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LIBRARY
Route 2, 228, San Jose, California
AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY
May 12, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

I am in receipt of a letter from Doctor Beck, 59.82(9) and he asks me if I am ready for another extended trip. After lengthy

consultation with Mrs. Beck, we've decided we would tackle the Eastern Hemisphere. **WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION**

a foreign trip as we were on our last voyage last year on the Alaskan voyage. Letters from Rollo H. Beck,

Field Representative of the Museum, from (July 4, 1923)
May 12, 1920 to date, with other papers relating to the endowment and conduct of the expedition remain in California.

We were glad to learn Doctor Sanford had recovered from his sickness and as he asked me to write you in reply to his letter, I am mailing this to the Museum.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

LIBRARY
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY
OF NATURAL HISTORY

(P. 13. 93)

WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION

Letters from Lollo H. Beck,

Field Representative of the Museum, from

May 12, 1930 to date, with other papers relating to

May 12 - 1930 - May 14
142442

the endowment and conduct of the expedition

Route A, 288, San Jose, California

May 12, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

I am in receipt of a letter from Doctor Sanford in which he asks me if I can get ready for another extended trip. After lengthy consultation with Mrs. Beck, we've decided we would tackle the Eastern Hemisphere if we can go together. Neither one of us is as keen for a foreign trip as we were ten years ago, and I decided last year on the Alaskan voyage that when I went off again for five months or more, Mrs. Beck would accompany me on the expedition. If you think \$200 per month and expenses for both of us is prohibitive, we will be satisfied to remain in California.

We were glad to learn Doctor Sanford had recovered from his sickness and as he asked me to write you in reply to his letter, I am mailing this to the Museum.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Route A. 238, San Jose, California

May 12, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

I am in receipt of a letter from Doctor Sanford in which he asks me if I can get ready for another extended trip. After lengthy consultation with Mrs. Beck, we've decided we would tackle the Eastern Hemisphere if we can go together. Neither one of us is as keen for a foreign trip as we were ten years ago, and I decided last year on the Alaskan voyage that when I went off again for five months or more, Mrs. Beck would accompany me on the expedition. If you think \$200 per month and expenses for both of us is prohibitive, we will be satisfied to remain in California.

We were glad to learn Doctor Sanford had recovered from his sickness and as he asked me to write you in reply to his letter, I am mailing this to the Museum.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

June 29, 1920.

Dear Mr. Beck:

Confirming my telegram of yesterday, it gives me the utmost pleasure to inform you that Dr. Sanford has succeeded in securing the necessary financial support to send you into the South Seas, for a period of five years, under the terms mentioned in your last letter to him. I feel that we both should receive unlimited congratulations in his achievement. On our part, we may now hope that as a result of your labors this museum will contain incomparably the best collection of sea birds, and especially Tubinares, to be found in any other museum in the world; while you will be given an opportunity to add the capstone to the splendid pyramid which you have erected during your unparalleled career as an Ornithological explorer. We have as yet made no attempt to plan definitely ways and means by which our work in the South Seas is to be accomplished, but we feel that we can rely on the results of your experience, and your good judgment in forming our plans. For the present we have a sufficient fund to pay you the salary which you have requested, and the expenses of Mrs. Beck and yourself; possibly also of one assistant; but of this I will speak more fully later. With this sum assured, we feel that you may take the field - the exact route we will discuss with you in a day or two - and for perhaps the first year conduct your work much as you did in South America, securing local boats when possible. At the end of that time, or perhaps before, you will have learned more definitely what method of transportation will best suit your needs, and with this information which we may consider authoritative, we shall be in a position to go to our patrons and ask for any additional support which may be required to give you the kind of boat which you desire.

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Dear Mr. Beck:

June 29, 1930.

As this work promised to be so important, and to extend over a period which is long enough to make a comparatively thorough survey of the field, I am sure you will agree with us that it is wise to prepare for any emergency which might deprive us of your services; and to this end we should like to have you consider the possibility of taking with you an assistant whom you can train in your methods, and who would be competent to carry on your labors should it at any time be necessary to do so. We should, of course, prefer to have you select your own assistant; someone who would be acceptable to you and to Mrs. Beck, and in whose ability you have confidence. We could of course pay such an assistant only a comparatively small salary, in addition to his expenses, with a promise to increase the amount should the results of his work warrant it. We want also to have you consider the possibility of taking with you into the field a motion picture camera, to be of course provided by us. Should all go well, you will, during the course of this expedition, visit many little-known corners of the Pacific, and be afforded unique opportunities for the use of a motion picture camera. Dr. Sanford does not want this feature of your work emphasized too strongly; nevertheless, he realizes the great amount of interest which was aroused by your still photographs from South America, and consequently feels that those whose support he has secured would, perhaps, be appealed to more strongly by the photographs rather than by the natural history results of your work. Possibly an assistant, if you succeed in securing one, could help you with this photographic work.

The question of a dog, either a setter or a spaniel, which would be

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The question of a dog, either a setter or a spaniel, which would be

of assistance to you in hunting petrels' nests, is also one of much importance. I have found that with the aid of a red setter, I could discover Shearwater nests, when without such a dog I should not have known that the birds were in the vicinity.

We are about to have a conference with regard to your initial route, the results of which I will communicate to you at once; meanwhile, you, yourself, must have some ideas on this subject, and I hope you will send them to us. Living in the vicinity of San Francisco, you can doubtless ascertain what lines of communication to the Pacific Islands are now available, and for the present of course we are dependent on steamship service, and our plans must be governed accordingly.

With best regards and renewed congratulations on the magnificent opportunity which is before you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Frank M. Chapman

Curator of Birds

Mr. Rollo H. Beck

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Frank M. Chapman

Curator of Birds

Mr. Rolio H. Beck

Route A, 228, San Jose, Cal.

July 7, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letter of June 29th confirming your telegram of previous date arrived yesterday. Congratulations are certainly in order on Doctor Sanford's achievement.

I will get some data on steamship routes today. There is one line to New Zealand via Tahiti, and another line via Honolulu and Rara Tonga, I believe; I do not know of others. The idea of an assistant is wise, I think, for the reason you have stated. I have no one particularly in mind at present. A. Van Rossam, a member of the Cooper Club has done quite a bit of collecting, but I'm not sure that he has not gone to South America on a collecting trip. Probably Doctor Grinnell at Berkely would have a line on a suitable man. The sort of boat desired is one I saw in Valparaiso owned by an Englishman who was going out to Easter Island to study the old monuments. This boat I think was sold in Australia. It was built especially for the owner and his wife, a little over a hundred tons in size, fitted with sail and auxillary engine. I believe a moving picture camera would be a good investment for such a trip as you propose. A place like the Falkland Islands would yield a lot of very interesting material and colonies of breeding birds anywhere on ocean islands should prove

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good subjects. A dog would probably be useful at times if well taught. Most species of shearwaters and petrels I've taken on nesting grounds were in positions that could be located without a dog. On mountains, however, a dog would undoubtedly help. I will shortly go to San Francisco and have a talk with Mr. Loomis who is still working on Tubinares. He has each species range marked out and can give me seasonable advice on most desirable localities. I am told it will take about a month to get passports which I presume are necessary now. I think auxillary shells and tubes are the only things unobtainable here on the Coast. A careful man should load the shells to make them as near uniform as possible.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Very sincerely,

R. H. Beck

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Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

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Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

July 10, 1920

Dear Mr. Chapman,

I ran up to San Francisco yesterday and saw Mr. Loomis. He suggests Central Polynesia as a very desirable field as practically no work has been done there for over fifty years. As I wrote you a couple of days ago, one line of steamers goes to Australia via Tahiti and another via Pango Pango instead of Rarotonga, I think was the port I mentioned. The line via Pango Pango which is in the Samoan group touches at Honolulu, while the Tahiti line goes via New Zealand. The fare and time are about the same both ways the agent tells me, but I rather favor the Pango Pango route after talking with Mr. Loomis for he seems to be pretty thoroughly posted on the subject of tubinares. Monthly sailings are made from San Francisco via either line.

Very sincerely,

H. H. Beck

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

July 10, 1920

Dear Mr. Chapman,

I ran up to San Francisco yesterday and saw Mr. Loomis. He suggests Central Polyneasia as a very desirable field as practically no work has been done there for over fifty years. As I wrote you a couple of days ago, one line of steamers goes to Australasia via Tahiti and another via Pango Pango instead of Harofonga. I think was the port I mentioned. The line via Pango Pango which is in the Samoan group touches at Honolulu, while the Tahiti line goes via New Zealand. The fare and time are about the same both ways the agent tells me, but I rather favor the Pango Pango route after talking with Mr. Loomis for he seems to be pretty thoroughly posted on the subject of Polynesia. Monthly sailings are made from San Francisco via either line.

Very sincerely,

M. H. Beck

Route A, 228, San Jose, Cal.

July 13, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letter of July 7th reached here yesterday. The next sailings to Tahiti are Aug. 13 and Sept. 6. The Aug. 13 boat 'Tofua' will be sold out shortly the agent said today. If you think things will be in shape to sail then you'd best wire me and if berths are left I can secure them. I've written Mr. Grinnell about an assistant and should hear from him soon. As you want land birds as well as water birds perhaps Tahiti is preferable to Samoa as a base. As you say, when a boat is secured two collectors will be better than one. As to equipment, I shall buy another gun and will likely ship a lot of cartridges from here as I did to South America. You perhaps know something of cost of moving picture camera and outfit. I would figure on \$10 a day for expenses, knowing nothing about living conditions in the islands. Possibly or probably less will be sufficient by the month. \$2000 would not be exorbitant for boat hire for a year. I should say \$5000 ought to be allowed for the first year as a minimum figure if boats are to be chartered. Possibly \$3000 may suffice but it won't pay to cut down allowance and compel one to collect a single locality for an unusually long

Route A, 228, San Jose, Cal.

July 13, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letter of July 7th reached here yesterday. The next

sailings to Tahiti are Aug. 13 and Sept. 6. The Aug. 13 boat 'Totara' will be sold out shortly the agent said today. If you think things will be in shape to sail then you'd best wire me and if berths are left I can secure them. I've written Mr. Grinnell about an assistant and should hear from him soon. As you want land birds as well as water birds perhaps Tahiti is preferable to Samoa as a base. As you say, when a boat is secured two collectors will be better than one. As to equipment, I shall buy another gun and will likely ship a lot of cartridges from here as I did to South America. You perhaps know something of cost of moving picture camera and outfit. I would figure on \$10 a day for expenses, knowing nothing about living conditions in the islands. Possibly or probably less will be sufficient by the month. \$2000 would not be exorbitant for boat hire for a year. I should say \$2500 ought to be allowed for the first year as a minimum figure if boats are to be chartered. Possibly \$3000 may suffice but it won't pay to cut down allowance and compel one to collect a single locality for an unusually long

- 2 -

time. Fare to Tahiti is \$140 each and outfitting will bring expenses before starting to vicinity of \$1000, and I think \$5000 should be the least amount to start with.

I think the 5 x 7 camera I used in South America will answer again. I used a German camera in the Falklands with my 5 x 7 Zeiss Protar lens but will inquire now if film packs or films are as satisfactory as plates. I read that Tahiti is a very rainy section. Expect to take my graflex for hand work. Have always used plates but am going to try films before purchasing supplies. The cornmeal was easily secured in South America, expect I'd better send 200 pounds or so and 25 pounds cotton along with cartridges to Tahiti?

Very sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Absorbent cotton 50 lbs., wrapping cotton \$10.00.

cotton \$5.00;

Cornmeal 200 lbs., arsenic 25 lbs., alum 25 lbs., mag-

nesia 2 lbs.;

Scalpels 8, bone cutters 5, scissors 3, thread No. 8

24 dozen, linen thread for labels 2 dozen, labels, egg

dates, note books;

Medical supplies \$20;

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I think the 5 x 7 camera I used in South America will answer again. I used a German camera in the Falklands with my 5 x 7 Zeiss Ikon lenses but will inquire now if film backs or films are as satisfactory as plates. I read that Tahiti is a very rainy section. Expect to take my Graflex for hand work. Have always used plates but am going to try films before purchasing supplies. The commercial was easily secured in South America, expect I'd better send 200 pounds or so and 25 pounds cotton along with cartridges to Tahiti?

Very sincerely,

A. H. Beck

Collecting coats and rubber boots and cost \$30.00 ? ;

A compact tent might prove useful. Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

July 22, 1920

The medicine can be gotten here where I get the cotton, arsenic,

etc. Will have my doctor fix up a list though I think on South American

Dear Doctor Chapman,

trip the gauge was principal thing used.

Your letter of the 16th inst. to hand. Haven't located an assistant yet; Doctor Grinnell has not answered my letter yet. If I don't hear from him shortly shall run up to the University and see some one else at the Museum. One or two prospects are married and expenses debar them. My list of supplies to purchase reads about as follows at present.

Shotgun 1 No. 12, cartridges 12 gauge, chilled shot: 1500 No. 10, 5000 No. 6, 1500 No. 8; 20 gauge, chilled shot: 2000 No. 10, 500 No. 6, 1500 No. 8; aux shells 5000;

Absorbent cotton 50 lbs., wrapping cotton \$10.00?, cotton \$5.00;

Sincerely,
Cornmeal 200 lbs., arsenic 25 lbs., alum 25 lbs., magnesia 2 lbs.;

Scalpels 8, bone cutters 3, scissors 3, thread No. 8 24 dozen, linen thread for labels 2 dozen, labels, egg datas, note books;

Medical supplies \$20;

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

July 22, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

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Shotgun 1 No. 12, cartridges 12 gauge, chilled shot:
1500 No. 10, 2000 No. 6, 1800 No. 8; 20 gauge, chilled
shot: 2000 No. 10, 500 No. 6, 1500 No. 8; mix shells
5000;
Absorbent cotton 50 lbs., wrapping cotton \$10.00;
cotton \$5.00;
Cornmeal 200 lbs., arsenic 25 lbs., alum 25 lbs., mag-
nesia 2 lbs.;
Scalpels 8, bone cutters 3, scissors 3, thread No. 8
24 dozen, linen thread for labels 2 dozen, labels, egg
dates, note books;
Medical supplies \$20;

Collecting coats and rubber boots and coat \$30.00 ? ;

A compact tent might prove useful as you say.

July 27, 1890

The medicine can be gotten here where I get the cotton, arsenic, etc. Will have my doctor fix up a list though I think on South American trip the gauze was principal thing used.

If we get an assistant 2000 more aux shells might be sent. I don't know whether small birds are numerous in the islands or not but 2000 shells won't add a great deal to the outfit.

On past expeditions I have usually accepted without question, through correspondence, my employer's promise to pay and have followed the letter of instruction as closely as possible, but if a more formal agreement is desired in the present instance, that is perfectly satisfactory to me. I have no suggestions at present to offer. If you will send me a draft of proposed one, there might be something to suggest. I'm assuming now we won't make the August steamer, though it is of course possible if reservations are not all made.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Collecting coats and rubber boots and cost \$30.00 ?

A compact tent might prove useful as you say.

The medicine can be gotten here where I get the cotton, arsenic,

etc. Will have my doctor fix up a list though I think on South American

trip the game was principal thing used.

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I'm assuming now we won't make the August steamer, though it is of

course possible if reservations are not all made.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

First Report

July 27, 1920

My dear Sir:

At the request of Doctor Sanford, I submit herewith a provisional estimate of the expenses of the South Sea Expedition, for the year beginning August 1, 1920.

Equipment	2000 00
Salary and expenses of R. H. Beck	6500 00
" " " " one scientific assistant	3500 00
Transportation for Dr. R. C. Murphy	2000 00
Charter of vessel as required	5000 00
Freight and incidentals	1000 00
	<u>\$ 20000 00</u>

The Museum expects to engage Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy to study and report on the collections secured, and from time to time to inspect the work of the expedition in the field.

Mr. Beck's services have already been secured. He has engaged passage for himself and assistant from San Francisco for Tahiti, on September 6, by which date his outfit should be complete and in his hands. His salary and that of his assistant may be placed with their agents as it falls due, but if you will be kind enough to deposit with Mr. Henry P. Davison, 23 Wall Street,

First Report

July 27, 1920

My dear Sir:

At the request of Doctor Sanford, I submit herewith a provisional estimate of the expenses of the South Sea Expedition for the year beginning August 1, 1920.

Equipment	2000 00
Salary and expenses of E. H. Beck	6500 00
" " " " " one scientist	3500 00
Titlic assistant	2000 00
Transportation for Dr. E. C. Murphy	2000 00
Charter of vessel as required	5000 00
Freight and incidentals	1000 00
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- 2 -

New York City, \$5000.00, which I understand to be the amount due on the first quarterly payment of your contribution to the Museum for this expedition, we shall be in a position to supply Mr. Beck with funds to charter a boat and to defray his current expenses during this period; or, should it be convenient for you to make the first year's contribution at this time, it would enable us to inaugurate the expedition on the most efficient basis.

We shall keep you fully informed of the progress of the South Sea Expedition, which promises to be one of the most important the Museum has placed in the field.

Yours very truly,

Frank M. Chapman

For the Committee

Harry Payne Whitney, Esq.,

120 Broadway

New York City

New York City, \$3000.00, which I understand to be the amount due on the first quarterly payment of your contribution to the Museum for this expedition, we shall be in a position to supply Mr. Beck with funds to charter a boat and to defray his current expenses during this period; or, should it be convenient for you to make the first year's contribution at this time, it would enable us to inaugurate the expedition on the most efficient basis.

