98 Arthur Circle,
Forrest, A.C.T.,
Australia,
3rd January, 1960.

Dear Mrs Aris,

I am very sorry not to have written before to let you know about the safe arrival of the Arundel Diaries and Papers, but I have only just returned to Canberra myself and this is my first letter.

I was not able to get down to Melbourne when Niel Gunson got there, but like the angel he is he agreed to keep the two boxes for the time being and later bring them up to Canberra himself.

As a matter of fact this arrangement suited Niel very well, for he badly wanted to come to Canberra to see his friends and discuss his work and future with Professor Davidson; but lacked the money after such a long trip abroad. But as he was bringing the precious Arundel Diaries with him the University agreed to pay his return fare and to house and feed him free for the two or three days he spent here.

I was very glad to see Niel again, apart from the fact that he brought the Diaries, for he was able to speak first-hand of you and Miss Fletcher, as well as of many people in England and Europe who I have corresponded with but never yet met. I only wish that I could find a suitable position for him as I do not think that he is altogether fitted for University teaching, which is all that we can find for him in Australia.

You will be pleased to hear that the two cases arrived in excellent condition, the only damage being a splinter off the side of one box, which however was done while the porters were getting it into my room at the University. The contents were quite unaffected by this; indeed they could not have shifted or rubbed each other at all during the long voyage, for they were beautifully wedged in with Niel's cushions and other soft things.

As you say, it will be some time before I can really get down to work on the Diaries, as it will be a big job, I can see, and I must finish my existing assignments first; much as I should like not to. But in about a month everything is to be sorted, indexed on cards, and filed carefully in a special steel cabinet (with lock and key) which the University has provided.

Many thanks for your kind letter, which I found awaiting me on my return to Canberra. We still hope to go to New Zealand about the middle of this year to work on cataloguing Pacific Islands manuscripts for the Department. If we do I shall certainly get in touch with your nephew at Whangarei; and if we can take a day or two off from work we shall try to fly up to Whangarei to meet him personally; I have not been so far north for 20 years and should like to see the country again.

Everything is a bit chaotic in our household just at the moment and I hardly know where I am. My son Alaric finished at the University at the end of the year, fortunately with first-class honours (for a thesis on the historical geography of Norfolk Island); this week he got himself a position in the Commonwealth Public Service as a Research Officer in the Department of Trade; and next Monday he gets married. So do please forgive the incoherency of this letter.

I am really more grateful than I can possibly say to you for allowing me to work on the Arundel Papers, and only hope that I can do him and you justice. I had forgotten how much material there was.

Next year I hope to fill in my only major gap in the picture of the guano industry, by working on the guano files at the State Department in Washington. And when that is over we look forward to coming across to England, and seeing you.

In the meantime we both wish you a most happy and successful 1960,

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Maude.

11 Halkin Place.
London. S.W.1.
Dec. 9. 1959

Dear Mr Maude

I think the ship with Neil Gunson & the Arundel diaries must be nearing Australia — & I hope all will go well & these trunks will reach you safely at Canberra. I left all the business side of this matter to Miss Fletcher — who has been most kind & practical.

It will be a long time before you can look at the Diaries & I fear you may be rather aghast at the volumes of pencilled work — so difficult to decipher. But it will be a great relief to me if all this can be of value to this work of Research.. It is all so long ago — but if any points crop up in which I can help you I hope you will let me know —

I believe you sometimes go to New Zealand.. more now days I expect in relation to your researches. But if you travel partly for pleasure and are likely to go up north to the lovely Bay of Islands I would very much like to ask you to stop & see my nephew — who is of course John Arundel's eldest grandson.

Neil Arundel Macdonald
Waiotu R. District
HIKURANGI. WHANGAREI — Northland.

My sister died when he was born — & I brought him up — After Winchester College & Oxford — & the War, he suddenly decided to go out to N.Z. to farm — a surprising decision.. but he has persisted in the hard & lonely life — with his wife & daughters — & is becoming a good New Zealander. I would much like you to meet him —

With my highest wishes to you & your wife for Christmas & the New Year I am yours sincerely
Sydney D. Arundel

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AIR LETTER

AEROGRAMME

POST EARLY for CHRISTMAS

H. E. Mandelson
Box 4 G.P.O.
Australian National University
Canberra A.C.T.
Australia

First fold here

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: S. D. Aris
11 Halkin Place
London. SW1.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

POST EARLY for CHRISTMAS

To open cut here

(1) an introductory section on the islands themselves and their discovery;

11 HALKIN PLACE
BELGRAVE SQUARE, S.W.1.
BELGRAVIA 3137.

July 9. 1959.

