My dear Roth,  
very          
have been most remiss in    
replying to your letters, but my excuse      
must be pressure of work which    
leaves but scant leisure. Thanks      
for the photos of 'Shiney'. I forget      
where you said the head is preserved?     
As it dried? or preserved in spirit?     
I don't quite understand your remarks about the five sticks.      
While there is a doubt about respect, the stick figured as well in your book, there seems to me to be quite strong       
though the exact process is unknown.       

The Spectator' some time since made the astounding statement that      
there were races of man kind 'like      
the Savages' who were ignorant of the use of fire. But the Spectator'
Sometimes goes strangely astray - is occasionally hoaxed - as when it printed the story of a Maori who finding a new pair of boots too small deliberately cut off his great toes to make his feet fit the boots! And another story made in all seriousness that the rabbits in Australia had developed an addal claw to enable them to climb the scrub when they feed upon it when grass was scarce. But why laugh at the Spectator when the learned A.A.S. was so delightfully hoaxed by Rougemont's clumsy fictions. Their gullibility was a huge delight to Australians.

I have not seen Maori collections of 'flints'. Maoridom lives at some distance from Hobart and I have not seen his collection of 'flints', indeed it is only lately that he told me he had a collection.
I only lately heard of Moir's fluids, I have not yet seen them. His theories about the stones seemed which he explained to me, seemed rather fanciful. I am glad that Dr. Tylo is giving his attention to the subject right in your work. I have little doubt that Moir's description of the tombs on Maria Island to be exaggerated. Both Labillardiere were apparently indeed with Rousseauish ideas of the noble savage of the state of nature who were in vogue in their day, and saw the blacks through rose-coloured glasses in the light of these theories. Petis' portraits of Petis' original drawings will be interesting. But it is quite possible they may have been much 'improved' in the process of engraving. But we can't trust too much to these early artists. They couldn't draw a leaf, they saw they were too intent on making a picture. Petis' portraits of Tas black, are possible more or less so,
though they fail I think to hit the race type. Pirou's in Odessa. Atlas are quite impossible, esp. his women who might be models of classic beauty. His "Femme du Cap de Diemen" is a Venus of Milo in ebony. Petit's The fact that Petit drew only one form of basket (the familiar one) is a strong confirmation of the conclusion at which I think you have arrived, that the other forms figured in your first ed. are not Tas, but Chir. The "flints" I am curious to see what Tyson has to say about the reat flue "flints" found by Mr. Morton. Their similarity to the Tas. kind is very remarkable.

I have just seen Baldwin Spencer's book, but have not yet had an opportunity of seeing your brothers. From the notices I have read it must be a valuable contrib.

I trust that if the Tas. had carried sacred stones or sacred pieces of wood like the Australians
In my mind if the Yaz had carried sacred stones or sacred pieces of wood like the Tusks it is hardly possible that none would have been found on some of those who were killed in the early fights. To my mind their absence, like the absence of the throwing stick, ground stone implements &c. is only another proof of the separativeness of the Yaz.

I am curious to see the maps you speak of. Maps that will have been disappointing, if not useless. Have you been able to reproduce Mr. Hurst's maps who drew them up under my direction? I think he took a good deal of trouble to draw them up. The knowledge of the localities was a great assistance. It would be well it does not of course pretend to anything like precision, but only suggests general probability & is conjectural. Perhaps you could spare Mr. Hurst a copy of the book.
Fanny Smith

I am looking out with some impatience for the book.
Disappointed
And does it care for mine old

toy flourishing.