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Yours very truly,

Frank M. Chapman

For the Committee

Harry Payne Whitney, Esq.,

120 Broadway

New York City

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 3, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letters of July 20 and July 27 are at hand. The assistant is yet unknown. Doctor Grinnell knew of no one and a couple of other possibilities failed. Am expecting to hear from a southern California man today or tomorrow. As to the alcoholics, do you not think glass jars can be obtained in most places and alcohol is probably cheaper there than here? The formalin should be taken as it is so compact. The sample label you send is better than I would have secured here and we can string them as necessity arises. Passports, but can be renewed probably by consuls with less trouble abroad than in the United States. I made reservations for Mrs. Beck and myself on the steamer sailing Sept. 4th and hope to get outfit, ammunition, etc. shipped by same boat as freight.

Very sincerely,
H. H. Beck

some 44 shot cartridges to shot loaded by U. S. Cart-
ridge Co. Lowell, Mass. If shot with No. 10 and 12 or dust
shot are unobtainable in San Francisco, will wire you to ship if possible
some 10's and dust from the factory as I suppose they load a few for
taxidermists. I shot 100's of birds in the Galapagos with an old shot
pistol of that calibre and still have the rusty thing. A number of

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Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 3, 1920

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Very sincerely,

A. H. Beck

- 2 -

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 10, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letters of 5th instant with check enclosed arrived today. Your generous offer to start salary August 1 will insure no expense charge except for supplies for the expedition. A tent can be secured here should it be decided to take one. An assistant is still lacking. Each man so far tackled being unable to go. Wrote several days since to another Southern California man, Huey of San Diego but no reply yet. W. T. Dawson suggests H. H. Shelden formerly of Biological Survey, but as he quit for insufficient pay, doubt if he will care to go as Dawson says a wife and two children may incumber him. I personally know no one who might fill the bill. An ad. in the 'Condor' might scare up some one, but not in time to go in September. I see here in San Jose some 44 shot cartridges loaded with No. 8 shot loaded by U. S. Cartridge Co, Lowell, Mass. If shells loaded with No. 10 and 12 or dust shot are unobtainable in San Francisco, will wire you to ship if possible some 10's and dust from the factory as I suppose they load a few for taxidermists. I shot 100's of birds in the Galapagos with an old shot pistol of that calibre and still have the rusty thing. A number of

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 10, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letters of 5th instant with check enclosed arrived today.

Your generous offer to start salary August 1 will insure no expense charge except for supplies for the expedition. A tent can be secured here should it be decided to take one. An assistant is still lacking. Each man so far lacking being unable to go. Wrote several days since to another Southern California man, they of San Diego but no reply yet. W. T. Dawson suggests R. H. Shelden formerly of Biological Survey, but as he drift for insufficient pay, doubt if he will care to go as Dawson says a wife and two children may hinder him. I personally know no one who might fill the bill. An ad. in the 'Gondor' might scare up some one, but not in time to go in September. I see here in San Jose some 44 shot cartridges loaded with No. 8 shot loaded by U. S. Cart-ridge Co., Lowell, Mass. If shells loaded with No. 10 and 12 or dust shot are unobtainable in San Francisco, will wire you to ship if possible some 10's and dust from the factory as I suppose they load a few for taxidermists. I shot 100's of birds in the Galapagos with an old shot pistol of that calibre and still have the rusty thing. A number of

- 2 -

times in South America I wished for it when a shotgun was too conspicuous.

New York, August 10, 1920

I trust the governors of the British Islands in the Pacific are more favorable to collectors than was the Falkland Island one in 1915. I had letters from British ambassador to U. S. and Argentine, and Brooks for Cambridge had a letter from preceding governor of the Falklands but both of us were limited to 7 specimens of protected birds while eggers were allowed to collect 1000's of penguin eggs. One colony of gentoos near Port Stanley were repeatedly robbed and hatched no birds I was told. Sailing date is Sept. 4 instead of Sept. 6 as first announced.

[Sincerely,

R. H. Beck]

Name and Object

This Expedition is to be known as the Whitney South Sea Expedition.

It will be under the general direction of a Museum Committee composed of L. C. Sanford, Frank M. Chapman, and Robert Cushman Murphy.

Its object is the ornithological exploration of the islands of the South Seas, beginning with those of the Tahitian group.

While the first object of the Expedition is the collection of Tabinaxes, no effort should be spared to make as complete a collection as possible of the land-birds of each island. So much time

- 2 -

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[Sincerely,

[E. H. Boock]

New York, August 10, 1920

Mr. Rollo H. Beck

Field Representative of the

Whitney South Sea Expedition.

My dear Mr. Beck:

The Museum considers itself very fortunate to secure you as its representative in command of an Expedition to the South Seas for the purpose, primarily, of securing specimens of both sea and land birds inhabiting that region.

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17
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of Tinian, no effort should be spared to make as complete a col-

lection as possible of the land-birds of each island. So much time

must, of necessity, be used in going from island to island, that once an island is reached thorough search should be made for all the birds inhabiting it; and since many of the Petrels nest in mountains with sufficient vegetation to support a land bird fauna, the search for one may also be made a search for the other. The size of an island cannot be taken as an indication of the importance of its fauna; often small islands are the remains of much larger ones; their small size may make them undesirable for human habitation, and just for this reason one may find on these islands remnants of a fauna which has become extinct on the larger areas of which they once may have formed a part.

Duration of Commission

Your commission, as the Museum's representative in charge of this Expedition, is to extend for five years, beginning August 1, 1920; but it is understood and agreed that it may be extended for a longer period by the mutual consent of both parties to this agreement, and in case of illness or accident the period may be terminated at an earlier date.

Assistants

Realizing the difficulties which you may encounter in the collecting of sea birds, and all island forms, the Museum feels that

must, of necessity, be used in going from island to island, that once an island is reached thorough search should be made for all the birds inhabiting it; and since many of the Petrels nest in mountains with sufficient vegetation to support a land bird fauna, the search for one may also be made a search for the other. The size of an island cannot be taken as an indication of the importance of its fauna; often small islands are the remains of much larger ones; their small size may make them undesirable for human habitation, and just for this reason one may find on these islands remnants of a fauna which has become extinct on the larger areas of which they once may have formed a part.

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Realizing the difficulties which you may encounter in the collecting of sea birds, and all island forms, the Museum feels that

you should have with you one reliable assistant from this country, who would be competent to take charge of the Expedition should you be prevented from doing so. It is hoped that you, yourself, will be able to engage such an assistant before your departure; but rather than employ one who does not promise to be wholly satisfactory, it would be better to proceed without him and leave his selection to us, when he could join you at a later date.

Supplies and Equipment

You are authorized to secure all supplies and equipment which may be needed for your work, and these will be paid for by the Museum with of course the understanding that they remain the property of the Museum. However, you are quite at liberty to make such disposition of these properties, through sale, barter or otherwise, as you may deem expedient for the safety of your party, or for the interest of the Museum.

Conduct of the Expedition

Lacking exact information in regard to transportation, etc., the Museum, having full confidence in your good judgment, will leave largely to you the question of itinerary, once you are established in the field.

The Museum is supplying you with copies of the Pacific Islands Pilot, Vols. I and II, and also with a series of data com-

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piled by Dr. Charles W. Richmond. These data relate not only to the islands themselves, but also to what is known regarding their bird-life; the latter formation is believed to represent existing knowledge, and should be of great value to you in directing your labors in the field.

At all times your work is to be conducted with due regard to your safety, and that of your associates, and you are fully authorized to abandon collections, equipment, etc. if, in your judgment, the exigencies of the case demand it. It is suggested, however, that the specimens at all times be so labeled that, if they are abandoned, they may ultimately reach the Museum.

Reports

It is expected that you will keep a journal of your daily movements, and render to the Museum Committee in charge of this expedition, an account of the islands visited, and the habits of the birds you encounter.

Collections

All collections obtained, in whatever branch, and all photographs secured (pertaining to Natural History subjects), are to be the property of the American Museum of Natural History.

Shipping Instructions

All collections, cases, etc., are to be shipped addressed

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Shipping Instructions

All collections, cases, etc., are to be shipped addressed

to the American Museum of Natural History, and all papers pertaining there to - including Bills of Lading, Consular Invoices - are to be sent to the Director of the American Museum of Natural History.

Finances

In return for the services rendered, as above outlined, the Museum agrees to pay you \$200.00 per month, and transportation and living expenses for yourself and Mrs. Beck, which, in accordance with your provisional estimate of July 13, 1920, we trust will not exceed an average of \$5.00 per day, per person.

An assistant should be secured at \$50.00 per month and expenses (not to exceed \$5.00 per day), with the understanding that at the end of the first year if he has proved satisfactory to you, he may be raised to \$75.00 per month, and at the end of the second year if he continues to give satisfaction, he may receive \$100.00 per month.

Equipment and supplies, including ammunition, photographic plates, etc., may be roughly estimated at \$1500.00; while, accepting your provisional estimate of July 13, \$5000.00 may be allowed as a minimum figure for boat charter during the first year.

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Summarizing these items, we have as follows:

Salary of R. H. Beck	\$ 2400.00
Living Expenses of Mr. and Mrs. Beck	3650.00
Salary of assistant collector	600.00
Living expenses of collector	1825.00
	<u>\$ 8475.00</u>

Equipment	1500.00
	<u>\$ 9975.00</u>

Transportation and native assistants	5000.00
	<u>\$ 14975.00.</u>

Should emergency arise where increased expense seems to you to be warranted, you should cable us for authorization to make such expenditures.

A report of the expenses and operations of the Expedition should be rendered bi-monthly to the Museum Committee.

I trust that the above conditions will be satisfactory to you, in which event will you kindly sign the enclosed duplicate and return it to the Museum.

Yours sincerely,

Frank M. Chapman

For the Committee

I accept the above (Signed:) R. H. Beck

Summarizing these items, we have as follows:

\$ 2400.00	Salary of R. H. Beck
3850.00	Living expenses of Mr. and Mrs. Beck
800.00	Salary of assistant collector
1825.00	Living expenses of collector
<u>\$ 8475.00</u>	

1800.00	Equipment
<u>\$ 9275.00</u>	

2000.00	Transportation and native assistants
<u>\$ 1475.00</u>	

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Yours sincerely,

Frank M. Chapman

For the Committee

I accept the above (Signed): R. H. Beck

R. F. D., A, Box 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 18, 1920.

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Your letters of August 10 and 12 and 11 with enclosures have been received. I wired you yesterday asking a slight change in the contract and have just received the reply in which you grant the addition of a qualifying phrase after the words photographs secured in the paragraph relating to collections. I will add this to the contract and enclose the copy with this.

Your suggestion regarding drying racks I think excellent and shall take some wire mesh and use as your diagram illustrates. I had not thought of trying to trap rails but if one could locate a runway, imagine they would work alright. Have caught landbirds and lizards in traps set for rats in the Galapagos. Received the other day a card from E. W. Gifford who went to the Galapagos with me. He writes shearwaters breed on Tan Island, Samoan group, but cats are said to be exterminating them. Dr. Richmond's notes on the birds should be of great service and the Pilot books will save me getting some, though probably I will get some charts of the region as well. Have had letters from two collectors, or rather two would be assistants. One C. C. Lamb of Los Angeles has a wife and I imagine will not care to go on

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from two collectors, or rather two would be assistants. One C. C.

Lamp of Los Angeles has a wife and I imagine will not care to go on

offered salary but am waiting to hear. Doctor Fisher wrote of a Stanford student who he thought would do and I expect to meet him shortly. I think a letter of credit for \$3000.00 will be the safest form to carry the expense money in and in addition \$2000.00 in Travelers' Checks which might be useful where letters of credit were unknown.

August 20

Missed mail yesterday and last night the young man, E. H. Quayle, recommended by Dr. Walter Fisher, called on me and I decided to take him as assistant. He seems to be just about the type to make good on such a trip. He has been taking work under Doctor Fisher at Marine Laboratory, Pacific Grove, and is 29 years old. Will you want to print labels with his name, or use those already printed.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

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August 20

Missed mail yesterday and last night the young man, A. H.

Quayle, recommended by Dr. Walter Fisher, called on me and I decided to take him as assistant. He seems to be just about the type to make good on such a trip. He has been taking work under Doctor Fisher at Marine Laboratory, Pacific Grove, and is 29 years old. Will you want to print labels with his name, or use those already printed.

Sincerely,

A. H. Beck

Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 24, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Your letters of August 16th and 17th are to hand. I bought the aneroid barometer and thermometer yesterday after receiving your letter. I ran across a young man who had worked for one of the exporting houses in San Francisco and he thought the importers of the islands had pretty good stocks of goods which were what the natives wanted and it may be better to wait till I get there and find out what are good trade goods before buying much. Fish hooks though should be always desirable. Mr. Quayle, recommended by Doctor Fisher, came up to see me and agreeing to accept the \$50 a month to begin with, was engaged. His Stanford training should be a decided help and he seems to be the type that will take to the work. The story of bold sea birds is interesting. I've lost a cap and had my hat struck once or twice by frigate birds and terns in their rookeries but have usually feared more for my legs from penguins and boobies. I will look up Mr. Bunkley on reaching Papeete and suppose the

25
Route A, 288, San Jose, Cal.

August 24, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Your letters of August 15th and 17th are to hand. I

bought the aneroid barometer and thermometer yesterday after receiving your letter. I ran across a young man who had worked for one of the exporting houses in San Francisco and he thought the importers of the islands had pretty good stocks of goods which were what the natives wanted and it may be better to wait till I get there and find out what are good trade goods before buying much. Fish hooks though should be always desirable. Mr. Quyle, recommended by Doctor Fisher, came up to see me and agreeing to accept the \$50 a month to begin with, was engaged. His Stanford training should be a decided help and he seems to be the type that will take to the work. The story of sold sea birds is interesting. I've lost a cap and had my hat struck once or twice by frigate birds and terns in their rookeries but have usually feared more for my legs from penguins and boobies. I will look up Mr. Hankley on reaching Papeete and suppose the

- 2 -

American Consul there should know something about the other islands. The Passport Agency in San Francisco claimed to have no word from the Passport Division in Washington so would not extend my passport. They say the Consul can do it in Papeete. Have just unpacked the box containing books, labels, etc. The tin can should be useful on the trip and will take it along. The clerk in the passport bureau told me Mr. O'Brien who wrote the book you sent went back to Tahiti in the last steamer for further work there. I judge from a hurried glance at the volume his labors are rather light. Received a letter from the steamship company yesterday saying the steamer is due to sail the 13th instead of 4th, 6th, or 8th as previously published.

in the South Pacific.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Going through the tin box just now with list in hand find the 6 auxes missing so will wire you this P. M. to forward them by mail.

R. H. B.

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Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Going through the tin box just now with list in hand find the 6 axes missing so will wire you this P. M. to forward them by mail.

R. H. B.

Berryessa, California

Sept. 12, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

The 2 boxes of auxes came safely to hand this week and have been stored away with the numerous other things for Tahiti. Mr. Quayle writes me he has his passport so expect we will be ready to commence operations as soon as permits are granted us on arrival. Will have time on steamer to make first statement and will mail it by return boat. Have sold home, furniture, etc. here and have outfitted for considerable stay in the South Pacific.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

The extension on letter of credit arrived safely and is attached to letter now.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Beryessa, California

Sept. 12, 1920

Dear Doctor Chasman.

The 2 boxes of axes came safely to hand this week and have been stored away with the numerous other things for Tahiti. Mr. Quayle writes me he has his passport so expect we will be ready to commence operations as soon as permits are granted us on arrival. Will have time on steamer to make first statement and will mail it by return boat. Have sold home, furniture, etc. here and have outfitted for considerable stay in the South Pacific.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

The extension on letter of credit arrived safely and is attached to letter now.

Papeete, Tahiti

Sept. 25, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

We arrived a couple of hours ago and have settled down in a hotel till we are better informed regarding the birds. An alert looking starling is the only land bird seen or heard about the village. Sea birds were very conspicuous by their absence this morning a single tropic bird and 3 or 4 terns (Sooty) ? being all observed. The mountain peak appears from here to be fully as hard to reach as did the top of Cuba. A single ridge leads up to it and it looks like a razor back. The next time I write can probably give a more satisfactory account. This letter should go north tomorrow as the steamer is due in the morning. I am enclosing with this the bills and statement of accounts up to time of leaving San Francisco. The tubinares of this district must be farther south, a small gray backed aestrelata being the only one noted in last two days. It is possible the nesting birds have not come to the island yet but search of mountains may reveal them.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Papeete, Tahiti

Sept. 25, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

We arrived a couple of hours ago and have settled down in a hotel till we are better informed regarding the birds. An alert looking starling is the only land bird seen or heard about the village. Sea birds were very conspicuous by their absence this morning a single tropic bird and 3 or 4 terns (Sooty) ? being all observed. The mountain peak appears from here to be fully as hard to reach as did the top of Ouba. A single ridge leads up to it and it looks like a razor back. The next time I write can probably give a more satisfactory account. This letter should go north tomorrow as the steamer is due in the morning. I am enclosing with this the bills and statement of accounts up to time of leaving San Francisco. The tubinares of this district must be farther south, a small gray backed aestrrelata being the only one noted in last two days. It is possible the nesting birds have not come to the island yet but search of mountains may reveal them.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

Papeete, Tahiti

Sept. 26, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Mail closes in 1/2 hour for San Francisco. Have just returned from motor trip to mouth of Popino River which Peale started from on his trip across island. Mynahs or starlings are abundant about town as English sparrows. A few red rumped and 3 or 4 yellow rump weaver birds ? seen. 2 terns, white, a dark heron larger than Green Heron. And a couple of Wandering tatlers were on river bank. It looks like a camp in the mountains will be about the first work if permits are forthcoming.