Dear Mr Maude

Very many thanks for your letter of June 23 telling me of the arrival of Mrs Aimée Bright's résumé of my Father's diaries & of your impressions.

Aimée Bright was a connection of Albert F. Ellis & an old friend of my Father's & her work on the Diaries was the result of an understanding with both these men. She came to England just after my Father's death & when I asked her to go through the diaries & make some sort of record I did ask her not to write anything more than necessary of his complex character & his private life. Hence the dullness of it all.

Of course I am not hurt by your remarks — for my own judgement was to keep her chapters only as a skeleton.

I do not think his private life any longer of any interest

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What I feel I could do, if it is what you would like, is to write a History of the Central Pacific Equatorial Islands, in which Mr Arundel would of course be the main figure. I think that his importance today (and the public's interest in him) lies in what he did, though his remarkable character and temperament must be delineated, for they have a major bearing on his accomplishments.

The sort of book that I suggest would include:-

(1) an introductory section on the islands themselves and their discovery;

to be despatched as soon as possible. I will let you know when they start.

I am surprised at the intention of the Oxford University Press. I can not see the connection or the knowledge of John Arundel. Nor even you are obviously the one to write this book for school children — for until you anyone has read the diaries they can know very little about him.

As you know Mrs Fletcher has the Trunk of the Arundel diaries in her library at Livingstone House — if anything happens to me she & my son John Arundel Aris will carry on with the despatch of the boxes.

With my kind regards to you both

I am yours sincerely

Sydney D. Aris

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to anyone now.. but I do know there is other material in the Diaries for students of all kinds.

I would hope that you would read them through & then decide what is of vital interest to the special research into Pacific History on the lines of your suggestion - paragraph III in your letter - of which I expect you have a copy.

I think probably in the course of your reading you will also find how much John Arundel influenced the political behaviour in the Pacific - his early correspondence with Lord Lee (N.Z.) & his great friendship with Sir John Thurston etc etc & finally the information I found in the Diaries which brought about the decision of Canton Island just before Pearl Harbour.

However all that is for your future decisions - because I know it is going to be a very heavy task for you to labour through the Diaries written in faint pencil - & often submerged by wrecklings -

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As you know Mrs Fletcher has the Trunks of the Arundel diaries in her library at Livingstone House — if anything happens to me she & my son John Arundel Aris will carry on with the despatch of the boxes.

With my kind regards to you both

I am yours sincerely

Sydney D. Aris

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The sort of book that I suggest would include:-

(i) an introductory section on the islands themselves and their discovery;

Department of Pacific History,
23rd June, 1959.

Dear Mrs Aris,

Your letter arrived yesterday and I felt very ashamed that I had not written to thank you for kindly send me Miss Bright's MS biography.

This came ten days ago and I wanted to read it through before getting in touch with you again.

Now that I have finished the last chapter I can quite appreciate your wisdom in not proceeding with the idea of publication.

I intended to give you a full criticism of the manuscript, but if the authoress is a friend of yours it might unintentionally hurt; and after all I am quite sure that she did her best. And also, it must be admitted that there is a wonderful quarry of factual material in the work, much of which I never knew before. Her basic trouble, I think, was that she never got the feel of the islands herself, so could not put it into her writings.

Reading Miss Bright's effort has made me wonder if the material actually exists these days for a full scale biography of Mr Arundel (it would seem that the diaries are probably not sufficient in themselves)? And again I wonder if you would really wish to have a detailed biography prepared: the publishers (and the public) would expect it to contain a good deal of information on John Arundel's childhood, marriage, family life, temperament, and the like; and some of this information may not be easy to get at this stage; while I am possibly not the right type to get it in any case as I rather dislike the modern 'candid camera' way of probing into other people's private lives. I don't know; for to be honest I have never tried my hand at it.

What I feel I could do, if it is what you would like, is to write a History of the Central Pacific Equatorial Islands, in which Mr Arundel would of course be the main figure. I think that his importance today (and the public's interest in him) lies in what he did, though his remarkable character and temperament must be delineated, for they have a major bearing on his accomplishments.

