

A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
7th October, 1975.

Mrs Jean Rolfe,
Picture Research Unit, Room 4231,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Television Centre, Wood Lane,
LONDON W12 7RJ, England.

Dear Mrs Rolfe,

Your letter of the 19th September on the subject of photographs for a BBC documentary on Ocean Island and Nauru has been forwarded to me by the ANU Press.

It is true that, as indicated by the Acting Director of the Press, I may be said to possess a certain expertise on matters relating to Ocean Island and, to a lesser extent, Nauru. This is mainly due to my spending some five months on a lands settlement of Ocean Island in 1931 and publishing the basic work on Banaban culture the following year. Having been in charge of Banaban affairs on a number of occasions prior to World War II I instigated the purchase of Rabi Island for the Banabans, and prepared the memorandum on their lands and funds which, subsequently published, forms the principal source of information on these topics. After the war I negotiated their settlement on Rabi and have maintained contact with them since, particularly on problems connected with their historical and cultural development. I conducted a delegation of Nauruans on a tour of Fiji, and in particular Rabi, related to settlement possibilities; and later wrote an introduction to Nancy Viviani's book on Nauru and a chapter on cultural history for my wife's work, these being the only two monographs on Nauru published since the German occupation.

The above summary, read in the light of the recent spate of media releases, will serve to explain why, as a professional writer, I should not care to produce from my own collection, or to procure, illustrations other than to material either written by myself or approved by me as being accurate and not tendentious. Owing, furthermore, to existing commitments, I am in any case not in a position to undertake such work except on the same fee basis as charged to the Australian Broadcasting Commission in connexion with the preparation of the synopsis of their proposed television series on 'Europeans in the Pacific'.

I am sorry that I cannot help you in your quest but if you care to contact the British Phosphate Commissioners they should be able to provide you with illustrations connected with their operations. There are also a number of photographs published with the literature on both Ocean Island and Nauru.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



With Compliments

Pat

Australian National University Press

P.O. Box 4 Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

PC:MJ

29 September 1975

Mrs Jean Rolfe
Picture Research Unit
Room 4231
BBC TV Centre
Wood Lane
LONDON, W12 7RJ
England

Dear Mrs Rolfe,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September.

I'm afraid we cannot help you, but I am sending your letter to the authority in this area, H.E. Maude, who may be able to do so.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss P. Croft)
Acting Director

P.S. I understand, though I have no details, that the Australian Broadcasting Commission is also preparing a Pacific documentary. Are you aware of this?

c.c. Mr H.E. Maude
77 Arthur Circle
FORREST, A.C.T. 2603

