

DAVIES, BROWN & CO.

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TMLB/PL

11th April, 1972.

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

BY AIRMAIL

Dear Mr. Maude,

Thanks for your letter of the 3rd April.

I agree with all you say about Martin Silverman's book, but of course much of the material which it contains is extremely valuable and all three of us have studied it intently. I must apologise that through an accident in dispatch it went off to you sea-mail, it certainly should have been returned airmail particularly because of the delay in letting you have it back.

About 75 ft. of microfilm covering the various Suva documents has arrived and is being developed.

We have had our first hearing before a Master of the High Court, and time has been given to the Defendants to put in a defence pending the supplying of copies of some of the Suva documents; some progress is being made.

The rest of your letter will be carefully studied.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Brown

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
3rd April, 1972.

Mr R.M.L. Brown, LL.B.,
Davies, Brown and Co.,
130 Arthur Road,
Wimbledon Park,
LONDON, SW19 8AA,
England.

Dear Mr Brown,

Thanks for sending Martin's book, which will arrive in due course and meanwhile I have another. You must be the only people (bar anthropologists) ever to buy a copy, for it is not exactly light reading. Martin was one of my first students and he was more or less incomprehensible then - and almost totally so now.

If you are seriously thinking of investigating the point about the original guano licence please note that the island in question was Lachlan and not Purdy.

Mr G.C. Roberts applied for a lease of both, which was duly granted. But in his despatch No.158 of 25 August 1884 the Governor of NSW, Lord Loftus, advised the Secretary of State that the Lachlan Islands were inhabited:-

"5. As there can be no doubt that persons are living on these Islands, I have to submit for consideration as to whether the lease granted to Mr Adams [executor of the will of G.C. Roberts] ought not to be cancelled ...".

This was registered in the C.O. in NSW despatches 16985, 10 October, where presumably minutes are to be found as it was not destroyed under Statute (see Register of NSW despatches).

The C.O. replied by despatch ~~XXXXX~~ dated 11 November, as follows:-

"As it is proved that these Islands are inhabited, I have to request your Lordship to cause a notification to be sent to Mr Adams of the determination of the lease."

The Governor's despatch No.9 of 22 January 1885 notifying the cancellation of the lease is in C.O. 201 (registered 3551/85) and presumably has minutes attached. It concludes the business of the cancellation.

Wishing you all success with the case,

Yours sincerely,

See

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24th March 1972

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

BY AIR MAIL

Dear Mr. Maude,

Thank you for your letter of 21st February 1972. I note with interest what you say about the Commonwealth Archives. I discussed this with Mr. Macdonald and he does not feel there is anything we can usefully do at the moment until we have had an opportunity of studying the material which Mr. Bertram Jones has sent.

This has arrived safely in the form of micro film which is at present at London Airport and we are awaiting its delivery. I will be in touch with you about this later on.

Thank you for your observations about the original guano licence in respect of Ocean Island. This raises an interesting and difficult point which we are studying.

Under separate cover I am returning your copy of Martin Silverman's "Disconcerting Issue" and your copy of the journal of the Polynesian Society. Mr. Silverman's book in particular has been of the greatest assistance and we are very grateful to you for the loan of these books. We have obtained further copies and I am sending one to Tebuke.

The Treasury Solicitor has insisted on having a sight of some of the documents obtained from Suva before the Government defence is delivered. An extension of time was granted at the first Court hearing this week. We must, therefore, make haste to develop the film which has just arrived so that we can get on with the case.

I am sorry for the delay in returning your books. You should have had them before now but, unfortunately, things got a bit behind owing to flu in the office.

As far as I know, we have nothing else belonging to you here but perhaps you would kindly put me right on this.

I shall, of course, be keeping in touch with you as the case develops.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Rudolf R