The sort of book that I suggest would include:-

(i) an introductory section on the islands themselves and their discovery;

(ii) the finding of the guano deposits and their initial exploitation by American interests;

(iii) John Arundel and the history of the development of the area under his aegis; and

(iv) a final section carrying the story to the present day.

Mr Arundel and his work would thus be put in their setting, but I should emphasize that he would still be the main actor in the play.

I have already got all the material for the first part; in fact I have recently written a paper on the discovery of the islands. On the second phase I have the voluminous notes made by E.H. Bryan, Jr., the American author of "American Polynesia", who spent some 20 years collecting information on this area but has now lost all interest. I would also propose to visit Washington (if possible next year) and examine the Guano Files in the State Department archives.

The third period is evidently covered adequately by the Arundel Diaries and the supporting material which I have been able to obtain; while the final section can be written from my own records. Mr Grice, of Melbourne, is also handing over the Malden Island papers of the old firm of Grice, Sumner and Company, the first British company to operate in the area.

I hope that you will tell me frankly whether some such plan as the above would meet with your approval, or if you would prefer Mr Arundel to be treated on his own in a more or less straight biography, in which case I will prepare a revised scheme accordingly.

I was sorry to hear that Neil Gunson intends to return by a route which will preclude his bringing the two boxes with him, but if you can interest Sir William Leggatt I know that he can arrange everything without difficulty: all expense involved will, of course, be refunded by the University. We should not like either you or Sir William to be out of pocket as a result.

On the arrival of the boxes here an inventory of the contents will be made by the Departmental Assistant, with my help, and a signed copy will be forwarded to you as an acknowledgement of receipt by airmail. The records would be on deposit to the Department of Pacific History of the Australian National University and subject to recall by you at any time, at our expense.

There is just one other point before I close this already too lengthy letter. The Oxford University Press are thinking of bringing out a short study of John Arundel and his work in a series they are producing for the school-children of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. It would be for the 10-13 year olds and would run to

11 Halkin Place
S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Maude

(Annie Boyle)

I fear I did not make a note of the date on which I posted the big packet of the typewritten resumé of the John Arundel diaries. I sent them to you by surface mail and although I know the is a lengthy business I feel they should have arrived by now..

As they are an important preliminary to the very lengthy business of reading through the two huge boxes of the diaries I very much hope they have arrived safely.

Will you kindly let me know if & when they reach you? I directed them to the Research School of Pacific studies.

I find that Neil Gunson is more likely to travel home via Canada and U.S.A. & will therefore be unable to escort the boxes of the diaries.

But when I hear further from you I will ask my friend Sir William Jeffcott - Agent General for Victoria - to help me arrange safe transport.

I hope all is well with you both -

With kind regards

I am Yours sincerely

Sydney D. Ariss

and talk with you quietly at times convenient to yourself.

BY AIR MAIL

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AIR LETTER

AEROGRAMME

LONDON S.W.1
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JUNE 6
DAIRY FESTIVAL

SIXPENCE POSTAGE

C. E. Mandes
The Australian National University
Box 4. G.P.O.
Canberra
A.C.T.
Australia

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Sender's name and address: S. J. Ans
11 Halkin Place
Belgrave Sq. London. SW1

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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I plan to rent a flat and stay in London for some months as there are a number of things at the Public Record Office that I want to see, and I am also most anxious to find what has happened to the records of the old English whaling companies (notably the Enderbys). So I could just drop in and talk with you quietly at times convenient to yourself.

11 HALKIN PLACE
BELGRAVE SQUARE, S.W.1.
BELGRAVIA 3137.

March 17. 1959.

Dear Mr. Mancke

Your letter of March 3rd has pleased me very much - and I find we are in accord over the plans for J. T. A & Diaries..

I can well believe you cannot get away to England for some time & your suggestion that I should send out to you Aimée Boyle's chapters in advance is excellent. For they are the skeleton of the enormous collection of Diaries - should be a useful guide to you.

And your suggestion that Neil Gunson should take the Diaries out with him on his return to Australia is excellent. I have not yet met him, but know about him - his work from Mrs Fletcher - & intend to meet him.

If he plans to return via the States or Canada, we must think of someone else.

Of course it will be excellent, too, if you can carry out your plan & come to England in two years time, having digested all the Diaries etc. & we can then fill the last details together.

But I must remind you again that I am nearly 75 & increasingly tired & absent minded so I can not promise anything for myself.

