March 7, 1938

Dear Jeffreys,

Many thanks for your interesting letter. I am very glad
you like "The Design of Experiments", as I had been concerned
for some years previously with the kinds of logical difficulties
that experimenters run into, and found it interesting and
enjoyable to try and make an orderly statement of what can be
done about them, putting the various dodges which have proved
successful into their proper relations with each other. I was
very glad to see the proof of the note in the Proceedings.

On your last point about identification of a prior
probability with a frequency in the external world, I think
I was quite a little influenced by Bayes, who, you may
remember, defined probability as "the ratio of the expectation
to the value expected", and clearly regards expectation as a
value averaged over objective frequencies of occurrence. I
have always thought that this point of view must have been
fairly widely spread in the 18th century, as it is the
natural one for gamesters to take for such problems as
evaluating expectations on unfinished games, but I do not know

anyone who has brought it ous so explicitely as Bayes.

Yours sincerely,