

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
17th August, 1976,

Dear Nigel,

I am sorry not to have thanked you before for so kindly sending me that report by Grimble on the Banaban bangabanga. My excuse is the usual one: I have been buried and lost to the world in research and writing, this time on the Peruvian Labour Trade of the early 1860s, and Honor has kept all my letters hidden lest I give up and stop work to answer them. Now, however, she has proclaimed a three day moratorium on which I am supposed to catch up with over a month's arrears.

I have read through the piece by Grimble with great interest, for it is a subject on which I know a bit myself. Most of what he says is correct, though it doesn't go very far, but the statement on p.2 a, where he says that once a bangabanga is declared open anyone may draw water, is nonsense. I have a hunch that this is the reason why he never showed it to me, or even mentioned its existence, and why he passed my own section on the caves in our paper in the Journal of the Polynesian Society as O.K. when I showed it to him in draft.

But nevertheless it is a valuable piece of Grimbleiana (or however you spell it) and I am including it in The Grimble Book, which we are due to start on next year. This will contain all the unpublished material by Grimble that he left behind when he died (mostly anthropological notes on the Gilberts, but including four manuscript papers which are absolutely first-class). We must put in a suitable acknowledgement to you for your contribution. Now that unaccultured native peoples are so scarce there is a tremendous interest in the anthropological world in ethnographical material like this, written half a century ago when a culture was still functional.

There was no trouble about the hotel bill in Mauritius. I only enquired at the High Commission in case they had swiped it; and because we were curious to see what sort of people they were. We had no difficulty in paying as we always travel with oodles of boodle, ever since Honor had to go into hospital in Honolulu and they demanded cash in advance while she was lying on a stretcher gasping for breath.

I'm sorry to hear that you missed out on the Lords, but I guess that next time it's yours for sure. I always found that I got what I wanted in the end, but it usually took several bites before the cherry was mine.

When I got back the doctor said I had high blood pressure and threatened me with all sorts of things. Then a fortnight ago he tried again, and lo it had gone - I never saw anyone so disappointed, or so mystified. But it was so simple, really: I was back in research and producing papers for publication. The Peruvian Labour Trade will be my 100th, promised to the O.U.P. for a book next year.

LAW

BANK

MADE IN AUSTRALIA

On the 1st October I'm due to be 70 and I surmise, from an advance notice in a bookseller's catalogue, that the Gods of Pacific research are contributing to a festschrift. Its certainly got me scared, and the old blood pressure will be rising fast once again. The only person I ever knew who got one stood up to give a speech of thanks, and when he'd finished fell flat on his face: dead of a heart attack.

I don't want to have a heart attack for some time because: (a) I have 4 more papers to finish; (b) everyone gets a Government pension of \$2,000 odd from 70 on (Honor already gets hers, but gives it away); and (c) I want to read the Vice-Chancellor's judgement. So do please send me a copy.

Wishing you all the best,

Yours,

serm



THE TREASURY SOLICITOR
Matthew Parker Street London SW1H 9NN

Telex 917564 Telegrams Proctorex London SW1
Telephones 01-930 7363/1124 ext 81

BY AIR MAIL

Professor H E Maude
77 Arthur Circle
Forrest, A.C.T.2603
AUSTRALIA

Please quote

Your reference

Date

29th June 1976

Dear Harry,

I am pleased to hear that you and Honor have both arrived home safely. I hope your journey and court appearance were not too traumatic.

I am sorry about the misunderstanding over your hotel bill in Mauritius - I thought I had told you that we were paying the money into your account here because, for some reason I do not understand, we could not pay direct. However, it all appears to have sorted itself out.

I have enclosed a copy of Grimble's report on the Lands Commission. You may remember my mentioning to you that I had discovered it quite recently. I hope you will find it of some interest.

The case finished on Friday 18th June - its hundredth day. We now await the judgment which will be given in October.

It only remains for me to thank you and Honor for your assistance to the Crown's case and for making my task of marshalling the witnesses, so pleasant to perform.

With very best wishes.

Nigel Seed.

P.S. I am disappointed to have to tell you that, having made it to the Final Selection Board for the House of Lords post, I did not get it. C'est la vie!



THE TREASURY SOLICITOR
Matthew Parker Street London SW1H 9NN

Telegrams Proctorex London SW1
Telephones 01-233 3000 SWITCHBOARD 124 ext
01-233 7 372 DIRECT LINE
Telex 917564

Professor H.E. Maude
77 Arthur Circle
Forrest A.C.T.2603
Australia

Please quote
T&M71/948/NJS
Your reference

Date
24th September 1976

Dear

Thank you for your letter acknowledging the receipt of Grimble's piece on the Bangabanga. I am glad you found it interesting and honoured to think that it is going to be published.

I am sending this letter by diplomatic bag to ensure the safe return of one of your papers which I have enclosed; it must not have been returned to you after we had borrowed it for photocopying. I hope it will find its way safely back into your Holland collection and I am sorry it was not returned earlier.

We have heard that Judgment in this great case will not be until November, but I will send you a transcript once we have it.

In the meantime I send you my very best wishes for your 70th birthday next Friday.

Regards to Honor as well

Yours

Nigel Seed.

C O P Y.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Ocean Island.

11th November, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the well-known Banaban, Rotan by name, has declared that he has now segregated himself entirely from the Banaban community. He has stated further, that he realizes that his action excludes him from any participation in social services and other benefits available to Banaban as members of the Banaban community.

2. Rotan's declaration was made verbally before the Banaban Committee on 5th October, and was confirmed at a later meeting of the Committee on 19th October. He has forthwith withdrawn from the Committee.

3. It is the wish of both Rotan himself and the Banaban Committee that the situation be reported officially to the Government.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. E. Hard.

Banaban Welfare Officer.

The Acting Secretary to the Government,
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY,
Ocean Island.

Extract from Notes on
Meeting of Banaban Committee
5th October, 1939.

Rotan's Retirement

Rotan expressed his intention of segregating himself, from today, from the Banaban Society. He is taking no further part in the Committee or in any other community activity.

Extract from Notes on
Meeting of Banaban Committee
19th October, 1939.

Rotan's Retirement

Rotan wishes it to be recorded that from this day he is no longer to be regarded as a member of the Banaban community in any way at all. He leaves the committee as from today. The new member for Buakonikai is Amon.