The Aimée Bright chapters end with T.T.A's retirement — & that is all you want.

For my own family's sake I may make my own notes.. but I do feel that all you need for your study is his working life in the Pacific.

I am so glad you & your wife have come to such a pleasant stage in your lives & can now enjoy your own interests & also that you have so much satisfaction in your son's career

both my best wishes to you both

I am yours sincerely

Sydney D. Ayris

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I plan to rent a flat and stay in London for some months as there are a number of things at the Public Record Office that I want to see, and I am also most anxious to find what has happened to the records of the old English whaling companies (notably the Enderbys). So I could just drop in and talk with you quietly at times convenient to yourself.

98 Arthur Circle, Forrest, A.C.T.,
3rd March, 1959.

Dear Mrs Aris,

We were both so pleased to get your very kind and helpful letter of the 20th January. Unfortunately I was away working in Sydney when it arrived here so could not answer it as soon as I should have liked.

I was very happy to hear that you are still willing to let me attempt to write the story of your father. You very pertinently ask whether I would contemplate a full biography or only his life and work in relation to the guano industry.

I should like to write Mr Arundel's life as a whole, but quite frankly I have little idea whether there is sufficient material available for that, whereas I do know that there is enough for the other work.

Perhaps if you could send the Aimée Bright manuscript, as you suggest, it would give some idea of the magnitude of the task and to what extent she was able to trace and utilize sources outside Mr Arundel's records.

What I should like to do, of course, is to come home and examine the diaries again, have some quiet talks with you and seek for other material in England from which to build up the background. And I must admit that I should like to see my mother in Guernsey once again.

However, I have sounded out the authorities and fear that there is little chance of a grant being made available until I am due for a Sabbatical Leave in two years time. Last year they paid for me to spend some months in Honolulu and Fiji and early next year I am to go to New Zealand to examine and catalogue all manuscript material in libraries and other institutions relating to the Pacific Islands. So I really cannot blame them for not sending me to England until the year after.

The younger people here all buzz around the world like bees at the expense of various Foundations (mostly American); but for the over-50 few of these are available, as it is apparently considered that at such an age one should not be still working.

If you were willing to let the two boxes, or their contents, come out here the best plan might be for me to read through everything at leisure, make notes and a synopsis of the proposed work, and then come to England and discuss points with you whenever you feel like doing so; and with some knowledge behind me so that I did not just waste your time with silly questions, which could be answered by referring to the diaries.

I plan to rent a flat and stay in London for some months as there are a number of things at the Public Record Office that I want to see, and I am also most anxious to find what has happened to the records of the old English whaling companies (notably the Enderbys). So I could just drop in and talk with you quietly at times convenient to yourself.

If you consider this to be a feasible arrangement, perhaps Pacita Moore might be so kind as to bring out the trunks with her, as you have tentatively suggested. Alternatively I should be able to find others; for example, Neil Gunson, an earnest student of the early Pacific missionaries, will be returning before long, and would, I'm sure, be willing to take full charge. He is well known to Mrs Fletcher at the L.M.S., and is a very steady and sober young citizen.

You generously speak of making a few notes yourself. If you do feel like this it would be wonderful, but please do not think of doing anything unless the mood and opportunity comes. I know just how tiring such occupations can be when one is forcing oneself to do something that would at other times be a pleasure. If you could get someone sympathetic who could take notes while you talked it might not be too much of a burden? A young stenographic secretary, for example.

It is raining and miserable outside and I have just stopped to light the first fire of this winter. However it is good to think that this is a sign that summer is approaching with you. Honor is away in Sydney where my son, Alaric, is having an engagement party tonight - they get engaged very young out here, not that I can speak, for I was engaged at 18. He is writing an honours thesis for Sydney University on Norfolk Island and can talk of nothing else.

Again many thanks for your reassuring letter. You do not know what a relief it was to hear that the Arundel diaries and letters were all still safe and sound and, better still, that I might use them for writing on your father.

As for the delay, I am glad here too. For though I know little enough of Pacific history now, I shudder when I think of my ignorance at the time I came to see you at Preston Candover.

With our very best wishes, and hoping to see you in person before too long,

Yours sincerely,

Jean.

11 HALKIN PLACE
BELGRAVE SQUARE, S.W.1.
BELGRAVIA 3137.

January 20. 1959.

Dear Mr. Maude.

