

The Residency,

Ocean Island,

Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony.

P. 14/A

Dear Mr Anderson,

Thank you for your letter of the 28th October. I am glad if the paper on Gilbertese Astronomy appealed to you. With reference to your query as to star names, I published in the JRAI, January-June, 1924, a list of about 60 heavenly bodies recognised by navigators. I send you under separate cover a reprint of the paper "Canoes in the Gilbert Islands", wherein the list appeared. Incidentally, this paper contains the first explanation ever recorded of the asymmetry (so often observed but never before understood) in the hulls of Oceanic and Indonesian canoes. I see that subsequent writers, including Kennedy in the Ellice Islands, are now making a point of looking for this characteristic, which I regard as highly important, because it represents a fundamental mechanical principle that would tend to survive material accidents. It is one of the few aspects of the rather lame subject of material culture that is likely to prove of great evidential value - in this part of the world, at least - in the identification of migration and sub-migration streams.

Regarding my Gilbertese traditions of migration and origin, of which Kennedy seems to have told you, I fear they would not quite suit your purpose, being extremely bulky. My intent is to publish a very severely concentrated selection in the first instance; but even so, the English texts alone would fill about 150 pages of your Journal, and my own commentary would possibly occupy another 150. In addition to this, the time-factor is rather important to me. The

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material which I have collected has been recognized by Haddon and the late Dr. W. H. R. Rivers as quite extraordinarily important, and I am bent upon seeing the whole of it in print within the next 18 months, for the particular reason that it will form my thesis for the degree of Sc. D., Cambridge. The Cambridge University Press will take it, and I had almost decided to let them have it. The alternative in my mind was the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, because of its very attractive methods of production.

My chief desire, as I have indicated, is to get the thing printed in one piece before the middle of 1935, and I had not considered the course of publishing it in instalments. Your suggestion that I might send it to you, however, has given me pause. I am tied by no definite promise to the Cambridge people, and I am not particularly keen to give the Americans the kudos of first publication - especially in view of their late impudent plans to send workers into this area, without so much as a reference to us.

I feel that your Journal is the most appropriate organ for the production of matter from the British Pacific, and as Percy Smith's "Hawaiki" constituted my first stimulus to study Oceanic migrations, I must also record a sense of personal indebtedness towards the New Zealand school which you represent. I am willing to send you my Oral Traditions of Origin and Migration, when complete, if certain fundamentals can be arranged.

Could you guarantee, in the first place, that my material (amounting to 300 of your pages, more or less) would be produced in an unbroken series of quarterly instalments - each instalment to contain not fewer than, say, 75 pages - and the first to appear within three months of your reception of the typescript;

typescript; and, in the second place, that the complete work would be published as a Memoir within two or three months of the appearance of the last instalment? The author to receive fifty copies of each instalment, as printed, and fifty copies of the complete Memoir.

If you could give me such a guarantee, I would cancel other plans and let you have my material within the next six to eight months. I should also be willing to send you occasional papers (Foodstuffs and Foodgetting, Children's Games, are titles which occur to me at random) in the meanwhile.

Will you let me know as soon as you can conveniently do, as I should like to let the people at Cambridge know of my final plans before next April, if possible.

Again thanking you for your letter.

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Yours sincerely

Arthur Gumble