

Katwi Camp.

Oldca

9 - W - June

29/7/31.

Dear Mr. Gardley.

I have received your letter of 21st July, & am very pleased indeed that the Adelaide University is now the repository of Central Australian aboriginal material.

It is also a distinct-pleasure to know that the vocabularies etc., have been approved & recommended to the Council by such a competent authority as the Head of the School of Classics - Professor Fitzherbert. Such a mark of recognition of my work is more satisfactory to me than anything else could be.

I have been, & still am, very ill & have been obliged to arrange with the Railway authorities to order my meals from the Dining Cars. You will be amused when I tell you that until the last day or two I had to rise from my bed, go to the Dining, obtain my meal in a container, come back the mile to my camp, boil some water over my little spirit-lamp, force myself to eat some food, & get back to bed again only after I had made things trim & neat. The changes of temperature involved in this proceedings have retarded recovery somewhat; but my everlastingly cheerful spirit - is a great asset, & I am getting better daily.

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under the new good Consideration.

The mid day, I was able to do a little rummaging in two of my Mt boxes. & got some further P.G. vocabularies etc, one of which the 'Kulu Wongga' is, I think a repetition of the Kulu Wongga I included in the full you now possess.

I made this new collection & am sending it on to Prof. Lillieker - 13 pages, giving the names of the natives from whom I obtained it. It may be only a duplicate, but in these native dialects I am rather fond of duplicating words etc - since they compare & add to previous information.

I shall begin another vocabulary today, though I must hasten slowly in eye or other ways for the time being.

I intend that the Adelaide University shall possess the completed - aboriginal dialects in Australia, also your University, should have the personal names, not only of those from whose dialect I took down the words, but also from others of the groups who spoke & understand all the C. A. dialects. These personal names will be an asset to University Scientists in years to come when conditions are favourable to Scientific Exploration, as the familiarity of the Scientists with "personal" names of brother, father, son, mother etc. will help him greatly in gaining the confidence of the wild creatures. With my own title of Kabbarli (grandmother) to all, irrespective of their several degrees of kindred etc. coupled with a sort of suggestion of "magic re-incarnation" of some sorcerer of days gone by. I obtained their complete confidence, so that I was "initiated" into the freedom of all totemic - in fact a nice way I should add. The great sacred & secret totemic boards were brought to me & the smaller board still remains placed round & about me, while all the men present chanted the sacred totemic songs & we waved green branches to & fro as we sat in a great circle round the totemic (ahūgurr) fire. The women had been banished to a spot some five miles away. You will realize

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The great help this man ³ gave me in all my investigations
in this State. I wrote up the 'Ceremony' which was published
in the P. M. Herald. By quickly assuming beneficent-
magic hood, a tactful Lucidist - & always a kindly - will be
able to do some splendid work in (I hope) the near future.
But I would add one clear warning: that the Scientist
keep as absolutely apart - from the natives, as I have done
through all the years. Respect & fear & respectful regard
these are what I have banked on throughout. And my own
simple quiet life amongst them, with every detail of which
they make themselves familiar from the first moment of
my residence amongst them, & my readiness to cure
their ills & respond to sick calls at all hours & through
all inconveniences - always set me apart & into the niche
I desired to occupy in each group.

I write these details only to let you know my equipment -
for my task.

Adelaide University should have all the information
possible of its Central aborigines, whose numbers are decreasing
yearly. but who represent the last truly wild Cannibal, un-
touched by White Civilization, though even among new arrivals
from the wild areas, knowledge has filtered in of Waijela
(Whitefellows) & camel & pony tracks are not. Now "Maamu
nganjju" (Magic spirits).

I will have pleasure therefore in writing up & sending
to your University, all the vocabularies, personal & tribal
names, names of water etc. & other Central Australian
information collected by me. The Bigal-Natives, Fowlers
Bay, & Eucla natives are now extinct, also the Volde
Water Group, Teroolla group, & others. Such information
as I have of these will be sent on to Prof. F. J. Kerbert.