A day or two ago I was reading the notice in the "Times" of the Nan Kivell collection & this started to revive the memory of the long ago correspondence about my Father's diaries with you - And today your letter comes! What a pleasant coincidence! I am very glad you have revived and remembered our past intentions..

I congratulate you that you have been given this appointment of Senior Research Fellow in Pacific History at Canberra, and can imagine no one more suitable.

I have known the increasing importance of the history of Colonial development in the Pacific & that both Canada and the States are striding ahead in their research.

So I am all the more glad of an Englishman can make use of the Arundel Diaries .. so I wish you to do so.

I see we met in 1947 .. so I, too, have let matters so on hoping without any decisions. I knew you had been appointed to the South Pacific Commission & would necessarily be entirely engrossed — & I fear I have drifted about pretty as one does to deal with the diaries.

Most certainly there has never been any question of Sir Harry Luke writing a biography of my Father. We had a pleasant correspondence in 1946 and again in 1952 & he wrote very enthusiastically about you being chosen to make

engaged in preparing a number of papers on various aspects of these main subjects.

I must confess that my special interest remains as ever the Pacific Guano Industry and its subsidiary concerns, as it was developed by your distinguished father. But I have been approaching this subject gradually by working first on the earlier Pacific Islands trades and industries.

My paper on the earliest Pacific commercial activity of all, the

use of the Arundel Diaries ... I do ~~know~~ not know who Mr. Chadwick can be?

A couple of years ago, my friend - Irene Fletcher - the archivist-librarian of the L.M.S. in London offered to house the two enormous trunks full of the Arundel diaries - in the safety of her by library rooms at Livingstone House. She asked that Mr. Spellissy - a student of Colonial History, should have access to some detail in the diaries. As she said he was a friend of yours (agreed) Otherwise the diaries are there, still untouched.

The question now is - do you think to write a life of J. T. Arundel as a whole - or only in relation to the guano-phosphate industry?

The day has gone by when he, himself, is remembered - & the whole matter could only be treated historically.

You may have kept a record of correspondence with A. F. Ellis. I have copies of some letters exchanged between you & him in 1946 - chiefly on the subject of the Arundel diaries & possible biography. and I see he mentions about some chapters written up from those diaries by Aunke D. Bright - & that they never reached publication — Miss Bright was a relative of A.F. Ellis & a great friend of my Father's - He had always told her, she should write his biography & use his diaries - She arrived in England a few months after his death & we had great discussions. & finally I let her read thro' the diaries & to do her best. Then I cramped her style by asking her ~~not~~ to be reticent about his private life & thoughts & often sorrowful happenings - The result was a very dry account - & very poor a literary point of view, not my idea of what was wanted. She took about 3 years (with her own most urgent other literary & journalistic work) & was generous & understanding

11 HALKIN PLACE
BELGRAVE SQUARE, S.W.1.
BELGRAVIA 3137.

that I could not like it. Anyway here it is — a bundle of chapters — a skeleton to work from — if you like. To read it now it is very much dated & unnecessarily padded with his own comments.. but that would not matter if you can get facts & dates & a certain picture from them.

Let me know if I shall send this package to you to start on. I think I, too, will make notes of matters which may help you.

But the 2 great boxes of the real diaries are another matter. Though I expect they could be packed & sent out by steamship.

A young friend of mine, Pacita Moore, once met you when she was staying with the Freestons at Noumea (?) & as she may be sailing for Australia at the end of the year, she could take the 2 trunks with her own luggage.

You may realise that my Father had another side to him than a struggling merchant. — & even if you do read through the diaries (1870 — 1919) you will find many sides of his own sensitive, evangelical & often very sarcastic nature. I know you will treat these with sympathy & wisdom. I have never had the courage to read them through — tho' I have long since arranged them in chronological order. & this was of considerable value when I was able to produce some vital information

for our own government & that of the U.S.A. just before the American entry into the war.
I do know my Father's influence in the Pacific – apart from that of a Trader – was of use even to Viscount Grey & later to his great friend Sir John Thurston.

This letter is getting too long – a sign of old age .. but your letter has aroused all sorts of memories.
The years since 1945 have passed with many difficult private problems, a short visit to New Zealand, a return to a new way of life & a tiresome breakdown.
Now I am stronger – but too old & tired to be of much help to you. However, I will make notes & post them to you from time to time – if you still wish to carry on your research –

I want you to make a note – in case anything happens to me. To get in touch with my son, John Arundel Aris of the British Council & of my own address – and with my daughter Elizabeth Aris, of Manor Farm, Preston Candover
Hampshire.

