

3rd September, 1951.

Dear Mr. Earnshaw,

Mr. Maude is now back from his travels, and I have passed on to him the two charts you were so kind as to leave for him. He is very glad to have them.

As I told you he had already made enquiries about getting copies from the Commonwealth Relations Office, and he has now a reply giving cost of photostats. The letter mentions also copies of correspondence between Capt. Bishop and Richard Hall, 1799, on the subject, as follows:-

Letters from Capt. C. Bishop to R. Hall dated Canton Sept. 1799, pp. 132-6. 5 p.

Letter to Capt. Bishop, dated Macao 9 Sept. p. 137. 1 p.

Letter from Capt. Bishop, dated Canton 12th Sept. p. 138. 1 p.

Mr. Maude would like to know if you have got copies of this correspondence. As they have mentioned it to him, it looks as if they had located it when investigating your inquiry. It does not throw any light on the matter with which he is specially concerned, the giving of the name Kingsmill to the southern Gilberts.

If you should happen on a clue, he would be very grateful if you would let him know.

After hearing your story of the location of the other part of Bishop's memoranda, I'm sure you'll be successful, if anybody can be.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J.W. Earnshaw,  
J.W. Earnshaw Pty. Ltd.,  
189 Pacific Highway,  
NORTH SYDNEY.



*Personal*

20th July, 1951.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your helpful and detailed account of the various inscriptions on Dalrymple's chart of the islands seen from the brig "Nautilus" in 1799.

Your letter confirmed what we had suspected here: that it was the expert George Bass who was really responsible for the charting of the Northern Gilbert Group, and not Captain Bishop. The origin of the name "Kingsmill" is still, however, as obscure as ever.

I have been wondering whether it would be possible to have the "Nautilus" chart photostatted for us and, if so, what the cost would be. We have ascertained that there is no copy in Australia.

Yours faithfully,



H. E. Maude

Superintendent of Records,  
Commonwealth Relations Office,  
King Charles Street,  
LONDON S.W.1

RECEIVED

28 MAY 1951

843. Personal



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

KING CHARLES STREET

LONDON S.W.1

WHitehall 8140

Ext. :

Your reference :

Please quote in reply : R.1800/51

BY AIR MAIL

17<sup>th</sup> May, 1951

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 26th April, the "Chart of Islands in the Pacific Ocean seen in the brig "Nautilus", 1799", among Dalrymple's Charts which are preserved in the records of this Office, has been examined but the name Kingsmill does not appear on it.

The following inscription including Remarks, appearing on the Chart, has been extracted for your information:-

Chart of Islands in the Pacific Ocean seen in the Brig Nautilus Capt. Charles Bishop 1799. Laid down by George Bass and Roger Simpson Variation  $9^{\circ} 20'$  E.

N.B. This Sketch was formed from Bearings and Angles taken from Bases, whose lengths were often found to be uncertain from the setting of Tides: The Longitudes from Mr. Simpson's observations, both brought on and reduced back.

It is believed, from the drying of the Reef at Bishops Is. that the Tide rises about 5 feet and flows, full and change, about 6<sup>H</sup>, or 7<sup>H</sup>.

By comparing the settings of the Tide with the State of the Reefs, the Flood seemed to come from the Northward.

Remarks.

These Islands are for the most part extremely low, and sandy; abound with Coconut Trees, but produce also Bread, Fruit, Plantanes, Bamboo, Tarrow &c; and are inhabited: The larger Islands, thickly, by a brown,

/handsome

H. E. Maude, Esq.,  
The South Pacific Commission,  
Social Development Section,  
Box 5254 G.P.O.,  
Sydney,  
New South Wales.



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE  
KING CHARLES STREET  
LONDON E.W.1

handsome and courteous People. G.B.

Obligingly communicated by George Bass, Esq.,  
To whom this Plate is inscribed A. Dalrymple.

The Chart was published in March 1802 and the following names  
appear on it from North to South by East:-

- Roger Simpson's Is. Harbottle I.;
- Two Tree I. Sidenham Teast's Islands;
- Dog I.; Morai Pt.; Drummond's I.; Bishop's Islands;
- Nautilus Shoal. -;

Yours faithfully,

Superintendent of Records.

H. E. Maude, Esq.,  
The South Pacific Commission,  
Social Development Section,  
Box 2224 S.F.O.,  
Sydney,  
New South Wales.

P.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Social Development Section

Box 5254, G.P.O.  
SYDNEY.

26th April, 1951.

Dear Sir,

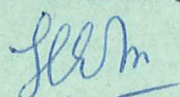
I venture to seek your assistance in connection with a chart which was in the possession of the India Office, and, according to available published information, not in the British Museum or Public Record Office, or, indeed, anywhere else in the U.K.

This chart, which was in Dalrymple's collection, bears the title "Chart of islands in the Pacific Ocean, seen in the Nautilus". It was drawn by Roger Simpson and George Bass, presumably in 1799, the year in which the islands charted were seen. These islands were some of the southern Gilberts, and, in a chart published shortly afterwards by Arrowsmith, they bear the collective name "Kingsmill Group". It has been assumed by some writers that Bishop, the master of the Nautilus, gave them this name, but Krusenstern in his Recueil de mémoires hydrographiques, published in 1827, states definitely that the name Kingsmill does not appear on the Dalrymple chart.

There was an admiral, Sir Robert Brice Kingsmill, who died in 1805, and possibly Dalrymple may have given his name to the group.

As a former Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, I am greatly interested in all matters concerning the history of these islands, and I should be most grateful if you could have this chart examined, if it is in your library, or if you will pass the inquiry on to the library now possessing the India office collection of Dalrymple charts. What I am anxious to know is the exact title of the chart, including the reference to Simpson and Bass, and the date; also whether the name Kingsmill does or does not appear on it.

Yours faithfully,

  
H. E. Maude

The Librarian,  
Commonwealth Relations Office,  
LONDON, W.1.