Your Council may well know that I was invited by the
Western Australian Government ^{in 1904} to write the history
of the Native Tribes of that State. The work took me
some twelve years 1904-12. all except two being spent in

real field work. Just on ⁴ completion of the book. & while it was
still in Dr Andrew Lapp's possession for revision, a Labour Party
under Mr Scaddan came into power & though the cost of the
publication was about to be placed on the Estimates Mr Scaddan
refused to endorse it & finally presented me with all data
& with the full text of the book to publish at my own
expense. The book is still in manuscript, as I used my
means to further my investigations in Quela, Nullabake
Plains, & Central Australia (Doodca). I hold myself in
honour bound to keep that book for Western Australia
which will some day see the advisability of acquiring it for
the University. But the 'border' of W.A. & S.A. does not exist
for the natives, mainly because the interchange of women,
initiation ceremonial gatherings etc. long journeying -
west-east & west-through the Centre, & round & round
the great Plains edge, never across the plain as the
Plain was never trodden (except within 20 miles or so of its
edge) by the aboriginal groups living round it until they
were taken from the Big H. Head to Margaret Water (on the
Northern edge) by the late Arthur Chichester Beadon. This
is historical fact, obtained from Mr Beadon himself who
was at Quela when I camped there in 1913, & who died at
Quela in 1915. I think a very old man & an Englishman
of good birth. The Centre of the Plains was naturally a
sanctuary for emu & kangaroo & Mr Beadon was the first
to find this out & profit by it.

The border being non-existent, each State can use & compare
the knowledge gained from the groups passing to & fro.
I think I may say that the Stiles with groups left on &
about the 'Aboriginal Reserves' have a leaning towards
a western & Southern (Doodca) trek. A few may have
gone eastward towards Doodnatta since the line has
gone to Alice Springs, but mission & ex-mission natives
are mingled with the eastern (Doodnatta etc.) little mobs,
& the ways of these are not understood by the wild folk.
I hope some day, though it will not be in my lifetime, that
these Central remnants will have a Truffles-Lupars,
Jordan, Lawrence, or some such Englishman as the
Supreme Head of all Australian Aborigines - a sort of
High Commissioner who, being above all party bias,
or creed or politics, will knit mission & unmission

A. Settlement. into one harmonious whole, & so ensure that
 the passing of these native peoples will be as happy as the
 best of Empire Builders can make it. A lesser man will
 not do. I have advocated this for years, & have placed it before
 Governors General, Governors, Prime Ministers & State Ministers.
 When such a man is at the head of aboriginal affairs, the
 real betterment of these dying people will begin. Central
 Australia, towards the western border - about Glen Kerouac
 would be a good commencing centre, & with aeroplanes
 the Commissioner could gather up the relics of every
 native activity in Australia. Not only that, but by
 gradually gaining the control of the wild creatures of
 the Central parts, he might be able to get them
 to change the deserts they have made through their
 ages of destruction of trees & plants & bush - into a plant
 'memorial' for themselves, so that there shall be
 that good memory of these dreadful cannibals in
 ages to come.

It is in the event of such an appointment - that your
 University will take first place, as all your data will
 be of the utmost help to the Commissioner, & a University
 man may have a high place on the Commissioner's Staff.
 Such an appointment, of a man with the status of our own
 Kungs Representatives, is the only solution of the
 problem of the aborigines. I am, & have been, saying
 this with the experience of thirty years behind me, & I
 hope that some day an Australian Statesman will rise
 who will solve the problem in the only way possible.
 Lord Curzon was a good deal of my mind in this
 matter, & had he lived & become Prime Minister, I am
 certain that such an appointment would have long ago
 been finalized. He had the same objections as I have to
 the variety of crews, changes of treatment & policy & of lifting
 for ever the whole native question out of the political &
 quasi religious field.
 Kindly excuse this long communication. I am with
 outside of land; resting in the bright warm sun, & am writing
 as the thoughts come.
 D. McLennan's kindness & courtesy through some of your

of correspondence has been very pleasant. & comforting
to me, & I am eager to give of my best to your University
from his kindly encouragement of my efforts. I am
rather afraid of the Honey-suckle, Quays, Paisiggle,
Jellaby & other elements that have obtruded on
aboriginal matters, but I must pursue the lines
I have drawn & followed with these wild remnants -
& I must write & speak the truth about them as I
see it.

My knowledge of the aborigines is 'family' knowledge -
that is, I have learned all about them while living
amongst - & in the midst of all the mobs - daily
& hourly studying their actions, & reactions, their
laws - & reputation of these - their habits, & their
mentality generally & I know that under no circumstances
could they rise to be an ordered self-governing people
in a thousand years. Under the beneficent governance
of one of our own Empire Builders, the best - that is in every
native man & woman would be brought out. There is
no land on earth like the English Area in its
control & management. I understand of
natives & inferior races. I want such a man
over the Australian aborigines.

With Compliments to the Members of the Council
of the University, I will be glad if you will mention
that I shall make it my pleasure to add to the
Info they have taken over, & will send every item
of information that will (I hope) supplement the
material already in their possession. I shall have
time to look over my mixed data. As Quaca was
a neighbour of the Bips - & also the northern border
areas, if I find any Quaca notes touching on Bips -
matters I will send them to Professor Fitzherbert.

Yours faithfully
Darryl M. Fitzherbert