It is good to think that some one is the made of the Arundel diaries before everything is forgotten.
I am so interested that your wife has written & is still writing about Pacific matters. Do you & she know G.A. Pittman & his work on Nauru?

With best remembrances to you both I am yours sincerely
Sydney D. Aris

Department of Pacific History,
14th January, 1959.

Dear Mrs Aris,

I have been wanting to write to you for over a year now but I suppose have lacked the moral courage to do so, since I have long been ashamed at having allowed myself to get out of touch with you.

My only excuse (and it is not good enough) is that my last job, on the South Pacific Commission, entailed continual travelling all over the islands and that as a result my personal correspondence got in the most hopeless state of chaos. For a time I tried to cope, despite being absent from home for over half the year, but latterly I became reconciled to losing my friends because they never heard from me.

However that is all over now, and I have the position that I have always dreamed about but never believed could exist: that of Senior Research Fellow in Pacific History at the Australian National University at Canberra.

This is essentially a Research University, without undergraduate students or teaching; and my particular assignment is to study the history of the Pacific Islands from the original source material and to write up my results in the form of monographs and books.

For the first few years I am to concentrate on three major themes:—

(i) the history of early commercial development in the Pacific Islands;

(ii) the regional history of the Central Pacific; and

(iii) a history of Pitcairn Island,

and I am now engaged in preparing a number of papers on various aspects of these main subjects.

I must confess that my special interest remains as ever the Pacific Guano Industry and its subsidiary concerns, as it was developed by your distinguished father. But I have been approaching this subject gradually by working first on the earlier Pacific Islands trades and industries.

My paper on the earliest Pacific commercial activity of all, the

"Pork Trade of Tahiti, 1800-1830" is about to appear in the Journal de la Societe des Oceanistes in Paris, and is being followed up by studies of the Sandalwood Trade of the Marquesas and the Pearling Industry of Eastern Polynesia.

Then I have been working on the Central Pacific American Guano Industry, 1857-1870, for some time and have recently returned from six weeks delving into the manuscript material on this theme in the Archives of Hawaii, the Bernice P. Bishop Museum and other repositories in Honolulu. Thanks largely to the generous co-operation of E.H. Bryan, who spent 20 years collecting information on the subject and has now lost interest, I have an enormous mass of material on photostat, typescript, manuscript, microfilm and tape: probably all I shall ever need in order to write a detailed history.

The links between the American period and the era of J.T. Arundel, which are close, can be traced particularly in the correspondence of C.A. Williams; and I now have several of these letters. Also I spent a month in the Fiji and W.P.H.C. Archives in Suva copying the High Commission correspondence on the guano islands, and I have taken copies of the Foreign Office Confidential Papers on the subject (which are, of course, no longer confidential) and have access to the Foreign Office Pacific Islands open correspondence (fortunately now on microfilm).

This is all leading up to say that the Milnes from Wellington (with Christina) came to lunch the other day, and when I was showing them some of the treasures I had amassed on the history of the guano industry I remarked that they were unfortunately merely dry bones, for to really live they had to be built around and related to the life of one man; John T. Arundel. If ever there was a true example of A.L. Rowse's contention that, to live, the history of any region and period must be written around the biography of a personality, it is to be found in the Central Pacific.

I explained to the Milnes that I had understood from Professor Davidson (who had, I think, heard from a Mrs Chadwick) that, despairing at the passage of time, you had decided to hand over all the Arundel Papers to Sir Harry Luke, who was due to incorporate them in a book, and that this had made me very diffident about approaching you on the matter.

The Milnes told me not to be stupid but to write to you at once, and Mrs Milne said that she would too. So here I am, contrite and humble, to ask if you should have decided after all not to commission Sir Harry for the work, to let me do it for you; or if he is to write the biography, then could I possibly use the material after he has finished with it to prepare a more detailed work on the history of the Central Pacific?

Sir Harry, with whom I spent a happy week-end at Bathurst last year, is of course a most gifted writer and would produce a far more popular and saleable book than I could. On the other hand I think that it would not be unfair to say that his great love is the Near East and that his Pacific books have been written primarily to earn an honest penny. Admittedly, so has much of the world's great literature.