Customs officers took all shotguns but expect them returned when American Consul is consulted. Am mailing a view of the mountains as viewed from this side and understand the other side is bad also. Tops of peaks are foggy part of day, but hope to camp below fog.

Hurriedly,

R. H. Beck

I note your request for bats and will bear it in mind.

We have specimens here but the Cook group has a large bat which the natives say I am told. I enclose a letter recently received about a vessel; inquiry here fails to locate anything

Papeete, Tahiti

Sept. 26, 1920

Dear Doctor Chapman,

Mail closes in 1 1/2 hour for San Francisco. Have just returned from motor trip to mouth of Popoia River which begins started from on his trip across island. Wynahe or starlings are abundant about town as English sparrows. A few red rumped and 3 or 4 yellow rump weaver birds seen. 2 terns, white, a dark heron larger than Green Heron. And a couple of Wandering Tattlers were on river bank. It looks like a camp in the morning. It will be about the first work if permits are forthcoming. Customs officers took all shotguns but expect them returned when American Consul is consulted. Am mailing a view of the mountains as viewed from this side and understand the other side is bad also. Tops of peaks are foggy part of day, but hope to camp below fog.

Hurriedly,

A. H. Beck

- 2 -

Papeete, Tahiti

January 5, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Your letter of December 1, 1920 arrived a few days ago and we are pleased to hear you have ordered the tent-fly for it is a needed article in the mountains of this section. Rain occurs practically every day now and swells the rivers to a dangerous depth at some crossings; Quayle came very near upsetting on his return from the lake. It is necessary to cross the river something like a hundred times on the shortest route there and most trails into the mountains follow rivers, so as a vessel is leaving tomorrow for Christmas Island via the Marquesas I decided we might find it profitable to run up there now while most birds are found nesting; returning in a couple of months as the rainy season closes in March. We are certainly interested to hear Mr. Murphy intends to tackle the South American material and sincerely hope we can turn out a better average per month in 1921 than was the case in 1920.

I note your request for bats and will bear it in mind.

We have seen none here but the Cook group has a large bat which the natives eat I am told. I enclose a letter recently received about a vessel; inquiry here fails to locate anything

Papeete, Tahiti

January 5, 1931

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Your letter of December 1, 1930 arrived a few days ago and we are pleased to hear you have ordered the tent-fly for it is a needed article in the mountains of this section. Rain occurs practically every day now and swells the rivers to a dangerous depth at some crossings; Quai'e came very near upsetting on his return from the lake. It is necessary to cross the river something like a hundred times on the shortest route there and most trails into the mountains follow rivers, so as a vessel is leaving tomorrow for Christmas Island via the Marquesas I decided we might find it profitable to run up there now while most birds are found nesting; returning in a couple of months as the rainy season closes in March. We are certainly interested to hear Mr. Murphy intends to tackle the South American material and sincerely hope we can turn out a better average per month in 1931 than was the case in 1930.

I note your request for bats and will bear it in mind. We have seen none here but the Cook Group has a large bat which the natives eat I am told. I enclose a letter recently received about a vessel; inquiry here fails to locate anything

- 2 -

suitable but as you suggested waiting a while before buying I have not been diligent in looking. The one offered might be a good buy though she would need a small motor installed for work in the Taumotos. We can likely work about here for at least six months with local boats and maybe longer but only four or five islands have regular service and the others are too irregular to make it profitable. An ethnologist from the Bishop Museum of Honolulu has been here two months waiting to get to Tubuai Island and is hoping in March to get to Rapa but is uncertain about it. If you think the New Zealand boat is worth looking into a letter from New York might reach Mr. Berridge quicker than one from me as I might miss the monthly boat the last of February.

Mr. Quayle on the second attempt got up the Papenoo river and crossed the lake as did Peale. Quayle thought he heard shearwaters but found no nests but he did get a black rail, a young one and I think we stand a chance of getting more when we return from Christmas.

The owner of Christmas who lives here tells me of an undescribed water bird nesting there but he reports nothing but the warbler in the line of land birds. I spent a day on the water outside the reef last week, but saw no shearwaters, getting a few redfooted boobies and the first specimens of the small gray backed tern.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

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Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

- 2 -

to wait though several fairy terns were shot. Two noddies and a
 Hivaoa Island, Marquesas
 small gray tern were seen as we approached the island. Christmas
 January 22, 1921
 promises several terns but only one land bird and I hope three
 tubinares. Hoping we fare there as well as here.

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Sincerely,

We reached this island a couple of days ago and have put
 up as many birds already as we prepared in the ten days we spent
 in the mountains of Tahiti. We stay four or five more and then
 leave for Christmas. I Opine that three or four species of
 Tubinares nest in the northern part of this group but I saw not
 many birds of that family. A puffinus similar to auricularis as
 well as cuneatus ? ; bulweri ? and a white rumped petrel on which
 I could see no white on the underparts. I was told this afternoon
 that a large shearwater nests on this island but saw none in the
 vicinity as we approached, although on deck at daylight forty
 miles off. The minah was introduced here four years ago and will
 probably affect the native birds.

January 25

We are leaving tomorrow having a fair load of copra and
 over a hundred bird skins. Six species of land birds were seen
 and specimens of all secured though of the red-headed dove only
 three were taken as they are not common. The white crowned one is
 fairly common and a fair series was taken. The sea birds will have

Hivaoa Island, Marquessas

January 22, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

We reached this island a couple of days ago and have put up as many birds already as we prepared in the ten days we spent in the mountains of Tahiti. We stay four or five more and then leave for Christmas. I opine that three or four species of *Trinities* nest in the northern part of this group but I saw not many birds of that family. A *Puffinus* similar to *auricularis* as well as *canadensis*? ; *bulweri*? and a white rumped petrel on which I could see no white on the underparts. I was told this afternoon that a large shearwater nests on this island but saw none in the vicinity as we approached, although on deck at daylight forty miles off. The *minah* was introduced here four years ago and will probably effect the native birds.

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- 2 -

to wait though several fairy terns were shot. Two noddies and a small gray tern were seen as we approached the island. Christmas promises several terns but only one land bird and I hope three tubinares. Hoping we fare there as well as here.

Dear Doctor Chapin:

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

It affords me no great amount of satisfaction to announce the capture, by this expedition, of a *S. bulweri* the first specimen of the tubenosed birds in the South Pacific for it is the only one taken to date. However at Christmas we collected about 75 specimens of four species, nearly all being taken on their nests with eggs or young. We secured there a small series of the Island warbler but failed to find the mandpiper. Seven species of terns were taken and the three boobies. The captain and engineer bore a hand in the skinning operations and we put up over 400 birds in the eight days there. Some of the specimens skinned by them may not be worth the twenty cents they cost but for measurements will equal those prepared by Quayle or myself. I am sending by the Marana today two boxes containing most of the Christmas and Hivaas birds. Dermestes are rife here and you will note by some of the wrapping cotton that we suffered from a plague of flies in Christmas. Mrs. Beck sent, while I was away, a shipment to American Express Co., San Francisco as we cannot send them straight through and this lot goes the same way with request that they forward to

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R. H. Beck

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- 2 -

Papeete, Tahiti
March 17, 1921
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I enclose several prints and will forward others next boat. The plates seem to yield the better results so far.

Although the rainy season is in full blast here yet Quayle went into the mountains again Monday as we saw several rostrata within a hundred miles of Tahiti on the return trip. We hope to get the baloon silk next week on arrival of steamer from San Francisco.

Sincerely

[R. H. Beck]

We should get time to collect some Tahitian plants but to date birds have ruled us all the other islands visited. We will have time at some islands later for botany probably.

Père Rougier was here last week ago looking at the Christmas photos and I am looking to Doctor Chapuis copies of the better ones.

I will write more fully on our return from Hapa.

Sincerely yours,

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[R. H. Beak]

Papeete, Tahiti

March 17, 1921

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Your letter of Feb. 1 came to hand a couple of days ago and I will write a line in reply before going aboard a schooner for the Austral Islands and Rapa Island.

We are pleased to hear you are at work on the South American material and hope the two shipments from here reach you in due time safely. We will hope to see your Peruvian article when it is finished and Doctor Lucas writes he will publish a short screed I fabricated while laid up with a sore foot.

We should get time to collect some Tahitian plants but to date birds have rushed us at the other Islands visited. We will have time at some islands later for botany probably.

Père Rougier was here an hour ago looking at the Christmas photos and I am sending to Doctor Chapman copies of the better ones.

I will write more fully on our return from Rapa.

Sincerely yours,

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Sincerely yours,

R. H. Beck

- 2 -

Papeete, Tahiti

March 17, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Your letter of January 5, 1921 came to hand a couple of days ago and I reply at once though it will be three weeks before the letter leaves here but we expect to leave tomorrow for three of the Austral Islands and Rapa Island to be gone about a month. I assumed that you were not ready to purchase a boat till September at least so have not made many inquiries of late. You have probably answered my letter re the New Zealand boat that I wrote about and I should get the letter on my return from this trip. A boat with an engine is needed to enter various ports of the Taumotos and to keep off reefs.

I expect that we can keep busy in the Cook group till September or rather the Society group. The present chance to visit Rapa seems worth accepting as we will stop at the Austral group going and coming and I expect to hold the boat three or four days at Rapa at the same price as at Christmas, about \$30 per day. We can get a boat to three nearby islands every week or so and I had intended going to Moorea this week till the present trip appeared yesterday.

Espejo, Leticia

March 17, 1931

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Quayle returned yesterday with the only specimen of *P. rostrata* to date. They are just coming in to nest seemingly. A native of Rapa reports two or three species there of tubinares. I send in this mail copies of the good Christmas photos and hope they reach you safely. I have a letter from Mr. Murphy and note that his name has been added to the Museum committee. He writes that you have decided that Mr. Quayle may collect plants when opportunity offers.

Mr. Brown from the Bishop Museum is here trying for the last month to get to Marquesas. He expects to start in two weeks and spend a month getting there and is due back in Honolulu in July.

He is a botanist and is working here on food plants pending his start for Marquesas. The balloon silk has not shown up yet and I do not know how the forwarders sent it. The receipt from Mr. Pindar says S. S. Donald McKay and she may appear here later. When it appears I hope to get it without the bill of lading which is not at hand.

Have you fixed any price to pay for a vessel?

Sincerely yours,
R. H. Beck

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bill of lading which is not at hand.

Have you fixed any price to pay for a vessel?

Sincerely yours,

R. H. Beck

A couple of birds that were to come nearer Loomis' description of Solitaires perhaps. Nothing else were caught in 350 miles south of Tahiti holes by natives and brought to me but I was unable to find any others.

April 28, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

We are now rolling around somewhere within 50 miles of Tubuai Island, for which we have been bound the last three days, having left Ravaivai Island with expectation of reaching Tubuai a couple of days ago but unexpected west wind and squalls have prevented.

Since leaving Papeete last month we have visited Rurutu, Rimitara, Tubuai, Rapa and Ravaivai Islands and are now returning via Tubuai.

Rurutu, Tubuai and Ravaivai appeared to have no land birds other than the cuckoo while Rimitara had a paroquet and warbler and Rapa had the fruit pigeon.

Rapa yielded five specimens of the little black rail and the natives said it occurred on Rimitara and Tubuai but we neither saw nor heard any though a longer stay might have resulted in getting it.

Rurutu used to have shearwaters but they are rare now the natives said but at Rapa *P. neglecta* ? nests commonly as does *F. grallaria* ?, 3 specimens of the latter and several of the former being taken.

350 miles south of Tahiti

April 28, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

We are now rolling around somewhere within 50 miles

of Tubuai Island, for which we have been bound the last three

days, having left Raiatea Island with expectation of reaching

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former being taken.

A couple of birds that seem to come nearer Loomis' description of Solanders petrel than anything else were caught in holes by natives and brought to me but I was unable to find any others.

A wandering albatross was seen 30 miles north of Rapa and another 200 miles north that was likely the wandering was shot astern but heavy sea and light wind prevented picking it up, though I offered the Captain 50 francs to do it.

Shearwaters are very scarce in this locality, 2 or 3 being a daily average though down near Rapa they were more plentiful, several that I took to be Sooty Shearwaters being seen.

If you think a couple of months not too long to try for the rail at Rimitara and Tubuai Quayle can go down on a native schooner or possibly a mail boat may start making trips as it is reported to about ready, but in either case 2 to 3 months might be required before a chance to get back offered.

As I wrote before leaving we were getting ready to go over to Moorea when this trip came up and we now have the Austral group and Rapa looked over though the western island of the Australs where seabirds nest and no one lives was missed but this can possibly be visited when working the Cook group.

I saw the Bass Islands 40 miles southeast of Rapa from the mountains in Rapa but the tail end of a small hurricane that nearly drove us ashore in the harbor at Rapa and the lack of

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gasoline prevented us running down to them, though as they are only rocks and cannot be landed on, we probably secured most of the birds that nest on them at Rapa.

While sailing I have written sketches of Christmas and Rapa Islands and am sending them along for the Journal if suitable, if not would be glad to have them returned.

As I was told when in New York that some of the bright young reporters of the City occasionally dropped into the Museum and lifted bodily from Museum publications articles that might be used in Sunday editions or elsewhere it seems to me that it might be well to copyright either of these if you care to use them, for if I live long enough and find time I might want to put together some of the effusions under one heading, unless, as is likely, I become really convinced of their worthlessness for preservation.

Very sincerely,

R. H. Beck

May 5, 1921

Just reached Papeete and find steamer sailing in couple hours so mail this and rest will wait till next steamer. Got 1 rail (same as Rapa species ?) on Tubuai. Have now just over 1000 birds.

Hurriedly, R. H. B.

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Papeete, Tahiti

June 3, 1921

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Your letter of April 20th with letter of credit reached me safely but the letter of identification is missing, as I asked this morning at the office. If you mailed it at the same time that the other letter was mailed it would be advisable to send a duplicate as letters miscarry frequently, like the balloon silk Doctor Chapman sent some months ago and the three boxes of birds that were sent from this end last February. I am just back from a ten days' search for pigeons and rails in the southern end of the Island and secured one rail and three chickens as the principal birds of the trip. Though the chickens were taken three miles or more in the mountains from domestic fowls, they look to me much like the barnyard variety. Quayle is out after shearwaters and rails in the central part and should be back shortly.

As showing how localized some of the birds are the case of the flycatcher here should be quoted. Quayle got about twenty in one canon while looking for swifts in the vicinity reported by Wilson, but the adjoining canons on each side of the occupied one yielded not a bird and the only other bird of the species taken was secured on the other side of the Island,

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June 3, 1931

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- 2 -

some months before.

June 8th

The monthly mail arrived yesterday and with it the letter of identification. I note it was mailed five days later than the letter of credit which accounts for the month's difference. Your letters of April 25 and May 2 are at hand and we are grateful for your remembrance of us in the forwarding of the publications. I am awaiting with lively anticipation your article on the Peruvian sea birds which you mentioned in a previous letter.

While on the Rapa trip a cable came from Mr. Berridge saying the boat was being sold in a few days but the time had passed when I reached Papeete. I have had no word from Doctor Chapman regarding it or as to when money will be available for the purchase of a vessel, though I have assumed that the Committee were not prepared the first year to purchase.

In the next three months we expect to work the islands which have regular and frequent boat service, and then the question of our own boat will come oftener to the fore.

The herbarium labels arrived safely but the box with field equipment will take more time if shipped via Australia as the tent fly was. I secured the fly yesterday though it

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reached here a couple of weeks ago. It had paid duty in Australia and the charges there amounted to 1 pound, 5 shillings and this added to freight to Australia and New York expenses would more than offset the railroad cost to San Francisco I imagine besides the few months' time saved in transportation.

Packages that do not weigh too much will I think come to Papeete from New York most satisfactorily if shipped by American Express Co.

They know me in the San Francisco office or should shortly when we get the lost shipment settled.

I note your suggestion regarding the labels but have not yet found the way to place the locality and date with collector's name on the face of label, though I have not tried typing the locality yet.

It appears to me that two lines will be necessary below the scientific name to record the data from Nukihiva Island, Marquesas Island for a bird taken Sept. 30, 1921, E. W. Quayle collector, for instance, unless we can develop a much finer handwriting.

I will look up at once some sort of container for preserving bodies and have thought of the dog proposition but have not secured one yet.

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The rails live in thick waist high ferns and heavy grass where they can move faster than a dog and as they cannot fly readily from such cover it is difficult to bag them.

The prints from Christmas were a disappointment though the same lot of plates gave better results on the Rapa trip as you will see from some prints forwarded to Doctor Chapman.

The nest on which the young Gygis tern was perched was not built by the Gygis tern if I am rightly informed but was built by a Lesser noddy. I found one egg of Gygis in a similar nest but think it also was built by the lesser noddy.

I am shipping by this boat the birds from the Rapa trip and will like to hear your identification of the white-chinned shearwater from Rapa. Also am interested to know if the Christmas petrel was typical F. albigularis.

Quayle has been out three weeks now in the higher part of this Island and I expect him daily. He has with him our Punuru guide so am hoping for shearwaters.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

If the Curators of Libards and Mammals desire to describe any possible new species that might be in any of the bottles it would perhaps be desirable if they did not wait too long for Mr. Stokes of the Bishop Museum has collected specimens from some of the Islands which we visited and he may have his material gone over as soon as he returns from Rapa where

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June 8, 1921

Dear Doctor Chapman:

As Doctor Murphy has been added to the Museum Committee and as he appears to be conversant with the affairs of the expedition I am writing him in regard to matters which he mentions in his letters though I am sending you the registered package containing photographs and a couple of articles I composed while we were sailing from Christmas and Rapa Islands. Whether either of these will appeal to the Editor of the Museum Journal remains to be seen. I have captioned the prints to go with them but if they are unacceptable it would be a favor if you would return them to me.

