

P.O. Box 401

Dear Mr. Hawk

Presbore

9.1.28

*Handwritten notes:*  
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Many thanks for yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. I find my "early days" in Lakeland and I have been to Magnet Heights several times, but you were not there at Silverwood, and I was quite surprised - when I was at Minhook summer the end of last year - to be told that you were back again in your old haunts. At one point somewhere during the last 5 years I fancy I caught sight of you and your charming wife, while you were camping at Minhook, but I cannot reconstruct the occasion precisely.

I had heard of all the ~~last~~ tinkering of the Native Affairs Dept. by superior persons, and of the idea of loading more duties on overworked and underpaid men, so as to abolish your kind. It struck me as most deplorable, if the services of such an eminent ethnologist as yourself were to be lost to the nation. Luckily this has not come to pass.

Last winter I forgot it was summer and overlooked the danger of swollen rivers, so when we got to Sheelport wharf, we could not risk the car, and left it there. It was





a grind to walk 14 miles in the sun to Maquet Keight - but we kept alive by sucking prickly pear fruit.

Being the guest of Mr. Shulman I could not very well trespass on his motor car generosity, so was prevented from seeing you.

As I have to visit the guide book for the Bushnell Excursion of the Bushnellian G.C. which passes through Maquet Keight and Maquet Keight in August 1929, I must visit the latter to refresh my memories, when I hope to see Mrs. Hunt, and what little of the ~~abor~~ natural charm of Schvonnond, that the "auri sacra fames" has left undefiled.

This excursion may comprise 60 members!

Re Maquet Keight. I am thoroughly familiar with them and possess 2. I sold one for \$4.00 but Mr. Cheney sold me his as his had been found me, - in poor condition.

My first one was bought for 15/- and an old shirt in 1911 at May's house half way between Maquet Keight and Leedsclap. The owner belonged to Silvan's tribe, who live some 40 miles S. E. of Leedsclap.

My second one I paid £5 for. It came from Selati Raie, south of Leedsclap.



Several views have

Meaning of Marsh Sticks. According to ~~me~~ <sup>what</sup> ~~heard~~, these articles were used as tobacco in payment of wives. The ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> was obtained round Palabona, and that is why they these sticks are better known in the For County than in Sekukuniland. There are countless evidences of ancient smelting works round Lubkop at Palabona and I have myself seen a native use goat skin bellows (worked by his arms) in smelting.

(On this aspect see A. R. Swynnerton, "A Guide to the Hamarain Range" p. 17, "Flora" also mentions them).

Several people with whom I have discussed these sticks, say that the long slender stick is the Phallus, the heavy block at the end is the scrotum and the 4 prongs (which are essential to a perfect specimen) are the marks of fertility. I am told that the raw native has only two topics of conversation - one is cattle and the other is his sexual life. If that be so (you know best), we can understand that he would be ready to cast his strength into a sexual significance, when inventing a <sup>mould</sup> mould for his copper melt.



My visit to British Museum. I called at the  
 dep. of Ethnology in this Museum in 1926  
 in London, to show them my Marsh Stick;  
 I wanted them to buy it. The officer there  
 was totally ignorant of the P.A. natives  
 and altogether a very supercilious person.  
 He produced to me the Brit. Mus. already  
 had - not nearly as perfect as mine.

He said it was a form of coinage, and  
 when I suggested, it had phallic significance,  
 he asked me what evidence there was of  
 that. I could not point out a few things about  
 the P.A. native and tell him of the great  
~~the~~ secrecy which they preserve about their sticks  
 and how reluctant they are to admit  
 any knowledge of them.

In support of his claim that these marbles  
 were merely coinage, he showed me  
 an article which appeared some 10 years  
 ago in the "Journal of Anthropology" (or some  
 such title). I forget the author's name  
 but he wrote in detail supplied him  
 by Capt. Hensworth (of Haversham?).

I was rather annoyed with this British  
 Museum chap, as he utterly lacked that  
 human sympathy with all native  
 customs and aspirations, which



is so & striking and charac. a feature  
with the present P. Nat. Con. at Chowwood.

There is a collection of Mammoth the shells  
in the Transvaal Museum here. I procured  
one that which the S. A. Museum at C. Town  
bought for £5.

I understand that the American  
Museum will go up to £50 for me.  
But think I am purely unnecessary, but  
one does not want more than one, and  
£50 in one's child's savings book is more  
useful on the whole - Mrs Hunt will  
probably agree with that, if you doubt.

Reals. Old T. G. Trevor knows a good  
deal about his subject as he was  
very keen on them during his famous  
visit to Lake Tanganyika. His address  
is

Major T. G. Trevor  
Secy for Mines & Public Works  
Livingstone  
N. Rhodes.

I will give you long notice of my next  
visit to Mr. Keith - probably this winter.

Yrs sincerely  
A. L. Hall

Muslon respect even I heard you say you'd work it.  
His only friend, so please work it.

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