It is not modesty but common sense that makes me admit that I have not the gifts that Sir Harry possesses in such abundant measure. In fact, all that I can fairly advance in my own favour is a deep affection for the coral islands of the Central Pacific and a desire to tell their story woven round the life of the one person who saw how they could be of service to man and had the courage and ability to make his dreams come true.

I am fully conscious that if the work is to be done properly it may take a long time to complete, But I have now collected virtually all the background material on the islands and their history that I should require, and I have the financial backing to enable me to devote if need be years to the task.

It may well be, of course, that you have long since become disheartened with the whole proposition, at any rate as far as my share in it is concerned; and you would be fully justified in having such feelings.

On the other hand I should never forgive myself if I had missed out on my chance of writing your father's biography through not even letting you know that, if wanted, I am now both willing and able to undertake the work.

Honor joins me in sending her very best wishes; her book on the "String Figures of the Gilbert Islands" is being published this month, and she is now busy writing one on Banaa Island,

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Maude.

South Hall - Preston Candover - Basingstoke - Hampshire.

February 26. 1952

Dear Mr Maude

You & your wife have been most kind in sending me yearly Christmas greetings and so I take for granted that you remember your visit here & our conversations about my Father's diaries.

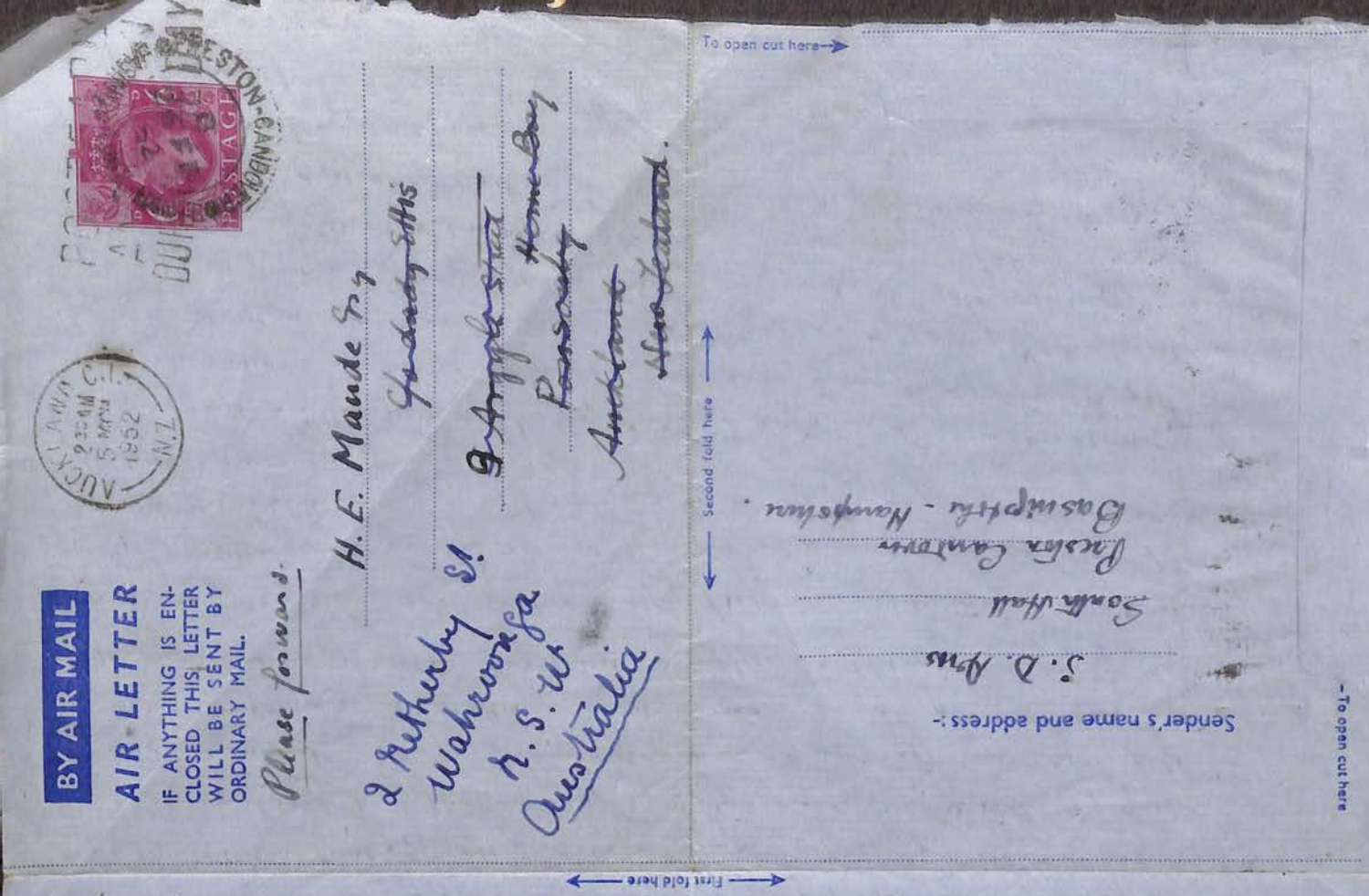
I have heard of you occasionally from A. F. Ellis - telling me of your new work with the Research division of the South Pacific Conference & that you are living in Sydney - but that Alaric is at college in Auckland. As my cousin is dead (and I do miss his long & faithful letters about Island matters) I will send this to his wife, hoping she will be able to forward it.