I expect to ship to-morrow three boxes of birds and one of formalin specimens, the latter mostly lizards picked up on various Islands.

If the Curators of Lizards and Mammals desire to describe any possible new species that might be in any of the bottles it would perhaps be desirable if they did not wait too long for Mr. Stokes of the Bishop Museum has collected specimens from some of the Islands which we visited and he may have his material gone over as soon as he returns from Rapa where

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he now is.

The tent fly came to hand yesterday and will, I think shed water a whole lot better than the fern or banana leaves which we have been using in the mountains.

Doctor Murphy sent me another letter of credit which came to hand by last mail. When we finish up three or four islands of the Society group, the question of our own boat will arise. We will tackle Moorea next week if some other trip does not appear suddenly on the horizon.

Schooners are going to various Islands all the time but few of them make trips that appeal to me as the most profitable way to work.

By September I presume you will have an idea as to the amount of money you can use for chartering or buying a vessel.

It appears to me now that we can finish the next three months with the remainder of the first letter of credit but a favorable chance to visit the Marquesas again is possible any time, though we will have to charter or buy a vessel for some of them.

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Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

at around \$6.00 a gallon.

Papeete, Tahiti

August 9, 1921

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Quayle returned last night from Moorea without a rail though he has been trying for the last two weeks to see one.

If you can suggest some probable way to secure small black rails in thick, knee to waist high ferns and bushes, we will be most happy to try it out. I doubt very much if a dog can catch one for the thick cover, though we have a young dog that Quayle is going to train. He secured two warblers which may prove a trifle larger than the Tahiti birds but I was unable to locate one. If convenient we will try for them again in the nesting season when the males may be singing.

Since trying the type on the labels I find that with care we can get the locality and date on the face of the label as you suggest.

I am still trying and hope to eventually ^csucceed in getting a couple of cans made for preserving bodies entire.

Alcohol I find on inquiry is imported from the States and sells

Papeete, Tahiti

August 9, 1931

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Grayle returned last night from Moorea without a rail though he has been trying for the last two weeks to see one. If you can suggest some probable way to secure small black rails in thick, knee to waist high ferns and bushes, we will be most happy to try it out. I doubt very much if a dog can catch one for the thick cover, though we have a young dog that Grayle is going to train. He secured two warblers which may prove a trifle larger than the Tahiti birds but I was unable to locate one. If convenient we will try for them again in the nesting season when the males may be singing. Since trying the type on the labels I find that with care we can get the locality and date on the face of the label as you suggest. I am still trying and hope to eventually succeed in getting a couple of cans made for preserving bodies entire. Alcohol I find on inquiry is imported from the States and sells

- 2 -

at around \$6.00 a gallon.

In conversations with various sea-faring men since cabling you a couple of weeks since regarding the purchase of a vessel, I have decided to let this boat go to the other party wanting it and wait till I get your letter before proceeding further in the matter.

I can charter this boat from the probable purchaser at not more than 500 francs a day and by the month at about \$900. A boat-builder estimates it would cost about \$8000 to build a new 35 ton boat with a 25 horsepower engine at his yard here. I would prefer an American built vessel and would like to know if there are not suitable schooners on the Atlantic Coast. They do not occur on the Pacific Coast except rarely. The cost of running the native schooners here is around \$25 to \$30 American, exclusive of gasoline. Many or most use gasoline rather than wind as motive power. Low price of copra and pearlshell is tying up many of the craft but there are not many of the size I want for sale, and none of them are suitable to cruise around New Zealand waters, in my estimation. It is likely that we may go out to Gambier

at around \$6.00 a gallon.

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cabling you a couple of weeks since regarding the purchase

of a vessel, I have decided to let this boat go to the

other party wanting it and wait till I get your letter before

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but there are not many of the size I want for sale, and none

of them are suitable to cruise around New Zealand waters, in

my estimation. It is likely that we may go out to Gambier

- 3 -

Islands in September for two months or so, in this boat I have been cabling you about. If you think it best to get a local boat to work the Islands within a 1000 miles of Tahiti, it is likely one may be found later if copra and shell do not rise in price. It would take about six months to build one here. I enclose with this my account for May and June, also a photo of natives dancing on the 14th of July. I presume Doctor Chapman is away for my last two or three letters to him have brought no replies.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

I secured 5 *Puffinus obscurus* very similar to Galapagos bird judging by Loomis' description.

Islands in September for two months or so, in this boat I have been sailing you about. If you think it best to get a local boat to work the Islands within a 1000 miles of Tahiti, it is likely one may be found later if coops and shells do not rise in price. It would take about six months to build one here. I enclose with this my account for May and June, also a photo of natives dancing on the 14th of July. I presume Doctor Chapman is away for my last two or three letters to him have brought no replies.

Sincerely,

R. H. Beck

I secured a *Phyllina obscura* very similar to Galapagos bird

judging by Loomis' description.

on the subject when we return here in about six weeks. For the last month we have been trying to find the wild pigeons Papeete, Tahiti and

Gauguin got four finally near Hitiia. I spent September 6, 1921

Dear Doctor Murphy: a hawk swoop suddenly from over a ridge to inces-

Your letter of August 2d came to hand to-day as did the package of stomach labels and the several articles on Peru.

As we are leaving to-morrow on another trip to the Margue-
sas and several Taumotos I have only glanced at the latter but
expect to get a lot of enjoyment out of them later. As I have just
had 3 cans made for preserving bodies it will probably be easy to save
some stomachs.

I wrote you last month that I decided to await your letter
before purchasing a boat but as the one I cabled you about was wanted
by another party, the owners wanted a quick answer and when your
cable came suggesting waiting for letter the other party arranged to
buy at once.

Had the boat been entirely satisfactory I would likely have
taken it but being built to use motor more than sail and being unsuit-
able for southern latitudes according to mariners here determined me
to see whether a reasonably priced boat might not be found about New
England waters. Pacific Coast had nothing very suitable in 1917
when I returned from South America so am wondering if possibly you
might hear of something on the East Coast. I hope to have your ideas

Papeete, Tahiti

September 6, 1921

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Your letter of August 24 came to hand to-day as did the

package of stomach labels and the several articles on Pape.

As we are leaving to-morrow on another trip to the Marae-

as and several Tamotoa I have only glanced at the letter but

expect to get a lot of enjoyment out of them later. As I have just

had 3 cans made for preserving bodies it will probably be easy to save

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to see whether a reasonably priced boat might not be found about New

England waters. Pacific Coast had nothing very suitable in 1917

when I returned from South America so am wondering if possibly you

might hear of something on the East Coast. I hope to have your ideas

on the subject when we return here in about six weeks. For the last month we have been trying to find the wild pigeon on this Island and Quayle got four finally near Hitia. I spent ten days hunting with him and not a bird did I see or hear. We hunted apart and often when calling would have a hawk swoop suddenly from over a ridge to investigate the author of the call.

We both think the hawks have cleaned the island of pigeons, for they are said to feed on the ripe feils growing on the mountain sides and if the hawk nears them while feeding there is little or no hope of escape for the pigeon must rise up to get away from the feils which grow upright from the center of the stalk instead of drooping over as does the banana. Where the Swifts have gone to puzzles me for I see Wilson found many in 1904. We have tried many cañons about the island but have not found them yet. The Hivaoa species was taken near the old settlement. Swallows are very scattering here, only a pair or two being found usually together. I note the O. lunata tern here is notably smaller? than the Christmas one, and think also that Todirhamphus youngi of Moorea is different from the kingfisher of this Island as the color is browner.

As these islands are only 7 or 8 miles apart it shows us that each island needs to be represented by specimens.

Looking up the numbers of the young birds you mention in my notebook gives 592, 593, 594, 595, 702 as sooty terns as you

on the subject when we return here in about six weeks. For the last month we have been trying to find the wild pigeon on this island and Quayle got four finally near Hittia. I spent ten days hunting with him and not a bird did I see or hear. We hunted apart and often when calling would have a hawk swoop suddenly from over a ridge to investigate the author of the call.

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As these islands are only 7 or 8 miles apart it shows us that each island needs to be represented by specimens.

Looking up the numbers of the young birds you mention in my notebook gives 592, 593, 594, 595, 702 as sooty terns as you

suspected. Young boobies are 522, 586, 587, bluefaced; while 584, 542, 543, 544 are redfooted.

Re the big fish Quayle is exhibiting, I will try to get to-m^oorrow his note on its capture which was near Christmas as I remember. He has the note taking side of collecting developed very highly and I do depend on his notes to furnish you with the greater part of the descriptonal matter.

He has now some 10 or 15 small note books filled with very interesting material but I rather hate to send things by mail as we think several letters have failed to reach us from California. Quayle was expected this afternoon but did not arrive so will see tomorrow whether to trust notes to mail. Re 14 your bird list, I have one other bird of the same kind here, both being taken from holes by natives one on Rapa and the other on a small islet just off the island of Rapa. I searched for them another day on the small islet and found none but I do not think them the same as neglecta. Presume it is not ethical to give Loomis a squint at it yet? Though come to think of it he does not consider color so important on account of dichromatism, wear, etc.

Should another vessel bob up here before long which might answer our purpose it could probably be secured at something less than the first price if I had all cash to pay down as I understand most buyers here pay but a portion of the price for all seem to be

suspected. Young boobies are 522, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544 are red-footed.

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the descriptive matter.

He has now some 10 or 12 small note books filled with very

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Quyle was expected this afternoon but did not arrive so will see

tomorrow whether to trust notes to mail. He is your bird list, I

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Should another vessel pop up here before long which might

answer our purpose it could probably be secured at something less

than the first price if I had all cash to pay down as I understand

most buyers here pay but a portion of the price for all seem to be

hard up now. In fact while we were at Hitia a near revolution was started on account of proposed heavy taxation on business people by embarrassed Government. In case some vessel offers will you have \$10,000 ready to complete purchase and begin operation? I estimate now around \$25 daily the cost of operation according to native standards of a 40 or 50 ton boat. This does not include price of fuel for motor. One small 30 ton boat has been shown me with an 80 horse power engine at \$10,000 but the heavy engine makes the price high for they reckon them here at about \$100 each horse-power.

I bought to-day a gallon or two of denatured alcohol intended for burning, that being so much cheaper than methyl alcohol, the druggist assuring me it was strong stuff. If you think the fuel alcohol is unsuitable let me know in your next letter. Sept. 7. Doubt if Quayle gets in to-day in time to send you his notes for bus arrives in P. M. and steamer sails also then.

Our comments on the birds would be in our notes so we had best send the notes and then needed additional notes might be supplied from memory.

I kept one of each of most of the species we have taken to refer to and have the only turnstone taken on Christmas, as well as the only rail adult from Tahiti. If nothing transpires of interest before we return here we may swing around the Australs and Rapa again and out to Magareva and some western Taumotos last of next

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started on account of proposed heavy taxation on business people by
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the only rail adult from Tahiti. If nothing transpires of interest
before we return here we may swing around the Australia and Rapa
again and out to Hagarava and some western Tannors last of next

month with chance of holding vessel where we want to stop.

October 28, 1921

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert C. Murphy,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

New York City.

P. S. I started Quayle off at \$75 a month last month, one month sooner than the year called for, but that is good policy as we frequently wear out a pair of shoes in two weeks wading rivers and through wet brush and grass. I am very glad if light was available. No doubt in looking them over you will find many things of little or no value scientifically. They may be too personal, or at least the personal might have been separated from the scientific; which you will notice I attempted following New Year's. That attempt indeed led to return to the straight "journal" style. What would you prefer? It would be preferable to keep everything in the one notebook because I have an additional one to carry for plants and one which is a sort of English-Polynesian dictionary.

Whatever you recommend I willingly will adopt and hope it will not necessitate carrying an extra book for the ethnological record which I intend to keep along the style of the books turned in. Perhaps some of those were written with too much haste in an effort to get some down without due care in the script, which is now too legible to begin with. My only excuse is that I understood we would personally supervise their transcription. I will take more care in

month with chance of holding vessel where we want to stop.

Sincerely,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

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frequently wear out a pair of shoes in two weeks wading rivers and

through wet brush and grass.

Papeete, Tahiti,
October 26, 1921

Dr. Robert C. Murphy,

American Museum of Natural History

New York City.

Dear Sir:

We are sending in the voluminous Journals which I have written, in the field for the most part, always bringing them up as fully as time would permit every night if light was available. No doubt in looking them over you will find many things of little or no value scientifically. They may be too personal, or at least the personal might have been separated from the scientific: which you will notice I attempted following New Year's. That attempt induced me to return to the straight "journal" style. What would you prefer? It would be preferable to keep everything in the one notebook because I have an additional one to carry for plants and one which is a sort of English-Polynesian dictionary.

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October 25, 1921
Lafayette, La.

Dr. Robert G. Murphy.

American Museum of Natural History

New York City.

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We are sending in the voluminous journals which I have written, in the field for the most part, always bringing them up as fully as time would permit every night if light was available. No doubt in looking them over you will find many things of little or no value scientifically. They may be too personal, or at least the personal might have been separated from the scientific: which you will notice I attempted following New Year's. That attempt induced me to return to the straight "journal" style. What would you prefer? It would be preferable to keep everything in the one notebook because I have an additional one to carry for plants and one which is a sort of English-Polynesian dictionary.

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as far as the Botany: My training has not been extensive in the future with the writing. such large leaved plants as bananas grow.

In writing these I have held in view the desire and aim of recording everything I observed that I considered would be of interest to the museum. Being the judge I have naturally recorded the things which interested and appealed to me as a human being. Our concentration upon birds has naturally made them the first object of attention; having been interested in Botany and Geology as much, and having studied them more than Zoology, they perhaps have received second and third attention; but I have tried to record everything I have observed from the Polynesians and Popa "whiteman" down to ants that are about one millimeter in length. weather, we have had these past two

months. There undoubtedly will be many suggestions that you can make which will help me to make this part of the work worth just as much as possible. While we're in the field we might as well get down as many observations as possible upon every subject within the limits of one man's range. Realizing of course, the importance of concentrating upon Ornithology first, and Botany second, still there are times when some other facts will just force themselves bodily upon one. The fact that during the year I found in all my wanderings but one evidence of plants being embedded in the conglomerate which abounds here and no sign whatever of any marine deposits must be of some interest. But you can judge from the notebooks themselves. I am anxious to get started right by being thoroughly corrected by you

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Now as for the Botany: My training has not been extensive in collecting and never where such large leaved plants as bananas grow. How would one collect the Fei, or plantain with its fronds two or three meters in length and half a meter wide? Fruits that are juicy are also new to me. Is minute description of them and the seeds sufficient?

Is the enclosed label satisfactorily filled out?

Do you wish samples of bark and wood of trees and shrubs?

How many specimens (duplicate) of each number are desired?

I am collecting five. Is that all right? For that many I could use 500 more blotters very well, as the plants do not dry rapidly even in the good sunshiny weather, we have had these past two months.

In collecting islands as near together as Moorea and Tahiti are full sets desirable from Moorea of plants which appear to be identical to Tahitian ones? Or just one specimen? Seed plants and ferns of course are all wanted; how minutely shall I collect mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, and algae?

Is there not an Hawaiian Flora that would help us here, since I understand there is a great resemblance of the vegetation here and there?

Hoping to find that my work with the plants will prove as successful as our bird work has done and assuring you that I am anxious to get started right by being thoroughly corrected by you

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Is there not an Hawaiian flora that would help us here, since I understand there is a great resemblance of the vegetation here and there?

Hoping to find that my work with the plants will prove as successful as our bird work has done and assuring you that I am anxious to get started right by being thoroughly corrected by you

who know so much better than a young beginner what is desirable,
I beg to be held

The Museum's sincere servant,

(Signed:) Ernest H. Quayle days ago from

P. S. Any notes you can send me concerning Polynesian plants will
be appreciated. From some of the islands. I did not

have time on any one of the islands to work it thoroughly but will save quite a bit of time when we go with our own vessel in knowing what parts of certain islands to go to in order to get specimens. On two of the Laysan, several hours ashore failed to yield a single land bird while on Niau, the first one visited, three hours gave me over 20 birds being the only one where the Kingfisher was encountered, and it appears different from the Hivaoa birds. On Riti Island, south of Makaua, the sandpiper was captured, and it occurs on other islands according to the sailors who have been ashore on uninhabited ones. I saw dozens of Bulwer's petrels close to Uapi Island as well as neglected shearwaters, the latter being seen nowhere else as was the case with

who know so much better than a young beginner what is desirable.

I beg to be held

The Museum's sincere servant,

(Signed:) Ernest H. Grayle

P. S. Any notes you can send me concerning Polynesian plants will

be appreciated.

Papeete, Tahiti.
November 7, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We returned a few days ago from the Marquesas and a few of the Taumotus, collecting on the trip about 250 birds and a small series of lizards from some of the islands. I did not have time on any one of the islands to work it thoroughly but will save quite a bit of time when we go with our own vessel in knowing what parts of certain islands to go to in order to get specimens. On two of the Taumotus, several hours ashore failed to yield a single land bird while on Niau, the first one visited, three hours gave me over 20 birds being the only one where the kingfisher was encountered, and it appears different from the Hivaoa birds. On Hiti Island, south of Makemo, the sandpiper was captured, and it occurs on other islands according to the sailors who have been ashore on uninhabited ones. I saw dozens of Bulwers petrels close to Upu Island as well as neglected shearwaters, the latter being seen nowhere else as was the case with

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 November 7, 1931.

