

P. 15/5.93.

E. No 638
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Eastern Nedali
15th March 93

My dear Sir

Your letter (undated) together with one from Herr Grunwedel, bearing date of writing 5. 12. 92. has at last reached me. With them came 11 Band 34 Hft. of the "Veröffentlichungen etc" and the journal of the Ceylon As. Soc. (sent, I presume that I might see the Padi charms used there) The fault re delay was at the Consul's office in Penang. I was exceedingly glad to get the reading matter for I had been struck by a black cobra de capello, in the leg, the day before and was confined to my mat. Having every opportunity to lie and think over matters. I came to the following conclusion in answer to your letter. viz "I am quite ready and willing to either stay on here or start at once for Madagascar or any other place.

With regard to staying here and prosecuting farther and more complete researches on points to be indicated by you among the Orang Utan, I am of course much more valuable for the purpose now than I was at first coming here, I know the country and the men, better than

Livens

my other man in the Peninsula & the
wild; Orang Utan does not avoid me
But on the terms I took up the
contract. (For such I have virtually
occided it) from you in Saemania
one year ago. of payment by results.
Though I have lost pretty considerably
in carrying it out.) Further research is
not possible. I knew at the time I agreed
with you that from some slight former
travel here that there were plenty of
Museum exhibits to be obtained from
them. Now it is different. I have
collected almost all their possessions
and on "payment" for exhibits terms
I could not make 100 marks in the
next year. at the expenditure of
five or six times the amount in
reaching them. The few things I have
as yet not obtained are wide distances
part. & you only want one of each
Information, as yet new to Europe &
science. There is to be obtained and
plenty of it, but only by going into
their haunts of the wild man in
the far interior and living there
among them. It costs money, getting
over these many hundred miles

Porterage is dear and difficult to obtain and presents, in the total mounting up to a consideration in the course of the year, have to be given to attract & keep the orang Utaw.

I may be six months trying to satisfy some points upon which you require information and with best efforts, not need you enough to be valued at a month's expenditure.

The last lot of Semang exhibits (the Goro Goro &c.) took me a little over a year to collect and you sent me a cheque for £25. Now I put it fairly to you. How can I go on like that. I don't care about making any profit, but I haven't got the money to travel about and pay the bare expenses. Though I live in the jungle as no other white man would or could do, and like the orang Utaw himself going as scantily clad as he is himself. The articles I get must be paid for by me or the orang Utaw will not give them and as there is

no money here in the jungle and every-
thing has to be paid for in rice or
similar articles. The transport of these
valuable media of payment from place
to place brings the actual cost of
purchase rather high and all this
must be paid by me.

However, as I never turn back when
once set out upon anything I carried
my object through till I satisfied the
intention I started with, of finding
it faithfully and truthfully who and
what was in the unknown forest.

As to the future, I'll meet you
in any way you like. Of the Professor
Vichow, thinks (as I do) that the
unique opportunity of my special
knowledge of the men and place
should better be utilized in obtaining
answers to a list of certain points
you will prepare (anything I can
pick up of myself being so much
additional), I will undertake the
search, if you will defray the
actual expenses, leaving the
question of any remuneration
for my labor, entirely to the opinion
of your people as to its resultant value.

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to them or their being in possession
of any funds. provided one thing
only, that, upon the conclusion
of their directions and my work,
if from either cause above stated
there is no money at all to be sent
me as remuneration, that you
will defray my passage back
to civilization in Australia.

Unless I make you a present of the
work's expenses, altogether, which
I am not able to do. This is the
lowest offer you can possibly obtain
as it is my small independant
income will, as before, be swallowed
up in your service.

But you must on your side take
care that there is no hitch in
money transmission. The last
misunderstanding cost me 150 dollars
and loss of two months, and I don't
know how much in the utter
loss of my stored collection up
country. I don't want that to happen
again.

As for Madagascar, I'll
take it up, if you like on the
same terms as I took this

fore. you sending me an advance
to carry me on till my collections
pay it, or, if you prefer, on the
same arrangement as I now
make for further work here
can trust to your sense of what
is just and equitable as between
us, without any doubt.

As I haven't much money left
my mortgage, last year, the
present year's small income, I
intended to use it to go back to
Australia for a change and
on my expending an arrangement
negotiating with an American
or utilizing my knowledge & experience
in pioneering some rich Americans
through Tibet. taking charge of the
camp and themselves in fact. I
have friends enough there to ensure
my being allowed to go through
the country.

[But that is not science and as
I prefer solitary work; if you see
your way to closing with my
offer. I will throw the Tibet affair
over.]

However, as two months since

pass over before I get your reply I
have determined to go down to
Penang and wait quietly there
for it. What you send for the
exhibits I send on my arrival
here (this going to ship by a
messenger in advance) will
help to pay my expenses
there. But please remember I am
now in idleness and nothing
coming in and give me an
answer that I may know what to
do. I hate living in a town, but
must go there to pack up my
exhibits now securely, which can
only be done there, & send them off
and shall pass the rest of the time
studying Malay and repairing
my camp equipage, in case
you want me to go back to the
jungle

Will you be kind enough in
case you are unable to utilize
me further, to value and send
the cheque for the ensuing exhibits
as early as possible (to the Consul)
as in such case I shall want
to sail without loss of time. J.

you have not definitely arranged & want me to hold on here for a time till you complete your arrangements, say so at once & I'll go back into the jungle near & wait at much less expense.

My health is far too injured to the tropics to care for four or five years exposure, but you know a change is good & I've no love for either the Malay or Chinaman (I was caught here in Manchuria and badly tortured and remember it), & prefer Australia as a home to here. That is all.

The Sultan of Kedah, with whom I am a great favorite asked me to go with him to Kurmah on a trip, & I took the opportunity to shake off fever & run up to the Shans to see old friends & ascertain about the story of Semang being up there. The Shans tell me its just like the story of the giant Gargassi here. (maybe long long ago the Semang came down through that country & tradition does the rest) so that it cost me very little.

No later letters than the ones I speak of herein. With good wishes
Yours very truly
C. Vaughan - Stevens

Writing to Herr
Krummel from
Penang soon. I've
no more letter paper now.