

Lightcliffe, Yorks.
England
18/x/91

R. 28/11/91
1891

My dear Sir

I was glad to get your letter & interesting papers as of course your name is well known to me. Had I received a copy of your last paper in time, I should have referred to it in Crozet's Voyage.

The Marion maps you speak of are known to me, as I obtained copies of them when in Paris in August 1885; but I obtained these copies at the Ministère des Colonies et Marine & not at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

I was unfortunately unable to decide how far these charts might be of interest to Tasmanians & as the get up of the book was a great expense to me I was obliged to leave them out. However as your friends have published them my omission is of no consequence.

There are two questions with regard to

To James Backhouse Walker Esq
Hobart, Tasmania

which, from the general interest you take in all matters relating to Tasmania, you could advance our anthropological knowledge considerably, & I should feel much obliged if you would be kind enough to help us in our little enquiries.

These points are:

1. We in England, are badly in want of specimens of Tasmanian aboriginal stone implements. With the exception of the one stone in the Taunton (Engl.) museum & half a dozen small ones the private property of Mr H. Balfour at Oxford, no one at home appears to be the possessor of any specimens. It is a pity & all for a long time past have made every endeavour to get specimens but so far without success; of course we do not want the specimens for ourselves personally but we want to examine & describe them & then hand them over to the museums. Can you procure us any properly authenticated

4
arm pits (if it grow there) & from the pubes - a medical man on whom reliance can be placed might be deputed to obtain it. If you can send us a good concise scientific description of the physical characteristics of this woman so much the better. - On her death her skeleton should be preserved & sent home to be examined by an expert, like Dr Garson - it could be consigned (for return) to the agent General in London & so as to insure its safe return to Tasmania.

Partly in the trust that you will do your best to help us in the above enquiries & partly as a token of my esteem I send you a copy of my book on the Aborigines of Tasmania - the book is rare as only 200 copies were published.

In replying please address to me 90 The Royal Colonial Institute as I shall probably have changed my address before I hear from you.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly
J. King Roth

specimens? Should you be unsuccessful - I cannot think that you are likely to be, can you send me negative photographs (glass plates) of such as exist in the Hobart or other Tasmanian museums, together with the dimensions & stating origin & giving description of the stone (flat, blunt etc)? The photographs should give at least two or three views of every stone (front, back & side). Some 2½ years ago I obtained, through my friend Mr Geo. P. Kingley when he visited Hobart, a negative of a stone in the museum there, but it receded very imperfectly broken.

2. We desire to know something further about Fanny Smith or whose behalf it is claimed she is the last surviving pure Tasmanian aboriginal human being. What we want is a fairly large portrait (negative) of her in full face & profile ~~any~~ without any headgear & a specimen of her hair. The hair should be from her head, from ~~some~~ the arm