2 February 1943

Dear Richardson,

Thanks for your letter which I found most interesting. As mathematics, the theory of Probability is rather peculiar, for its applications (and it is of course predominantly applied mathematics) have always been diverse and have changed greatly in the course of time.

So much is this so that, if a modern book were entitled "The Theory of Probability", I should at once suspect it of obsolescence, for in modern times the word Statistics has been used to cover this field and its extensions. There is even a tendency to stress the applied nature of statistical books by writing of Experimental Design, Sampling Theory, etc., which from appreciably different points of view really cover the same ground.

I am enclosing a list of a few titles, all of books with a modern viewpoint; some such as Mainland's you may find too easy after wrestling with Hall & Knight. None are hard except in the sense that they are essentially concerned with the quasi-impossible task of obtaining new ideas and methods of reasoning. I hope they will be useful.

Yours sincerely,