

L2213
32 Prescott Street
Halifax
2/1/98

General Pitt-Rivers F.R.S.

My dear Sir

The photographs to hand
with thanks.

I enjoyed my visit to Rushmore
the only drawback being your absence
however Mrs Pitt-Rivers was most
kind. You have certainly a very
good collection of Benin articles &
in so far as my memory serves me
more representative than that at the
British Museum; Read seems to

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have missed opportunity after op-
portunity by letting articles go past him

I am sending the carved ivory
& coco nut on approval, as it will
be more satisfactory for you to see
what you are purchasing. I have
pointed out to my brother that I
think the prices (£8.-- - & £5.--)
are too high & have suggested to
him ^{that} £6.-- + £4.-- would be
reasonable. He is away at present
but will be back in the course of
3 or 4 days when I have no doubt
he will fall in with my views.

The Studio will shortly publish
a fairly exhaustive paper by me on
the totemic work of Benin & I have

also a short paper on personal ornaments from Benin forthcoming in the Bulletin of the Philadelphia Museum. I will send you reprints as soon as I get them.

I enclose a list of Benin articles in your collection of which I would be much obliged if you could let me have photographs.


With Lady Grove I left a reprint of my brother's on the Benin expedition & also a reprint of Major Lennard's paper on the Bendi expedition. You will no doubt have received them.

In the Pitt-Rivers Museum at

Oxford there is a Tasmanian Fire Drill; can you tell me whether it was in the Barnard Davis Collection & if so whence did he get it? The Tasmanian protector Robinson was after leaving Tasmania, protector of aborigines in Victoria & he has mixed up Tasmanian & Victorian articles. I would be much obliged if you could throw some light on this matter?

Yours very truly
H. King Pitt

Photographs of Benin articles

- p. 1623 Ivory mask
1624 staff
1629 " ivory
1682 double bladed paddle
1695 head ornament
1697 agate head dress
1711 necklace
1712 box lid (?)
1714 coral work
1718 brass box
1674 " powder flask
1717 staff ("line" period)
? wooden panel 
? amulet perforated, with figures