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a dozen or so grallaria petrels. The grallaria petrels were identified by their characteristic habit of kicking themselves forward by the leeward foot only when feeding in a fresh breeze, and I have wondered since if possibly they could have been Peales but think it doubtful. Of course I wanted to hold the boat over at Uapu but the harbor was small and a bad sea running in, the crew breaking two big oars in the afternoon while getting copra, so the Supercargo wouldn't stop longer and left some copra that was ready for him. On Nukuhiva, the vessel was daily on the move and the large pigeon was not found on the rainy side, which was the one we covered. The natives say they are not uncommon on the west side and will not be difficult to get when we have the time to make an excursion after them. I heard two rails at 2000 feet and though I climbed a tree and sat calling them, being answered occasionally, but only got rained on for my pains. The birds were in grass and bushes and ferns higher than my head. The black flycatcher of Uapu seemed to me to average larger than the Hivaoa bird and the one on

a dozen or so *Grallaria petreia*. The *Grallaria* petrels were identified by their characteristic habit of kicking themselves forward by the leeward foot only when feeding in a fresh breeze, and I have wondered since if possibly they could have been Petrels but think it doubtful. Of course I wanted to hold the boat over at Uapn but the harbor was small and a bad sea running in, the crew breaking two big oars in the afternoon while getting coops, so the Supercargo wouldn't stop longer and left some coops that was ready for him. On Wukhiva, the vessel was daily on the move and the large pigeon was not found on the rainy side, which was the one we covered. The natives say they are not uncommon on the west side and will not be difficult to get when we have the time to make an excursion after them. I heard two rails at 8000 feet and though I climbed a tree and sat calling them, being answered occasionally, but only got rained on for my pains. The birds were in grass and bushes and ferns higher than my head. The black flycatcher of Uapn seemed to me to average larger than the Hivosa bird and the one on

Uahuka does not keep to the eatercourses like the majority of the birds on other islands. I have wondered, when you get a proper series of young birds with old ones in fresh and worn plumage of the Taumotu warblers, whether some of Doctor Wetmore's species may not go into the synonym column, but I have only looked casually at one or two skins in comparing some of the ones I took. I had little chance to put up large birds but when we get our own vessel will get them in series and will have no difficulty in getting alcoholics of most species. Just before leaving Papeete for Marquesas I ran across some alcohol for burning in stoves, and took some of it with me, putting a few birds and stomachs in it and you can tell on arrival of the tin which I am sending with a shipment in a couple of days whether it does the work satisfactorily. The price is more reasonable than for formalin. For the lizards I use roughly 10 percent formalin which may be a little too strong, tho when the lizard has a full stomach and is not opened the underside seems none too hard. In one or two bottles I have stuck a crab, fish or centipede that put itself in my way.

the overhauling by the Editor before using, if used.

Usurks does not keep to the asteriscuses like the majority of the birds on other islands. I have wondered, when you get a proper series of young birds with old ones in fresh and worn plumage of the Tannian warblers, whether some of Doctor Wetmore's species may not go into the synonym column, but I have only looked casually at one or two skins in comparing some of the ones I took. I had little chance to put up large birds but when we get our own vessel will get them in series and will have no difficulty in getting alcoholics of most species. Just before leaving Papete for Marquessa I ran across some alcohol for burning in stoves, and took some of it with me, putting a few birds and stomachs in it and you can tell on arrival of the tin which I am sending with a shipment in a couple of days whether it does the work satisfactorily. The price is more reasonable than for formalin. For the lizards I use roughly 10 percent formalin which may be a little too strong, but when the lizard has a full stomach and is not opened the underside seems none too hard. In one or two bottles I have struck a crab, fish or centipede that put itself in my way.

Tried all over town to get rubbers for small fruit jars but all were rotten so I bought candy jars which can be easily carried in the hunting coat pocket and seldom overflow on any one island. Since starting this letter three hours ago, I walked up town and met the owner of one of the schooners that appeals strongly to me and may possibly decide on it after inquiries. His price was too high for consideration before; \$6500.00 now for 30 ton boat with good 55 horsepower engine, which is larger than necessary. I am waiting your letter re possibilities on Atlantic Coast tho expect cost of delivering here will be prohibitive. Quayle just comes in from Moorea with one more warbler and three wedge-tailed shearwaters taken from islet off Moorea. One measured comes within measurements of table in Loomis's work. I took a photo other day of reef heron nest in an old hulk here in the harbor, first nest of the species I've seen.

Am sending by this mail a couple of sketches of islands visited on recent voyage with a few photos, whether it is suitable for Journal you can decide tho it is not in the class that you turn out and will require overhauling by the Editor before using, if used.

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Your most interesting account of visits to the Peruvian Islands we have enjoyed thoroughly since our return, the one on San Gallan Island with condors circling within a stone's throw bringing back my similar experience there, most vividly. And I note you found northern phalaropes off Peru while I encountered the red ones off Chile. Till this afternoon I have been thinking of taking the boat that I turned down and chartering her for a trip to Pitcairn and islands in that region for six months or less, as she has to go out there in December, but it will be somewhat cheaper to operate this smaller vessel if the figures of the owner are not too far off. I am sending Quayle's diary in its several volumes in a couple of boxes of specimens and opine that you will have to turn it over to someone to cull out the notes on Natural History for I have glanced at several of the books and find them discussing a vast number of subjects which will not interest you. I had looked at one or two before in reference to some bird description and thought it satisfactory. He had expected to over it himself and assort the matter before turning it in, but your request

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for what information we had on the species collected results in somebody at the Museum becoming intimately acquainted with the workings of his philosophical ? mind.

If you will suggest an improvement on the way either one of us keeps his notebook we will endeavor to mend our ways although it might result in more notes and specimens if Quayle elaborated on notes and I busied myself on skinning. Re that fish picture, Quayle says to look in Christmas Island book, approaching island on eastern side and description of taking will be found. I am sending all my notes and numbers of birds in field book with this steamer and all specimens except the ones brought by Quayle today from Moorea and a few kept out for comparison. I think you will find the Moorea kingfisher slightly different in color from the Tahiti bird.

I gave Quayle 75.00 dollars the last month of the first year believing it would encourage him, and am paying the same each month of the second year raising worthless shells. I just opened a couple from the

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the first year believing it would encourage him, and am
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to \$100. the third year. The steamer from San Francisco arrives the day after the northbound boat this month so it is doubtful if we get your mail in time to answer it the same month. While I think of it I had best mention something about the auxiliary shells in case you come out to other collectors before we need another lot. We have yet more than half of ours and I do not expect them to deteriorate with age. Certain boxes or most of the cartridges in them have no power. I got hold of one of these boxes one day in the Taumotus and lost several birds, sometimes shooting twice at the same bird and in one remembered instance shooting twice at a gecko at 15 feet without disturbing him, but when I walked up to 10 feet I jarred him so he dropped him to the ground and was picked up in good condition, then I tried 3 or 4 shells at coconut trees and just dented the bark slightly at 20 feet distance? Quayle had a similar box on his trip after rail at the Lake on Tahiti, and blames the loss of two birds (rails) and the failure to get any in the month he was hunting them to the worthless shells. I just opened a couple from the

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box that failed me and do not see the trouble. I have formerly thought that getting them damp destroyed their strength, but have not tried thoroughly enough to be sure of this. I notice the powder is not ballistite the kind I swear by for damp conditions. If the shells are loaded by hand it is necessary to impress on the loader that every one should be uniform. For this trip it has cost the museum a goodly number of rare birds to find that the shells are irregular in their strength and it might not be a bad idea to have some responsible man select at random one shell from each box and try it before packing for shipment unless the loading of the shells is done differently from the lot sent us. I seem to be incorrigible in regard to the labeling properly of every single specimen but sincerely hope the average in the next thousand is not as high as in the one you mention.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti.
November 9, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

The six boxes of specimens are now on the wharf ready to go aboard this evening. 3 birds, 1 plant, 1 lizard and 1 alcoholics.

I ran across one of the shipbuilders this afternoon and on inquiring of him about the condition of the boat that is about our size was told that it will likely take a \$1000.00 to put her hull in firstclass shape. Also talking to a Captain that I know he thought the price was a trifle high so I may have to eliminate that one also, and try the chartering game for a spell. I may possibly be able to write a line or two tomorrow after the arrival of the other steamer altho this is due to sail at the hour the southbound is scheduled to arrive.

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Please inform the Botanist who looks over the plants that I am very anxious for criticisms concerning the collecting. There are

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Papeete, Tahiti,

November 9, 1921

Dr. Robert C. Murphy

American Museum of Natural History

New York City.

Dear Sir:

We have managed to get the first sets of plants collected upon the boat which is now at the wharf. Was not able to get the labels finished in time to register them (they were mailed on boat) but as I still have the original field notebook, and a carbon copy of what I wrote upon the labels I can duplicate them if they go astray. I retained one set for the purpose of getting as much information as possible concerning the economic uses and also to verify the native dialect names by the aid of a man who has studied the language with the ambition of making a thorough and complete dictionary of it. He has given me several lessons in Polynesian, gratis, and will check up all names for me, if I will furnish him in return with the scientific names of genera at least, for his dictionary which he will not have complete for several years.

Please inform the Botanist who looks over the plants that I am very anxious for criticisms concerning the collecting. There are

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Rapete, Tahiti,
November 12, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

so many little things one meets in the field that were not dreamed of in college, that I have found myself bewildered almost; but have essayed to use common sense where training was lacking.

Hoping the plants will prove as interesting and satisfactory as the birds have, and looking forward to the time when you can join us in this intensely interesting field of research, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed:) Ernest H. Quayle

P. S. Mr. Beck let me read your letter and I have carefully noted several suggestions. I do not believe you will find any of my late birds erroneously sexed. The early errors arose from temerity at the use of the question mark. If anything like that occurs, be sure you call my attention to it.

As regards the fish we caught off the coast of Christmas Island, you will find something about him, though it is probably not very scientific, in my journal. Although a Stanford student, I had not got around to detail work on fishes. Could you not suggest what we might do in future circumstances?

There were two volumes of my notebooks which were overlooked in packing so I sent them by registered mail. E. H. Q.

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Papeete, Tahiti,
November 12, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

A tramp steamer is leaving here to-day for New York and I will send a line by it. I have just returned from the Postoffice and the Consuls hoping to find a letter from you telling of the provision of money to cover the cost of a vessel if one is purchased. I wrote you two months ago asking if you would have the money on hand should a satisfactory boat be located but the letter or yours in reply may have fallen by the wayside as letters sometimes do. I do not know in what shape your appropriation for this expedition is, so do not care to purchase anything that I cannot pay for with the money in hand. I presume you have funds in hand to cover the cost of vessel and operation for a year but am not certain, so will wait another month till the steamer, which left yesterday for San Francisco returns. If the boat from the Marquesas is late, the steamer from San Francisco may get back before we have to decide on the Rapa, Pitcairn and eastern island voyage. I have heard the engine of the Vahina Tahiti, the Rapa boat, is not in good shape, and would prefer our own vessel for such an extended trip. I am now going to inquire about chartering for 3 weeks for a short trip till the boat for Rapa is ready.

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71
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Memorandum. Dec. 5, 1921.

On Nov. 23, 1921, a radio message dated Papeete, Nov. 19, was received at the Museum. When decoded, it read as follows:

"I am offered a French schooner, three years old, 75 tons, 60 horse-power engine, for \$16,000. Recommend that authority be given to purchase at \$15,000 cash on delivery. If you are not satisfied, to what price may I go? Beck."

After consulting Doctors Chapman and Sanford, who were both at the Museum, I cabled the following inquiry, dated Nov. 23:

"Cable estimated running expenses and lowest purchase price."

Beck's reply dated Dec. 1, stated:

"The probable cost will be about 700 dollars monthly. \$14,750 cash on delivery lowest price."

A statement from the Bursar of the Museum showed a balance in the Whitney Fund of \$15,080.33 on Dec. 2. The Committee therefore cabled the following message on the same date:

"Purchase vessel, insure, cabling money."

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Papeete, Tahiti,
December 10, 1941.

This schooner is the third vessel concerning which Mr. Beck and the Whitney Committee have exchanged ideas. It evidently appeals to Beck's sense of what is required more than either of the others, and it appears that we shall be able without difficulty to meet the financial obligations of running it. Mr. Beck is thoroughly informed of the possible complications of maritime law, and the schooner would always have a market value if it should become desirable for us to sell it.

R. C. Murphy.

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R. C. Murphy.

Papeete, Tahiti,
December 10, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

Your letter of October 20 arrived yesterday and as the northbound boat is due shortly will answer at once. We have not had an opportunity to try out the traps yet but hope to before long. I have been here in Papeete since our return from last trip trying to get the boat question settled and think now we will do it if the money shows up, for Dr. Chapman's cable last Saturday said he was cabling it. Having our own vessel we can finish an island on the first visit and not make an indefinite number of voyages to one port. Atuona, Hivaoa, for instance, has been my destination on three occasions and we still have a few more specimens to get there. The boat that has been offered me is a little larger than necessary but will take no more men than a smaller one as far as crew is concerned, and when ready to dispose of her a better price should be obtained, on account of her age, than one of the older boats would bring. Quayle left a few days ago for Scilly Island having had nearly a month here in town fixing his teeth. Our boat will not be in shape to sail till middle of January probably, for she went to Christmas Island the

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Papeete, Tahiti.
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Gayle left a few days ago for Solilly Island having had
nearly a month here in town fixing his teeth. Our
boat will not be in shape to sail till middle of Jan-
uary probably, for she went to Christmas Island the

day after I cabled you first regarding her. She is due back about Jan. 1. December 12. I have not had word of arrival of money yet but will visit bank again this afternoon. I went out last week for a day on the ocean and shot a parasitic jager in addition to local birds and got out to pass this morning, but the cross currents looked too bad to venture into alone so turned back.

The Speejacks was here a month ago and stayed a week or two but I did not meet any of the party, though some of the crew are here yet as several of them quit or were discharged. So far I have unearthed no skulls and am not likely to get many for the natives are averse to revealing graves. In the Marquesas I ran across an opened grave in a paepae but no skull was seen. Will bear in mind however the request and if opportunity offers will bag a few. Quayle has written you I think regarding plant collecting. He has gathered quite a few on this side of the island and we will likely forward everything when we leave for another trip. Several copies of the Condor were sent me by last mail, and I see mentioned in September number 1920, page 174, the Polynesian Tatler. Is it a bird of this region? Or are we likely to distinguish it from the very common wand-

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ering tatler? At present we pay no attention to
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 hoping Quayle finds the native sandpiper on Scilly
 Island for a Captain tells me quail occur there, and
 I think the sandpiper is meant. A crew of natives have
 been taken there to clear land for cocoanuts and sand-
 pipers will not last long if they are as tame as they
 were on Hiti Island. The woodpeckers of old authors
 are undoubtedly kingfishers for we took two nests last
 week, three eggs in each and the holes were similar
 to woodpecker holes in the States.

Hoping to write you details of our own boat
 next month,

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck

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77
Papeete, Tahiti,
December 30, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

A tramp steamer came in this morning and is due to leave this afternoon so will drop a line to you. The cable with the good wishes of the Museum Faculty came promptly to hand and we greatly appreciate your kind wishes. Quayle is still at Scilly Island but I hope he gets back before the steamer for the north arrives for his botany teacher at Stanford is here, and can likely give him some good advice on collecting. The boat is not yet paid for as there are more repairs to be made than we expected.

I have made application to the Governor for permission to sail her without transferring a half interest to a Frenchman and will probably secure it but the officials are so busy getting ready to increase taxes the first of January that they have not acted on my request yet. I applied over a week ago hoping to save the increased tax on registration which operates from the first of Jan. but will have to pay it now it appears. When the vessel was hauled up on the ways I got the head

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When the vessel was hauled up on the ways I got the head

of the rival shipbuilders company to go over her with me and found that it was necessary to change the rudder post and box for teredos had eaten them badly while the boat was in the Marquesas for a couple of years. These are the principal repairs and should be completed by the 10th of next month, in time, I hope to write you regarding the purchase by the next steamer. I got another parasitic jager as well as a pomarine a week ago.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

I heard last night that the Moana was ashore at Maitea; the America, a former pilot boat of San Francisco, is a total wreck at Anaa; the Anapoto, just overhauled, is worthless on the reef at Boruta, and the Suzanne that I was considering a couple of months ago is overdue a month from the Marquesas. These are all happenings of the last six weeks and if they continue we will have little cause to fear collisions at sea though the hurricane season is at its height when we are ready to leave port and to avoid collisions with that we may run down to Rapa and from there go out to the eastward below the hurricane belt. I do not anticipate getting away much before February 1 and will have more to write as soon as the boat is paid for and in our own hands.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

of the rival shipbuilders company to go over her with
me and found that it was necessary to change the rudder
post and box for teredos had eaten them badly while
the boat was in the Harpness for a couple of years.
These are the principal repairs and should be completed
by the 10th of next month, in time, I hope to write
you regarding the purchase of the next steamer. I got
another parasitic Jager as well as a pomarine a week ago.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti.

January 3, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

The tramp steamer that came in last week changed its mind about leaving the same day and spent two days fumigating and loaded a 1000 tons of copra before getting away today.

Though I have not received the Government permission to sail without a French co-owner the permission will likely show up this week before the vessel is ready to come off the ways.

