13th January, 1956.

Dear Mr. Nixon,

I was extremely interested in your long letter dated January 1956, and it is certain that you are working on lines which in the past have proved fruitful.

The sources of data given in "Statistical Methods" refer to J. A. Harris (1913) "On the calculation of intraclass and inter-class coefficients of correlation from class moments when the number of possible combinations is large", Biometrika, ix. 446-472. This may not be the earliest use of the term intraclass correlation, but it was to Arthur Harris's credit that he distinguished correlations of the interclass and intraclass kinds which, of course, had been confused in the literature of the previous twenty years. Indeed it was largely to give Harris the credit of having made this advance and to show how far it led, i.e. to the analysis of variance applicable to many other problems, that I gave the space to intraclass correlation of which Anscombe has complained in a belated review of the 12th edition.

While this review is chiefly concerned to complain that the 12th edition does not contain a great deal that is new

it is useful also as indicating how impervious some minds are to the appearance of anything new in a late edition of an old book. The corrected definition of the criterion of consistency on page 12 making the idea available for small samples, unlike the definitions given, for example, by Kendall, Anscombe now declares to be equivalent to the stipulation that a statistic shall be unbiased, thereby showing that he has not thought enough about the subject even to realize that this stipulation is not invariant by transformation of parameters, while the note I give on pages 226 and 227 on the history of the tables of z he misrepresents, I suppose not inadvertently, as merely the advocacy of the z values. I wonder if he realizes that throughout the world there are quite five times as many people learning statistics who have them with no desk computer at hand as there are among those who have. (F. J. Anscombe, *J.R.S.S.*, A, 118, 486-487, 1955)

Anyway I think you are to be congratulated on a successful and enterprising bit of work. Do not let C. A. B. Smith bog you down; although he is a good fellow, his mind does seem to run to unnecessary complexity.

Yours sincerely,