

November 15, 1938

Dear Jeffreys,

I didn't answer about your problem, because I hadn't grasped its nature and had not then time to try and fathom it further. I believe the hypothetical infinite population was latent in the earliest notion of sampling error, e.g., in Bernoulli's treatment of the binomial, but it seems to have lain latent for an unduly long time; at least I was conscious of wanting to make it explicit when I coined the slightly provocative phrase you quote. It is just possible, however, that it was previously used by Venn, who, in some passages, was wrestling with the same idea.

No, I did not recognise that the rule of succession was unchanged in ~~from~~ in sampling from a finite population.

Yours sincerely,