I heard last night that the Moana was ashore at Raiatea; the America, a former pilot boat of San Francisco, as a total wreck at Anaa; the Anapoto, just overhauled, is worthless on the reef at Rorutu, and the Suzanne that I was considering a couple of months ago is overdue a month from the Taumotus. These are all happenings of the last six weeks and if they continue we will have little cause to fear collisions at sea though the hurricane season is at its height when we are ready to leave port and to avoid collisions with that we may run down to Rapa and from there go out to the eastward below the hurricane belt. I do not anticipate getting away much before February 1 and will have more to write as soon as the boat is paid for and in our own hands.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

79
Tahiti, Papeete,
January 3, 1932.

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Though I have not received the Government permission to sail without a French co-owner the permission will likely show up this week before the vessel is ready to come off the ways.

I heard last night that the Moana was ashore at Raitea; the America, a former pilot boat of San Francisco, is as a total wreck at Anaa; the Anapoto, just overhauled, is worthless on the reef at Borotu, and the Suzanne that I was considering a couple of months ago is overdue a month from the Tanniers. These are all happenings of the last six weeks and if they continue we will have little cause to fear collisions at sea though the hurricane season is at its height when we are ready to leave port and to avoid collisions with that we may run down to Raia and from there go out to the eastward below the hurricane belt. I do not anticipate getting away much before February 1 and will have more to write as soon as the post is paid for and in our own hands.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti.
January 13, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

Your letter of December 8th is just to hand, this reply will catch the northbound boat tomorrow. I find the missing notes in my book, overlooked before. We are today in receipt of Captain Cooks Voyages and Omoo, Typee and Voyage of the Beagle having arrived by earlier boat. We will take these with us on our first voyage and return them on our return. Typee interested me as I went up to the top of the ridge that Melville crossed when leaving his vessel and also went ashore in the bay where he left his friends.

Your hope that we lay in a boatload of Peales petrel reminds me of Doctor Grinnells supplication that I put up a series of Skuas at Monterey Bay when I reported the capture of one there.

Am hoping to get a small series of the whitebellied petrel at Rapa next month as we move out to the eastward end of our range.

I am not certain if ballistite will be suitable for the aux for it may split the shell so much that one will lose too much time trying to ram them out after firing.

We took over the schooner yesterday and I made the final payment this morning, but it will likely take a week

Tapeete, Tahiti.
January 13, 1922.

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bought the one our Captain has been using since he became to make some slight changes in the cabin and hold, the carpenters here being very leisurely workers. I insured her today for 3000 pounds, paying a premium of 10 per cent for partial or total loss. Registration takes place tomorrow and the Governor allows her to be sailed for a year, and will probably renew the permission longer without requiring a half French ownership. I enclose a photo ~~taka~~ showing the boat hauled up for repairs but wont have a view of her under sail till our return from this first trip which will extend to DuXcie Island if nothing happens to prevent. Quayle sent in a couple of boxes from Scilly today and I expect him any time now as he can come in from Raiatea most any week.

He sent a number of the blue paroquets making now the three species from this region and opines that the Fairy tern from Mopelia is different from the Tahiti bird. I note that he took several so comparison can be made. The contracts have not been sent back from the Registrars but a freight steamer is due in a few days and I expect then to mail you a copy of the contract. I heard yesterday that it cost the former owners over 12000 francs to put the ship in shape to turn over to us; and even now there are several things lacking that I could not get them to furnish. One backless chair and a few boxes were the seats for the former crew in the cabin and the chronometer was a worthless one which they held as not going with the ship. We

to make some slight changes in the cabin and hold, the carpenters here being very leisurely workers. I insured her today for 3000 pounds, paying a premium of 10 per cent for partial or total loss. Registration takes place tomorrow and the Governor allows her to be sailed for a year, and will probably renew the permission longer without requiring a half French ownership. I enclose a photo showing the boat hauled up for repairs but won't have a view of her under sail till our return from this first trip which will extend to Duick Island if nothing happens to prevent. Quaye sent in a couple of boxes from Sully today and I expect him any time now as he can come in from Raiatea most any week.

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bought the one our Captain has been using since he became a Captain. With you I now have hopes of doing something commensurate with the outfit provided. The bank charged me 1 percent of the \$14750 for a draft on San Francisco and ordinarily charges about 6 percent between their buying and selling rates. I have opened an account in San Francisco and expect to pay most of my larger bills with checks on that, The Bank of Italy, as I can get about 2 cents per dollar more that way than paying in francs here. I will write you before leaving how to send next money as I presume it will be slightly cheaper to transfer to San Francisco than to send all on letter of credit here.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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 to transfer to San Francisco than to send all on letter
 of credit here.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti.
January 29, 1921.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We are ready to sail tomorrow if nothing occurs to prevent and hope to be back in July if things go right. I hope to send the bills by the boat that takes this but may get away with them on hand and will then send them from Pitcairn likely, as I understand steamers stop there often on the way to Panama. My present plan is to go to Rapa and then to the eastern end of the Taumotus, escaping the hurricane season which is now on. We heard one was headed this way Sunday but it did not arrive. When we return we will have to clean the bottom of the vessel spending two weeks here possibly and then it may be best to finish up the Marquesas for I think October may be a good time for the shearwaters and petrels there, judging from what I saw last year in that month. I think a letter of credit for \$4000. should be here for me by June 15th and \$3000. should be sent to my account at Bank of Italy, Market, Powell and Eddy Streets, San Francisco, Cal. by first of July. Or if you think francs will get stronger by last of May it will perhaps be more profitable for you to buy francs at once in New York and send them to my account here as the bank charges but 1/2 per cent discount on French

Papeete, Tahiti.
January 29, 1921.

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buy francs at once in New York and send them to my account

here as the bank charges but 1/2 per cent discount on French

frances while on dollars they charge 3 or 4 percent.

I am cashing as few dollars as possible in the bank here selling them outside at 10 and 25 centimes more than the bank allows. The sailors will be paid off in frances when we return, and some stores require frances, but as prices for the same article are seldom the same in different stores one has to run around to at least four places to get prices before buying much. We needed our davits shortened and one blacksmith said 200 frances while his neighbor a 1/2 block away said 100 frances. 15 foot oars this afternoon varied from 150 frances to 125 in a distance of less than a block. It will perhaps be well to send another 5000 or 6000 aux shells to arrive by July 1st, and some more labels also for we will not be back before Christmas if plans go right, and we go to the Marquesas in July. I enclose with this a copy of the contract and a copy of the insurance policy. We are sailing as a yacht thereby escaping some regulations.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Feb. 1.

We are ready to sail in an hour and have put the negatives in charge of first officer of "Canadian Pioneer" the steamship taking cargo from here for New York, and he suggests you send some one on board to get the negatives rather than leave them to be handled with rest of consignment, so please send boy to speaker on its arrival. R. H. B.

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Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti

Jan. 31, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

I am sending with this the majority of the bills paid since purchasing the schooner, but will have to take a few with us likely as they contain items which may be of use to us on the voyage. I enclose the totals of all the bills paid to date and if we get away tomorrow as hoped for will leave with none unpaid. I have drawn on my own account to balance those beyond the amount of the museum's money on hand, and would ask that you send Mrs. Beck a check to balance that account, sending it to Mrs. R. H. Beck, care H. Menzies, Route B. Box 98, San José, Cal. as Mrs. Beck is going up for a visit by next boat.

I assume it is satisfactory to the museum if I charge the rate of \$2 per day for her expenses the same as though she remained here. I wrote you yesterday re the best way to send next money in my estimation. I am sending by a cargo boat this week the material on hand, including my 5 x 7 and postcard negatives on plates. If Mr. Fisher of the National Geographic Society cares to inspect my negatives please let him do so, tho of the bird negatives I, of course have nothing to say.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Feb. 1.

We are ready to sail in an hour and have put the negatives in charge of first officer of "Canadian Pioneer" the steamship taking cargo from here for New York, and he suggests you send some one on board to get the negatives rather than leave them to be handled with rest of consignment, so please send boy to steamer on its arrival. R. H. B.

Papeete, Tahiti
Jan. 31, 1931.

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the bills paid since purchasing the schooner, but will have to take a few with us likely as they contain items which may be of use to us on the voyage. I enclose the totals of all the bills paid to date and if we get away tomorrow as hoped for will leave with none unpaid. I have drawn on my own account to balance those beyond the amount of the museum's money on hand, and would ask that you send Mrs. Beck a check to balance that account, sending it to Mrs. R. H. Beck, care H. Menzies, Route 2, Box 98, San Jose, Cal. as Mrs. Beck is going up for a visit by next post.

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Pitcairn Island

March 13, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We reached this island this morning and hearing that a steamer is expected in a few days will drop you a line, stating results to date. At Rapa we secured a number of rails, some of them young ones and a small number more of doves. The *Grallaria* petrels were nesting and we got a series of old ones as setting had just begun. A couple of *nativitatus*? shearwaters were secured by setting your traps in nests from which young birds had been taken, but the blue shearwaters failed to materialize till we reached Bass Rocks where on a rough day we got a series at sea the bad weather preventing us from going ashore where they were nesting. 3 or 4 *nativitatus* and 3 *nigripennis* shearwaters were also taken at Bass Rocks. Ravaivai yielded a couple of wedgetailed shearwaters but this island don't look favorable for anything but a possible *neglecta*, an occasional bird being seen as we neared the land tho in fact we saw 1 or 2 nearly every day from Bass Rocks. Instead of westerly winds which we

Pittsford Island
March 13, 1932.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-
We reached this island this morn-

ing and hearing that a steamer is expected in a few days will drop you a line, stating results to date. At Rapa we secured a number of rails, some of them young ones and a small number more of doves. The Gullies petrels were nesting and we got a series of old ones as setting had just begun. A couple of noddies shearwaters were secured by setting your traps in nests from which young birds had been taken, but the blue shearwaters failed to materialize till we reached Rapa. Hooks where on a rough day we got a series at sea the bad weather preventing us from going ashore where they were nesting. 3 or 4 noddies and 2 noddies shearwaters were also taken at Rapa Hooks. Rapa also yielded a couple of wedgetailed shearwaters but this island don't look favorable for anything but a possible neglect, an occasional bird being seen as we neared the land the in fact we saw 1 or 2 nearly every day from Rapa Hooks. Instead of westerly winds which we

hoped for we had light easterly winds most of the time and hope for a change out to Ducie 300 miles from here. The vessel acts first rate in fair weather and we hope will do as well in heavy.

Curtis who hails from New York and helps Quayle with plants on shore is earning his wages of 200 francs a month for he acts as sailor at sea. It might be well to send the labels in two packages to insure our receiving some for we will be nearly if not quite out when we reach Papeete, if we get birds from now on as we hope to do.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

I concluded that you would not care for more than 50 eggs of a species from one island so did not collect any more than that number for the Museum of the three common species nesting. The sailors picked up 20 or

hoped for we had light easterly winds most of the
time and hope for a change out to Buie 300 miles

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quite out when we reach Papete, if we get birds

from now on as we hope to do.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Lying off Timoe Island,

April 24, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Since dropping you a line from Pitcairn Island last month, we have collected Ducie, Henderson and Oeno Islands and have arrived at Timoe with Mangareva showing up 20 miles to the westward.

As we expect to meet a schooner from Papeete in Mangareva I will write a few lines which should reach you before our mail does which will go forward from Papeete on our arrival there in July probably.

Ducie proved to be a nesting ground for Neglected, Nativitatus and Parvirostris ? shearwaters. Nativitatus were rare as the last of the young birds were nearly ready to fly but the other two species were beginning nesting and we secured good series of each, as well as a series of redtailed tropics and the whitefooted fairy terns.

I concluded that you would not care for more than 50 eggs of a species from one island so did not collect many more than that number for the Museum of the three common species nesting. The sailors picked up 20 or

Lying off Timor Island,
April 24, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Since dropping you a line from Pitcairn Island last month, we have collected Ducie, Henderson and Oeno Islands and have arrived at Timor with Mangrove showing up 20 miles to the westward. As we expect to meet a schooner from Papeete in Mangrove I will write a few lines which should reach you before our mail does which will go forward from Papeete on our arrival there in July probably.

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I concluded that you would not care for more than 50 eggs of a species from one island so did not collect many more than that number for the Museum of the three common species nesting. The sailors picked up 20 or

so dozen of the fresh eggs for eating and these we found a pleasant change from the regular bill of fare. One of them blew some of the fresh eggs and these I bought to add to my collection at home, presuming the Museum would have no objection. Should you wish a larger series of eggs from one island than 50 let me know and I will take the number that you specify when a similar opportunity occurs. When we strike an island where Sooty terns are nesting I will likely collect more than 50 for in that species there is a large variation in size, color and markings when hundreds of eggs are looked over. The chance for selecting shearwaters was so good at Ducie that we put up quite a series of both neglecta and parvirostris ? One had merely to walk around thru the tangled trees to inspect 100's and a goodly number of those taken there are hand picked from a much larger number.

The last 30 (parvirostris ?) or so taken on the last day at the island however I collected myself, picking them just as they came, taking two from a nest in some cases as many pairs had but recently selected sites and the eggs were not laid. These 30 parvirostris ? were within a 50 yard radius.

is getting into the proper channel went through safely.

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 found a pleasant change from the regular bill of fare.
 One of them blew some of the fresh eggs and these I
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 and the eggs were not laid. These 30 parvirostris?
 were within a 50 yard radius.

Of the 30 or so birds shot at Henderson in April all but a couple of light breasted ones were taken as they came and no selection made, the two light ones being shot the last day. At Henderson in March I had a chance to look over a 100 or more and got 3 or 4 light ones as they don't average more than 1 to 40 at that island. The series of neglecta was largely picked for variation and I think we got about as light colored birds as occurred but there were many as dark as those taken. At Oeno we ran into the bluish shearwaters of Bass Rocks but got no eggs as they were evidently just arriving to nest. We were fortunate at Oeno in that none of the sailors lost their lives for on the last day when the entire crew of sailors (4) had gone in to get Quayle, who had stayed on the island for two days in a vain search for the rail which occurs, they were overwhelmed in the breakers and the boat over-turned resulting in their having to fight their way out to sea on top of the submerged boat and remaining there till the schooner came back in three hours from a tack offshore. After we hoisted the boat up to bale her out the sailors were sent in again for Quayle and being more careful in getting into the proper channel went through safely.

Of the 30 or so birds shot at Henderson in April all but a couple of light breasted ones were taken as they came and no selection made, the two light ones being shot the last day. At Henderson in March I had a chance to look over a 100 or more and got 3 or 4 light ones as they don't average more than 1 to 40 at that island. The series of neglects was largely picked for variation and I think we got about as light colored birds as occurred but there were many as dark as those taken. At Omo we ran into the bluish shearwaters of Bass Rocks but got no eggs as they were evidently just arriving to nest. We were fortunate at Omo in that none of the sailors lost their lives for on the last day when the entire crew of sailors (4) had gone in to get Quyle, who had stayed on the island for two days in a vain search for the rail which occurs, they were overwhelmed in the breakers and the boat over-turned resulting in their having to fight their way out to sea on top of the submerged boat and remaining there till the schooner came back in three hours from a tack offshore. After we hoisted the boat up to hale her out the sailors were sent in again for Quyle and being more careful in getting into the proper channel went through safely.

Not being a swimmer of any pretensions, I am risking my hide as seldom as possible tho I went ashore at Oeno twice and shall try to get an experienced boat steerer and a lighter boat when we return to Papeete. Several native sandpipers seem a little different from my Mangareva, May 10, 1922.

We expected to finish up here today but a swell yesterday and a heavy wind and rain today prevented. Did not know until 8 P. M. today that Quayle and two sailors were safe for they went to a rocky islet yesterday to land Quayle who was to stay last night and send the boat back.

The boat failed to return so I hired a cutter here and sent it to look them up. The boat is just back with the report that the three are at a village on Taravai Island which they will work tomorrow and return tomorrow night if weather permits. Manoui Island where we hoped to land Quayle yesterday yielded a rail Monday but being a dangerous place will consider the one specimen sufficient. A dead white-chinned petrel from another islet suggests that a visit in December might show that species nesting as well as nativitatus a dried specimen of which was taken on the same islet. 4 nearly fledgd wedgetailed

Not being a swimmer of any pretensions, I am risking my hide as seldom as possible tho I went ashore at Omo twice and shall try to get an experienced boat steerer and a lighter boat when we return to Papete.

Mangrove, May 10, 1933.

We expected to finish up here today but a swell yesterday and a heavy wind and rain today prevented. Did not know until 8 P. M. today that Quyle and two sailors were safe for they went to a rocky islet yesterday to land Quyle who was to stay last night and send the boat back.

The boat failed to return so I hired a cutter here and sent it to look them up. The boat is just back with the report that the three are at a village on Tarava Island which they will work tomorrow and return tomorrow night if weather permits. Mamou Island where we hoped to land Quyle yesterday yielded a rail Monday but being a dangerous place will consider the one specimen sufficient. A dead white-chinned petrel from another islet suggests that a visit in December might show that species nesting as well as naticivatus a dried specimen of which was taken on the same islet. A nearly fledged wedgetailed

300 miles East of Tahiti,
June 30, 1922.

shearwaters also were secured in addition to a fair series of obscure shearwaters in several stages of growth. The absence of warblers is puzzling the cuckoo being the only land bird encountered. Several native sandpipers seem a little different from my sample from Hiti Island. We will likely leave in a couple of days for the islands to the northward where birds are said to be more plentiful than here. The expected schooners have not yet arrived from Papeete but may get there so you will get this ahead of the next letter which will likely be written in Papeete in July.

