

Letters to L.K. Symon from Daisy Bates - 1

Grosvenor Hotel, 3/3/41

Dear Kilmeny

Thank you so much for those lovely roses and carnations. They perfume my nice little room here and catch my eye, as children and flowers always do.

I wonder what native 'subject' you would like to read when you go to Canberra? I have labelled all the 90 Folios, but I think you would love the 'Myths and Legends', the 'Initiation chapters' and 'the totems. To me, these three subjects gave me great pleasure and a big eagerness to collect and preserve.

I shall send a full copy of all the Folios to John Murray (Publishers) for future publication perhaps, but when I get back to my camp life again, I am going to write about the 'spirit-babies' – a lovely little idyll of the northern groups (W.A.). I must have the true bush atmosphere for this task.

I had a lovely holiday at Canberra and Sydney and have learned to speak thro' the telephones. Today (Sunday) Sydney rang me up! My first 'distance' telephone and at Canberra I had to broadcast!! I abhor these mechanical gadgets! I must try and see you before I leave for my camp. It was so sweet of you, dear Kilmeny to give me those fragrant flowers.

My dear love to you,

Daisy M. Bates