When we talked of my Father's pioneer days in the Pacific & you told me how much you felt he had laid a good foundation of much of the British policy, trading, & exploration before any records were kept, I think I told you that already been approached by Sir Harry Luke with a request to see my Father's papers -- but that I had not felt ready to go into the matter - & he, himself, went off soon after - to the Caribbean & South American countries & I heard & thought no more.

Then, on your visit, I did most sincerely feel that something of my Father's early experiences should be put on record & you and I agreed that if soon you were free & still inclined - I would put all his papers, diaries etc etc at your disposal.

Now I have a letter from Sir Harry Luke - back in London & evidently at a standstill - he realizes that his mind is going back to the Pacific & he wonders if he can revive his request to come & see my Father's diaries etc after all these years. I have written that I am already most willingly pledged to let you do any research you wish some day - but that I shall always be pleased to have a friendly visit from him - & that I am writing to you.

The point of this long, wordy letter - is to ask you your views on this affair. I will take it that you are still willing to do any work & have access



Anything I possess rather than anyone else. But of course you may feel very differently after all these years – & I hope you will be frank about it.

I have talked with my son about all this – He is on the Staff of the British Council. He says that there are many students, mostly American, who are doing detailed research into Colonial pioneer work, & of course the enormous amount of papers I have would add a lot to the early history – but it will be a long & tedious job to wade through these trunks full. & I suppose it would only result in a pamphlet or small precis.

But the point is – is it worth your while someday to deal with all this – There is a personal side to all this bygone writing which I would not care to deal with except by anyone as sensitive as you are.

We go on much as you have – but my husband's life is nearly at an end. He has himself in mind & body each year – till last October he collapsed & I could do no more – so he lies in a nursing home in Winchester – very kindly cared for, but knowing no one.

I do hope you are all well – & that the British are still able to have some control of Pacific affairs! My very best wishes to you both

Yours very sincerely Sydney D. Ans

Discussed at length interview with Evelyn Williams and Robert Langdon. 2 of a file. 14.6.70.

14, Lawley Place,
Deakin. A.C.T. 2600.

20 April 1970.

Dear Mr. Maude;

I have recently been in New Zealand in connection with a commission that I have undertaken for the B.P.C., and during my visit spent an interesting day with Mr. & Mrs. Milne who allowed me to go through a collection of papers left by the late Sir Albert Ellis.

Most of them are copies of letters and memoranda related to the early days of the phosphate business in the Pacific and, later, the operations of the B.P.C. It would take many days to go through the three boxes of papers and they have agreed that the BPC should arrange to have all of the material sent over to Melbourne where it can be put together and collated with similar papers at present held in the B.P.C. office.

The Milne's agreed to this (being apparantly anxious to find a home for what, to them, is an encumbering lot of stuff) on the understanding that you should have access to it, and that anything of interest should be preserved and made available to other scholars through the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

The B.P.C. people, as you know, have already invited Mr. Langdon to look at their own collection of records and will likewise make this other material (much of it similar) available in the same way. It is now a matter of deciding how best to go about the business of selecting and preserving whatever is of value.

If there is anything else that I can tell you about this matter you might care to give me a ring when you return from your visit to Adelaide. My number is 81-3080 and I am at home mostly, though will be in (John James) hospital from April 23 for about two weeks.

Best wishes — Hazelyn Williams.