Besides the shearwaters and sandpipers I got a small series of yellowbilled tropics on Mangareva itself finding them on windy days flying about cliffs where they likely nest.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

As you may know, landing on the lee side of the Tuamotus is usually impossible when the wind is north, for there is a heavy southwest swell and landing has to be

shearwaters also were secured in addition to a fair series of obscure shearwaters in several stages of growth. The absence of warblers is puzzling the owls being the only land bird encountered. Several native sandpipers seem a little different from my sample from Hiti Island. We will likely leave in a couple of days for the islands to the northward where birds are said to be more plentiful than here. The expected schooners have not yet arrived from Papeete but may get there so you will get this ahead of the next letter which will likely be written in Papeete in July. Besides the shearwaters and sandpipers I got a small series of yellowbilled tropics on Mangrove itself finding them on windy days flying about cliffs where they likely nest.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck

300 miles East of Tahiti,

June 30, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We are now headed for Tahiti, having gotten to the last spool of thread, the last 1/2 pound of cotton, the last pound of arsenic, the last gram of magnesia and the last wisp of grass and excelsior for stuffing, while for the last few 100 birds we improvised labels and used sand for absorbing fat and blood on all but the small birds; the last 100 pounds of cornmeal having been used since we discovered at Ducie that we were going to run short. However, we put up 2000 birds as well as pickling 50 or so. There must be a few 100 plant specimens and a few dozen or more lizards and geckos with the few 100 eggs.

I am highly pleased to have gotten this far without loss of life of party or sailors, for several times the surf on the reefs was bad and at one island the boat's crew had to stay ashore all night with Quayle, as they could not get off on account of heavy sea.

As you may know, landing on the lee side of the Tuamotus is usually impossible when the wind is north, for there is a heavy southwest swell and landing has to be

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June 30, 1933.

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we improvised labels and used sand for absorbing fat

and blood on all but the small birds; the last 100

pounds of cornmeal having been used since we discovered

at Duie that we were going to run short. However, we

put up 2000 birds as well as pickling 50 or so. There

must be a few 100 plant specimens and a few dozen or more

lizards and snakes with the few 100 eggs.

I am highly pleased to have gotten this far with-

out loss of life of party or sailors, for several times

the surf on the reefs was bad and at one island the boat's

crew had to stay ashore all night with Quaye, as they

could not get off on account of heavy sea.

As you may know, landing on the lee side of the

Tramontana is usually impossible when the wind is north,

for there is a heavy southwest swell and landing has to be

done on the north side even with a north wind, and we had northerly wind for about a month after leaving Mangareva.

We have not anchored since leaving Mangareva, though have worked 10 islands since then. I wrote you at Mangareva, and a week later the 'Moana' with the letter passed us at Marutea Island, but I expect you will receive it about the time this reaches you.

For fear we might not find them common elsewhere, we put up about 50 of the native sandpipers at Marutea, but we found them common at a couple of other islands and ran over a 100 skins before the species stopped. The ground doves were only common at one small island, a couple of miles in circumference, and the natives are eating them so they will not last long. For the first half day I got a dozen, and Quayle didn't see one, although less than a mile from me part of the time. The next day he got over a dozen, but a swell started then and we could not land again. Distribution of birds here is interesting, especially warblers, doves, and sandpipers; and yesterday, the last day, I went ashore and found a colony of the lesser frigate birds, the first I ever saw; 200 or so nesting. I pickled a couple this P. M., and skinned nine this morning between 6:30 and 11 A. M. While I think of it, the tags for stomachs are less than 100, though I have blanks

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for 500; and cannot you have some made for pickle of similar paper as I note some of the tags you sent that we have used for formalin have not held up well. If some stomachs have no data but number, as I fear is the case, the number corresponds to the bird numbers, and a look at the notebook will tell which bird the stomach was taken from. The members of your committee would find a look at the hold of the 'France' of considerable interest at the present moment, for several hundred bird skins are stretched out, due to under-estimation of boxes required for packing; and in the daytime to watch the struggle of some green doves attempting to swallow berries too large to pass their mandibles; or to observe the antics of a couple of native sandpipers fighting over hunting ground for cockroaches, would afford amusement; but I pray you look with disfavor on the possible suggestions of other institutions asking to send observers for study of various matters in these waters, unless their observers are accustomed to hardships such as a cup of coffee ^{for} ~~the~~ first meal with a hard tack or two, and are not affrighted at weevils or cockroaches crawling about. As landing on reefs requires jumping into water from knee to waist deep, and wading to boat in same, a fear of wet feet should deter

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Papeete, Tahiti,
July 4, 1932.

some laboratory workers. Possible aspirants should be good swimmers, and not afraid of sharks, for in many places the possibility of the boat overturning is always present, and I do not want the job of writing to their people just how the struggle in the breakers ended. On this trip several times I did not know whether Quayle would return to the vessel alive, and even yesterday on an easy landing place seemingly, the nose of the boat struck heavily on the reef going in and had the swell been higher we would have been dumped and the boat possibly broken. A man used to roughing it and knowing nothing of the sea, if not seasick, might get a lot out of this cruising, but some of the possible candidates will, I fear, be detrimental to getting the greatest number of bird specimens, if indeed that is the principal cause of the expedition. As I wrote before, I expect to get a lighter boat, and another more experienced boat steerer which will make things a little better for the next trip.

Shipping birds. We need both and can't go to Marquesas without auxes.

The discrepancy in photos is probably in films, which I have not yet sent. I don't think we will differ greatly over the ownership of the photos, though

some laboratory workers. Possible experiments should be good swimmers, and not afraid of sharks, for in many places the possibility of the boat overturning is always present, and I do not want the job of writing to their people just how the struggle in the breakers ended.

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Papeete, Tahiti,
July 4, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We arrived here this morning, and find a steamer in port to sail for New York so I am trying to get most of our birds off on it; but having to get boxes and paper to put them in and pack them, do not know if they get away. I have your letter of May 26, saying you expect to get a draft off in May for a steamer sailing May 28.

I only depend on the Union Line from San Francisco, and do not think their May boat left that late, so fear your draft went by way of New Zealand and don't know when it will arrive. I cabled today, and borrowed 10000 francs to pay the crew, except the Captain who will wait.

I have no notice of labels or aux shells, but possibly they are here if sent by way of San Francisco, or through the American Express Co. I will look for them when through with shipping birds. We need both and can't go to Marquesas without auxes.

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and can't go to Madagascar without axes.

The discrepancy in photos is probably in films,
which I have not yet sent. I don't think we will
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Papeete, Tahiti,
July 7, 1922.

I don't think I have taken many of other natural history subjects than birds. I consider the ones of scenery and of the people, of which I take a lot, not natural history ones, and am paying for the plates and films myself and haven't figured up yet whether I used up the amount of material the Museum paid for in the beginning.

In trying to get the accounts off before we left, I had Quayle and Curtis work out the exchange, and did not get time to go over their figures; though the mistakes might have been greater if I had done the work myself. The few bills I took with me I am sending with this to bring ^{matters} up to date and worked them out before arriving, so have not credited the Museum yet with the money sent Mrs. Beck. Will look into the insurance shortly and write next boat this month.

Have but the one letter from you, though it sounds as if you had written before. Must now resume packing, for the birds go tomorrow if on this steamer.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

P. S. Please send us a Nautical Almanac for the year 1923 without fail, as frequently there are none to be had in Papeete. The cost is but 15 cents, from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

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Papeete, Tahiti,
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I think I have a few other views of native trees

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

While hurrying to get the birds off on the boat direct to New York, I heard that mail would arrive as soon by the mail boat sailing in a couple of weeks, so sent nothing but bill of lading by boat with the birds. Have been looking again at your letter of May 26, the only one I have received, and think it might be well for us to determine the exact status of the phrase (pertaining to natural history subjects), the only change I made in the contract as sent me by Doctor Chapman. At the time I told him I expected to take photos on Sundays, and of subjects of probable interest only to myself, and would of course give the Museum prints of all they cared for, but I considered all pictures of birds or plants, etc., as the property of the Museum. I've taken dozens of prints of people, coastal scenes, native houses, churches, etc., that I have not considered as natural history subjects. I took for my own pleasure or satisfaction, photos of cultivated breadfruit, vanilla, cocoanuts, and papayas, though when I think of it they possibly come under natural history subjects as well as the several photos of pandanus trees, which I considered the Museum's property.

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I think I have a few other views of native trees taken for the Museum, but remember I carried the camera over a lot of ground without finding satisfactory subjects for examples to photograph of the native flora; but I saw this P. M. at the photographer's a view of the second plant on Ducie which harbors but two species. My bill for photo material received last boat is \$71.79 in San Francisco, and add 40 percent for duties here makes about a hundred dollars. I've received a couple of similar shipments, but because of the few subjects, since the Christmas Island trip, which I considered natural history ones I have paid myself for the material. This last trip yielded a number of good pictures for the Museum, and I think that the next lot in January, probably, from San Francisco will be partly charged to the Museum. Looking at the numbered list, I consider Nos. 1 to 7 inclusive, as not coming under the natural history category, while Nos. 8 to 32 are the sort I have considered as typical natural history pictures. If you think this arrangement is not correct, it would be helpful to me to get your ideas of how they should go. Thinking as above, I gave Mr. Fisher the impression that he undoubtedly has,

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but I also think that the Museum has the right to use any of the pictures it cares to first, if used say within a year. Looking down the list to No. 144 and to No. 151 inclusive, which I took for the Museum, the numbers 152 to 161 were taken for myself. Would you think they should be differently marked? While quite agreeing that it would be simpler if the Museum owned, or I owned all of the pictures, I feel sure that there would be a very much smaller number taken, with no increase in quality if the Museum owned; and if I owned all, I would probably feel that I was taking too much of the Museum's time, and be less at peace than at present where I can label the time as recreation from the daily grind, which begins at 6:30 A. M. and continues without stop until 8 P. M., except thirty minutes for lunch and thirty minutes for dinner. Your proposal that Mr. Fisher call at the Museum and select prints, if he wishes to use any, rather than ship the plates to Washington, of the South American views, is more satisfactory to me than his idea of shipping the plates. Before concluding this lengthy presentation of my understanding, I should probably mention that I not infrequently take pictures of, or for some one I meet, or one who favors us in some way; as at Mangareva, I took three or four for an American, and at Marutea I took three or four for the mana-

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ger of the plantation; in both cases the parties wanted the owners of the property to have a print, which I promised to deliver to owners in Papeete. These views of plantation of copra I figure as my own, as I class them of probably no interest to the Museum, unless in rare instances. But enough until I hear from you again.

The plan of insurance as you outline it, sounds desirable, and I would like to join the group if possible, with Mrs. Beck as beneficiary. Quayle would also like to go in if possible, and suggests that the Museum could pay his salary direct to him, making monthly payments to his account at the Bank of Palo Alto, where he keeps his account. From September 1, I expect to pay him \$100.00. The Director of the Botanical Department, of the University of California, is here doing some work, and Quayle has picked up some valuable knowledge from him, and can probably increase the Museum's collection of plants quite materially but with little effort, if I have been correctly informed. I am sending by this mail all our notes up to date, and the egg data for specimens taken on the trip; the eggs were sent with the birds the other day. By the way, I suppose the Museum would like a frigate bird and red-footed booby nest, as well as terns' nests of various sorts; or have you frigate birds and noddy terns' nests? I sent a fairy tern nest, I think, in this shipment, but have not found

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a fresh noddy or lesser noddy set conveniently placed for saving, but will sooner or later. Landbirds' nests, except kingfishers, have so far eluded us. I noted your approval of the Santa Barbara egg museum, and see that they are to have a new building shortly. Would you or the Museum care to forward them any of the seabirds' nests, with a set of eggs, from this section? When we strike them nesting close to the landing-place, with fresh eggs, it will be as easy to take a dozen nests as one. From present appearances, it will be a long time before we get more land bird eggs than the Museum can use in its own cases, though I saw several warbler nests on Uapu in the Marquesas, from which the young had recently flown. Unless the aux shells are received on one of three steamers due next week, we can't go to the Marquesas till later, but will likely make a short trip to the Taumotus perhaps, and return here to get the cartridges before going to the farther islands. I presume your shipping department sent the shells which you forwarded some time ago by way of Australia and there is no telling when they will arrive.

If you send the next lot by express to arrive in San Francisco before or on August 1, I should receive it

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by the 20th, as the steamer will leave there about the 4th I think. The 2000 when received will carry us to January, but we will likely use around 5000 a year next year if things go right. We use a lot on fairy terns as many birds are not fit to skin, and frequently get boobies with them as well as other terns. Your idea of sending them often^{er} than bi-yearly is more liable to give us strong shells, for I opine that the powder is similar to Dupont which does not stand up here for a long time, but our Premier shells with ballistite brought with us in 1920 seem to retain their strength very well. I trust your draft is on one of next week's boats and that the labels also appear then. We can make passable labels, but you do not mention having sent any money to my account in the Bank of Italy in San Francisco, and till Mrs. Beck arrives I do not know what I have in San José. I think there would be a few dollars saved on a thousand by paying some bills in dollars in San Francisco, but I must find whether there is a difference in the exchange here and in San Francisco on the same day before knowing exactly. I wrote a little re collectors of other Museums before reaching here, but don't know if I will send it in, though may. We can easily drop a man off at some points, and if we reach the Marquesas may

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bring back the Browns of Honolulu as they ought to be ready shortly to return. He wants to go to the most northern islands of the group, and it will be in our power to take him there if he has not left, but whether the inconvenience will be offset by the material he gathers is a mooted question to me. I am in receipt of a letter from Doctor Gregory in which he says "I hope to be able to take advantage of your invitation extended to the Bishop Museum to utilize your boat as a center for operations for some man we might send to you." If this means that the appointee is to travel with us to collect each island as we do, please ascertain if he has had field experience, and is a good swimmer, able to manage himself in the breakers with sharks in the neighborhood. He will get wet to the waist getting ashore and getting off shore into the boat in the majority of the Taumotus; and there is always the possibility of upsetting. If young and enthusiastic, with a tough stomach, he might enjoy the work, but I opine that it will be necessary for him to spend more time at the villages than we can afford, and that we will prove our usefulness by moving him from one settled island to another.

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Doctor Gregory encloses an outline of information desired in ethnology, and we can probably pick up a few items of interest to him at some islands. Are skulls of the sea turtles used for food here worth preserving? We have picked up two or three weather-beaten ones.

If you have more of the letter paper with the expedition mark on it, we should like to get another lot by first of the year, for I often find it desirable in writing to merchants as well as the Government people. More envelopes of both sizes will not come amiss shortly.

Had expected to go on the slip to clean vessel last week, but Government is repairing slip and we wont get on till last of month. Can do nothing till money arrives, and have had no word yet (12th) though wired you on the 4th. As no plant labels were in the box opened this P. M., I will have some printed here for we are out, with 500-odd numbers recorded.

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Aboard the "France", Papeete, Tahiti,

July 15, 1922.

Dr. Robert C. Murphy,

American Museum of Natural History,

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Murphy:

Mr. Beck thought it best that I report directly to you concerning the Botanical work of the expedition, and the other matters taken up at the end of this letter.

One or two packages of plants from Ravaivai and Rapa were packed with the birds to fill up some cases. The rest we are sending upon this month's boat. It was impossible to get them off with the birds because there were some plants still in the blotters.

We had with us on this last trip a young Harvard graduate named C. C. Curtis; a New York boy who had never even studied elementary biology. He was assigned to the plant collecting at the start and showed such an aptitude for the work that I was soon confident in his ability and so turned most of the collecting and drying over to him. This permitted me to spend most of my own time upon ornithology - the results of which were quite obvious.

Aboard the "Trance", Papete, Tahiti,

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American Museum of Natural History,

New York City, N. Y.

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directly to you concerning the Botanical work of the expedition, and the other matters taken up at the end of this letter.

One or two packages of plants from Rapa and Rapa were packed with the birds to fill up some cases. The rest we are sending upon this month's boat. It was impossible to get them off with the birds because there were some plants still in the blotters.

We had with us on this last trip a young Harvard graduate named G. C. Curtis; a New York boy who had never even studied elementary biology. He was assigned to the plant collecting at the start and showed such an ability for the work that I was soon confident in his ability and so turned most of the collecting and drying over to him. This permitted me to spend most of my own time upon ornithology - the results of which were quite obvious.

Had we been better equipped for drying the plants I would have devoted more of my own energies upon that work. As it was Curtis more than kept the driers full. We had a very difficult time drying the Ravaivai and Rapa plants and some of them I fear are rather mildewy and perhaps spoiled. We are now sufficiently supplied with blotters, thanks to the last shipment from the Museum, and with past experience and recent instruction will be able to do much better work in the future.

It has been our good fortune to meet here Dr. W. A. Setchel of the University of California. He was particularly anxious to hear about the botanical life I had observed, and I was even more anxious to solve various little troubling questions concerning this tropical collecting. For those reasons I have been out in the field with his assistant H. E. Parks and also with Dr. Setchel himself. He is as you perhaps know, extremely interested in "the problem of the deposition of silts of lime and silica in colloidal solutions through the influence of photosynthesis." He is particularly eager to have a small chunk of the lithothamnium rock from the verge of the reefs of as many islands as possible. I had hoped to collect seaweeds along with other plants but thought it necessary to

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dry them with blotters so made no effort this last journey. During the past week Dr. Setchel has instructed me in the care of seaweeds. It is so much more simple and less bothersome than land plants that I intend to collect the few seaweeds that grow here. Mr. Beck has also agreed that it will be perfectly feasible to break off a chunk of the lithothamnium encrustations from the reefs where our boat lands. It will require very little additional effort most of which will be employed when we are usually waiting upon time, tide and native men to get the surf boat off the reef. The specimens will be sent to you with the other plants. Such specimens Dr. Setchel says will give the keynote to the coral reef situation, and will increase the value of my notes concerning peculiarities of structure immensely.

