelling cave form in my B.A. Address. Steel spent a day with us in June, & will be at Belfast, having come successfully through an operation for calculus. I never met a more earnest enthusiastic, & I really think that in doing all we can for such a man we are bettering the common task of endeavouring to educate the mob. Our new buildings are going ahead, but slowly. I am much interested in your remarks on the requirements of your first year medical, & agree heartily with what you say. We are contemplating a radical change with our science men, viz. to make a short course of say 25 lectures each on Botany, Zoology, & Geology, compulsory for all students but miners. The physicists & mechanicians [?] are keen on it, & if it comes to pass I shall do my best to make my part worth their while.

I share your high opinion of Bowness Booth, as you may have gathered from my views in 'Nature'. Contrast Bowness with Mudge!! [?] And this reminds me to ask if you saw my notice of the Huxley reprints vol. 4. I am thankful to say I have prevailed upon Macmillan to prepare a Supplementary volume, to make good this unpardonable negligence of M.F. & E.R.L., for whom there is no excuse.

And as to Coronation, I am quite of opinion that all has been for the best in the end, & that the patience of both Ruler & People has but cemented the love of union, & made our King even more popular than before. Whats more pleasing than his present tour & the manner in which he is visiting people & things, & which more graceful than his gift of Osbourne the say after he was crowned, when he could have sold it for its weight in gold. he now, as ever in the past, does the one right thing. I am much interested in your description of your new abode, & hope that all will turn out well. It must have been a wrench for you, to have left your charming surroundings, but you have the advantage of being near your work.

I am at a loss to understand the zoological exchange affair, & will see into it when we get back to this autumn's work. There must be some misunderstanding.

I suppose you will have seen by this that Graham Kerr has got the Glasgow post. Poor Lister (of Cambridge) was the favourite, but since he for the third time went off his head, just as he was seeking to show the electors he was their man, he is to be pitied. D'Arcy Thompson, Beard & others are very sick, but it was the fact that Gr. Kerr was a Scotch graduate which did it. I suspected all along he would have a good chance, & as for D'Arcy Th., the feeling is that he is a literary man & no zoolog.

You will be glad to know that Moore is settling well & really keen on his work. His big Tanganyika book will soon be out, & I think you will find it interesting. It is a great pity that he & Gregory do not agree. Dendy is just now in Switzerland, & is in hopes of getting the Belfast chair. Sedgwick will not know of his Ooperipatus, says he has got but an odd case of

oviposition (& that with an oviposition present!) There is one thing wh. remains, viz. for me to remind you that I have some £10 or £12 of yours lying on hand—viz. the balance of your original draft of the year X & that £6 you sent me to get earliest [?] (wh. by the bye arrived within the last 24 hours for wh. it was valid). Let me know when next you write, what I can do to dispose of this sum. If there is anything I can purchase & send let me know. I will forward you the papers concerning it when, in Oct., I return to work.

Now, au revoir, hoping one & all are well & that Chiop.. is a success

I am

Yrs ever

G.B. Howes

MISCELLANEOUS

First miscellaneous item (it appears to be a list of photographs):

5/

6. A gap in the Macdonnell Ranges associated with the witchetty grub [illegible] (Nos 3 & 4 show special parts of this)

7. A stone adze decorated with lines in red & white & on which during the performance of the Intichiuma of the Kangaroo totem men bleed themselves the [insert] blood [end insert] flowing over the adze, & [illegible] the dark part above the lines ~~caused by the blood~~. The stone is subjected to be full of spirit kangaroos who are driven out by the ceremony & enter the female kangaroos so that the supply of the animal is increased.

40. [insert] 8 [end insert] Ceremony for the increase of the Unjiamba (Hakea flower) The stem in the centre represents a man of Unjiamba and on this blood is freely sprinkled by the men who open veins in their arms for the purpose

9. ~~Decoration~~ [insert] Several objects decorated [end insert] worn on the heads of men during the ceremony for the increase of the Emu.

10. Sacred drawing made on the ground in connection with the ceremony for the increase of the Emu. It represents different parts of the Emu's inside, eggs, fat, intestines etc.

D. Ceremonies concerned with Initiation

1. Design painted on the back of boys who are then thrown up in the air. This is the first initiation ceremony.

3. Two boys who are about to be initiated have been for the first time shown a sacred ceremony & are made to embrace the sacred pole or nurtunja which represents the animal in this case the bandicoot which gives its name to the totem

4. Men who have been performing a ceremony falling down upon the top of the youth who is about to be initiated.

5. The young man about to be initiated embracing the Wanniga a sacred object used in connection, in this instance, with a ceremony of a kangaroo totem wh. animal it represents.

2. The ~~boy~~ youth who is about to be initiated crouching down behind a brake of boughs with the men who will perform the ceremony. On his back is a design emblematic of the snake totem: In the background is a group of men who are attending the initiation this actual cutting of wh. will be performed between the raised banks of sand at the end of [illegible] the men are sitting.

6. Two men standing ready to perform the operation of circumcision upon the youth who is being initiated, the first man holds a small stone knife in his hand.

[on reverse]

Frazer

Tylor

Lavy [?]

1898-99

Second miscellaneous letter

Copy

University

Melbourne

Sept 7. 06

Professor Rhys

Dear Sir,

My friend Dr Howitt has shown me a letter in which you refer to the belief held by the Arunta and other Central Australian tribes, and also by tribes on the Eastern coast, that children are the reincarnations of old ancestors and that the intercourse of the sexes has nothing to do, save in a very subsidiary way with the appearance of children. You also mention the very interesting and suggestive fact that, in original fairy tales, it is common to find that all of the fairies are women.

Though some writers such as Mr Andrew Lang attempt to throw ridicule upon the Central Australian belief yet it is simply a fact that this exists. Mr Gillen & myself met with it amongst all the tribes in the Centre of Australia & away eastwards to the Gulf of Carpentaria & it is scarcely likely that it should be confined to the particular tribe which we happened to meet with.

We know at the present day of men & women in the Arunta & other tribes each of whose sacred or secret name is that of an old ancestor celebrated in their myths & the individual bears that name because he or she is supposed to be the reincarnation of that special ancestor.

With our present day knowledge of physiology it is very difficult for us to place ourselves in the mental attitude of a primitive man who had no knowledge whatever of physiological processes & to whom everything was really a matter of magic.

We of course are well aware that of two women one of whom is married & the other is not the former is the only one who can bear children but the savage has no such knowledge from which to draw any conclusion.

He is a most logically minded individual & inasmuch as he knows that every girl & woman in the tribe has such marital relations & that some do & some do not bear children he naturally comes to the conclusion that intercourse has nothing to do with child-bearing or rather he does not recognize that it has. Not only is this so but, as Mr. Frazer has pointed out, the time which may elapse between intercourse & that at which the woman knows that she is pregnant is quite enough to prevent any recognition in the savage mind of the connection between the two facts.

I am inclined to think that the idea of reincarnation of ancestors is a very primitive one.

Believe me

Very sincerely yours

W. Baldwin Spencer

Transcribed by AP May 2015