In this regard it should be remembered that the plants, Marine and Terrestrial, collected from July 4 to July 13 are duplicates of his collections, and that I was riding about accompanying them at their expense, hence nothing should be done in the way of descriptions without communicating with him. From Dr. Setchel I have also obtained some idea as to just which plants are the most important and which are non-essential. He has furthermore

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informed me just what localities to work most thoroughly. He also answered or settled all the questions that I put in my letter to you of October 26, and many more which have since arisen. If it is satisfactory to the Museum I would like very much to communicate with Dr. Setchel in the future, for advice regarding plant collecting. The trip up Fautaua canyon with Mr. H. E. Parks was especially instructive. He called my attention to the minute forms of plant life which I would otherwise have completely overlooked.

Mr. Beck and I are somewhat at a loss as to the relative importance of the plant collecting as compared with the bird work. Plants run into the microscopic field and that is infinite, therefore one man could devote his entire time to plants. A man like Mr. Parks for instance would find several times as many rusts, spots, fungi, and small mosses, liverworts, ferns and even seed plants than a less experienced man like myself. On the atolls where other collectors are not likely to have been or to be in the future, I will make as thorough botanical collections as possible. At the Marquesas we intend to confine our plant collecting to the higher regions, since Brown of the Bishop Museum of Honolulu has been there a year or more working up the plants of the lower regions.

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Regarding my notes: I would greatly prefer that the originals be kept safely stored in the Museum, a carbon copy of the transcript being sent to me. We are sending on this boat volumes XIX to XXVIII including some fourteen hundred pages. It there seems to be a falling off in life history notes it is due to the fact that I feared I was devoting too much time to that phase of the work, and so slighted the notebooks in my efforts to secure more specimens. Your letter to Mr. Beck sets me at ease in that respect and future notes will give all the data obtainable regarding life histories and native information. We have some very intelligent men in our crew and much valuable information can be obtained from them.

We received an outline suggesting the desirable information in ethnology from the Bishop Museum. Such suggestions are extremely valuable to a beginner. It gives one an idea of what to write about. Similar suggestions from other branches of Natural History would also help to find the essentials and eliminate unimportant matters. I would appreciate very well such an outline concerning the essential geological features to be observed here. I fully realize that the main issue of the expedition is ornithology, but these other sciences are restful diversions which may be of some intrinsic value and certainly are refreshing after the

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Papete, Tahiti,
July 19, 1922.

daily routine of collecting birds and plants.

Dear Mr. Beck informed me about the group insurance for Museum employees. I would like very much to subscribe to it, and hope that my two years of service with Mr. Beck will be considered as employment by the corporation. I suggested to Mr. Beck that if the Museum were willing I will prefer to have my salary sent directly to my bankers, The Bank of Palo Alto, Palo Alto, California. This would save us a great deal of trouble here. In taking out the insurance make my beneficiary Mrs. Alice Molly Quayle - if you hear by the next mail that our wedding has been consummated.

If you have any pamphlets or publications in any way connected with field notes or which you think will in any way help me to better understand just what is desired in ornithology I would be very grateful to you for them long enough to get the gist of their contents. Anxious to receive any suggestions or criticisms concerning my work, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Quayle.

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for Museum employees. I would like very much to sub-

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receive any suggestions or criticisms concerning my work.

I beg to remain, Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Quayle.

Papeete, Tahiti,
July 19, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Your letters of June 9 and 14 came to hand yesterday, and I see by the ships manifest this morning that the aux shells are supposed to be aboard so we should be ready to outfit again as soon as the vessel comes from the slip which won't be till last of month. The franc which was 13 a few days ago has advanced to 12 today and I think I will cash most of the letter of credit before it advances further. I sent off the remainder of the plants and the lizards this morning by express for New York. The consular invoice for the birds went today also, and it should arrive as soon as the birds by the direct line to New York.

Hoping the birds reach you safely, I remain,

Very truly yours,
(signed) R. H. Beck

I sent 9 registered packages this morning, including the 4 books that you sent us some time ago. The article in the National Geographic about South Georgia was most interesting. A short writeup of the recent trip with photos for it, Quayle's notes as well as mine, the plant and egg data and a few insects, were included in the registered lot.

Hoping the last two shipments reached you safely, I remain

Sincerely,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

Papeete, Tahiti,
July 19, 1928.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Your letters of June 9 and 14 came to hand yesterday, and I see by the ship's manifest this morning that the six shells are supposed to be aboard so we should be ready to outfit again as soon as the vessel comes from the slip which won't be till last of month. The frigate which was 13 a few days ago has advanced to 15 today and I think I will cash most of the letter of credit before it advances further. I sent off the remainder of the plants and the lizards this morning by express for New York. The consular invoice for the birds went today also, and it should arrive as soon as the birds by the direct line to New York.

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Papeete, Tahiti

August 12, 1922

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We expect to get away to-morrow to the Marquesas via the Tuamotus. We reached here just in time to be held up two weeks before being allowed on the slip. A soft place on the vessels bottom the size of watch case had allowed teredos to enter and it was necessary to remove portions of four planks, the worms working on the inside of the planks in place of the outside.

We have been working on the numerous bills for the last day or so but have not got them in shape yet so will carry them along and mail them the first chance offered. As I expected the expenses for the first year will exceed the estimate but averaging up for a three year period, I hope they can be kept to the figure given you.

I would like to have \$3000 here by the 15th of December and \$3000 in the Bank of Italy, San Francisco, the first of January 1923 or if you would lose some months' interest by sending before the first of January send it the second and let me know when it is sent. I paid a 100 francs to the friend who loaned me the 10000 francs when I found your remittance delayed.

Hoping the last two shipments reached you safely, I remain

Sincerely,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

Papete, Tahiti

August 12, 1922

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We expect to get away to-morrow to the Marquesas via the
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Sincerely,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

Fakuhiva, Marquesas,
September 17, 1922.

Makatea, Taumotus

August 18, 1922

Dear Dr. Murphy:

We stopped here last night to let Mrs. Beck return to Papeete as she finds that even the best of schooner conditions is unsuited to her internal anatomy. We will likely stop 3 or 4 days and get a series of the birds before proceeding. I have finally got the bills sorted and am sending them by this mail. Of the balance due me please send a check for \$200.00 to Mrs. R. H. Beck (care American Consul), Papeete, Tahiti, and the remainder to my account at the Growers Bank, San Jose, California.

I am told to-day that the pigeon here is confined to one part of the island and as over 600 people are working here, they cannot be very numerous the one official told me several are shot every Sunday.

I heard warblers and doves this morning while ashore for a short time, seeing officials.

Hoping to have something of interest next letter, I remain

Sincerely,

(Signed:) R. H. Beck

P. S. Another lot of aux shells should be sent to reach San Francisco by the 1st of December as the 2000 sent in August may not be sufficient for a 5 months' trip, next year. The new lot tried yesterday were all right I judge as Quayle who used them made no comment.

Alhambra, California

August 18, 1932

Dear Mr. Murphy:

We stopped here last night to let Mrs. Beck return to
 Papete as she finds that even the best of schooner conditions is
 unsuited to her internal anatomy. We will likely stop 3 or 4 days and
 get a series of the birds before proceeding. I have finally got the
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 not be very numerous the one official told me several are shot every
 Sunday.

I heard warblers and doves this morning while ashore for a
 short time, seeing officials.

Hoping to have something of interest next letter, I remain

Sincerely,

(Signed:) H. H. Beck

P. S. Another lot of six shells should be sent to reach San Francisco
 by the 1st of December as the 2000 sent in August may not be sufficient
 for a 3 months' trip, next year. The new lot tried yesterday were all
 right I judge as Gayle who used them made no comment.

Nukuhiva, Marquesas,

September 17, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We came in here to Taiohae Bay yesterday and will likely leave Quayle here to collect while I go up to the couple of small islands 50 miles north. Quayle's stomach is not acting as a South Sea collector's stomach should act, and unless it mends it will probably be necessary to get another man to take his place. If it is a bird-skinner you want to take my place when I have enough of bird-skinning, it will be well to try out some one else, for Quayle will never turn out the material per day, week or month that I like to get out of the way. As an observer or field man his education in other lines makes him more valuable than I am undoubtedly, and he likes the open field work and does not care to indefinitely continue as a skinner.

Whether he can handle successfully the management of this expedition I am not prepared to say. I do not think he has had the handling of considerable sums of money to any extent, and whether he can expend it judiciously is a question to me. If Doctor Grinnell can give you the name of the Los Angeles collectors who have collected

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is a question to me. If Doctor Grinnell can give you

the name of the Los Angeles collectors who have collected

Tahiti, Marquesas,
October 14, 1922.

in Central America in the last few years you might inquire of them which one it was that wanted to come with me, and who was writing me instead of telegraphing when I hired Quayle. It was not Pingree Osburn, but I did not bring his letter and have not the list of Cooper Club members with me. Neither do I remember his name. I thought I had Peale's petrel the other day, but third primary beats first, and throat feather bases are black, so must get more to determine.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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 inquire of them which one it was that wanted to come
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 feather bases are black, so must get more to determine.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Taiohae, Marquesas, ~~they may~~
October 14, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We came in here this evening from Eiau and Hatutu Islands, where the engineer and myself put up something over 500 birds, counting the few picked up at Motu Ita on the way. Quayle got 2- pigeons here and a few small birds as well as a bunch of plants, several of which were not secured by the Bishop Museum botanist according to their guide who accompanied Quayle to the same place the Browns went in the mountains. After getting water Monday, we will likely go around to the desert side of the island and try to get some more pigeons, for they are quite a bit larger than the Tahiti bird, and though I wrote you formerly that the 2000 aux shells would carry us till January, I will now have to retract that and be thankful if we can get along with them till December. I did not know that the engineer would learn skinning so rapidly, but when I offered to raise his salary to a 1000 francs a month he agreed to work right along on birds, and will now do as much nearly as Quayle I think. Should we go to the Taumotus in January for five months, 2000 aux shells will not be sufficient for us probably, and if you can ship another lot to reach San Francisco ~~about the last day on the island, and I was only able to~~
~~see across one nest of obscurus, though many birds were~~

Taiwan, Marquessa,
October 14, 1932.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

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and Hatur Islands, where the engineer and myself put up
something over 500 birds, counting the few picked up at
Motu Ite on the way. Grayle got 2 - pigeons here and a few
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by the 10th of December or earlier if possible they may catch the December steamer for Papeete. If you sent but 4500 labels last time they should not last till next July if Quayle gets going right again. A steamer for France leaves here in a week or so and this should go by that to Panama so you may get it the latter part of November.

Eiae gave us a much smaller flycatcher and a little different warbler from the ones here, while the ground dove of Hatutu proved so different from the eastern Taumotu bird that we put up a good sized series, as the plumage varied quite a bit in the different aged birds, and for exchange they will always be handy. Had there been no rails there we should have put up fewer doves, but scattering rails lured us several times to wander over the top and when they eluded us by rapid dodging about tussock bunches we gathered in the easy doves to make a day's skinning the next day. We managed to get a half dozen rails, though had we not over stayed the time given Quayle we might have bagged a couple more. We found the lesser frigates nesting close by the larger species, though nearer the ground, being often on it. The wedge-tailed shearwaters were located the last day on the island, and I was only able to run across one nest of obscurus, though many birds were

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seen at sea and the Bulwer and white-chinned petrels also preserved inviolate their secret nesting grounds. I want to get back shortly to Hapu to try again to land on a pinnacle rock where they may be. No farther sign of Peale's petrel. I went up yesterday a couple of miles on the desert side of the island but saw nothing different in the line of birds, but am told pigeons inhabit some valley which we will explore next week.

Should you come down in the next six months it will be well to bring a couple of 20-gauge guns, second-hand ones will do as salt water soon takes the newness from them. We have but two and either may go out of commission any time. They are amply sufficient for this region and lighter and cheaper to use than the 12's which I only use when shooting on the water. Quayle reiterates his desire to get away from bird skinning and is writing you this mail expressing his desires.

Sincerely,

(signed) R. H. Beck.

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away from bird skinning and is writing you this mail ex-
pressing his desires.

Sincerely,

(signed) R. H. Beck.

P. S. While looking up a bird skinner to take Quayle's place it might be well to keep an eye open for someone to take my place on the ship.

Mrs. Beck strongly objects to my running in to see her for a couple of weeks twice a year and the remainder of the time being out of writing distance most of the time, and I am beginning to think perhaps she is right about the matter and doubt if I will care to continue the present voyage longer than the next trip which should do up quite a lot of remaining Tuamotus. Were she able to sail with me present arrangements would be satisfactory but she does not get over the seasickness. If you have in mind any place on the globe where the sea birds can be collected from shore as at Monterey, Valparaiso or Mar del Plata, three places that seemed to me worth while, we would be willing to spend some further time at the business, but this continual separation seems hardly worth while to either of us. I rather doubt if Quayle is the man to hold the responsible position of this expedition, but if you come down and make a trip with him you might be able to size him up.

Sincerely,

(signed) R. H. Beck.

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Sincerely,

(signed) R. H. Beck.

Aboard the 'France', Nukahiva, Marquesas
Is., October 15, 1922.

Doctor Robert C. Murphy,
American Museum of Natural History
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

Realizing that my personal inclinations and qualifications do not exactly conform to the requirements of a bird collector, I am, with Mr. Beck's approval, writing you for a definite understanding as to the possibilities of the future in order that I may decide whether to continue with the Expedition or not.

I am enthusiastically interested in Biology. Botany was my first scientific study and still holds a great deal of my interest. Birds and animals have, however, always interested me and I am very anxious to continue in some line of scientific exploration where the study of ^{Ecology} ~~Biology~~ and Biological Sociology can be carried on. It was with this in view that I came upon this Expedition. These cruises of the 'France' have given me a definite idea of the main purpose of the expedition, and realizing that my own desires do not conform with it I last month informed Mr. Beck, who wrote you accordingly, that I did not care to continue indefinitely as a bird collector.

Aboard the 'France', Hakaliva, Marquesas

Is., October 13, 1933.

Doctor Robert C. Murphy,
American Museum of Natural History,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

Realizing that my personal inclinations and quali-

tations do not exactly conform to the requirements of a

bird collector, I am, with Mr. Beck's approval, writing you

for a definite understanding as to the possibilities of the

future in order that I may decide whether to continue with

the Expedition or not.

I am enthusiastically interested in Biology. Botany

was my first scientific study and still holds a great deal

of my interest. Birds and animals have, however, always

interested me and I am very anxious to continue in some line

of scientific exploration where the study of Biology and

Biological Sociology can be carried on. It was with this

in view that I came upon this Expedition. These cruises

of the 'France' have given me a definite idea of the main pur-

pose of the expedition, and realizing that my own desires do

not conform with it I last month informed Mr. Beck, who wrote

you accordingly, that I did not care to continue indefinitely

as a bird collector.

It is rather presumptuous on the part of an employee to suggest the kind of work he wishes to do, but Science to me is not merely work. I look upon it from an artistic viewpoint. If my entire being is not concentrated in the study at hand I cannot give it my best efforts. My chief interest in Biology is Ecology and Sociology. I am interested in birds, but I am more interested in where and how they live and their natural surroundings than I am in the collecting and skinning of a large series of each species. If, therefore, the Museum desires such studies to be made along with the other work of this Expedition and deems that, and the Botanical collecting valuable enough, I will very gladly continue under present arrangements and will do my utmost to aid the main object of the Expedition as well.

Such work would of course necessitate my accompanying every landing party, and would occupy the greater portion of my time, but would still permit considerable hunting especially in mountainous islands and difficult places, and would leave some time for me to help with the skinning. It is because I feel that bird-collecting, as Mr. Beck so efficiently does it, would not give me the mass of facts which I desire to have on hand in future years that I ask for this understanding. With my notes and a good series of photographs accumulated

collected by this expedition. How thoroughly is it to be done? Photographs, pickled specimens, etc.

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With my notes and a good series of photographs accumulated

during the years of this exploration I would have material to be worked over when age and health will not permit such knocking around. With that purpose in view my entire interest would be concerned in the exploration of the islands visited for Natural History facts as well as specimens, and my enthusiasm would be sustained by the possibilities of the future as well as the fascination of the present work. The possibilities of this ship's touching every island seems to me to make it very desirable that general notes upon all striking features of Natural History be made. I feel confident that even with my meagre knowledge of general biology I can give some idea as to the difference between various islands touched. Then future expeditions can better select the representative islands for particular phases of scientific research.

I do not mean to be relieved entirely from skinning birds, and certainly desire to hunt them about as I have done during the past two years, but to request to be released from the pressure of trying to collect and skin so many birds a day at the cost of notes, photographs and the other things of ecological value. In this respect I would like to know the value set by the museum upon the following subjects:

1. How important is the botanical collecting to be considered by this expedition. How thoroughly is it to be done? Photographs, pickled specimens, etc.

During the years of this exploration I would have material to be worked over then age and health will not permit such knocking around. With that purpose in view my entire interest would be concerned in the exploration of the islands visited for Natural History facts as well as specimens, and my enthusiasm would be sustained by the possibilities of the future as well as the fascination of the present work. The possibilities of this ship's touching every island seems to me to make it very desirable that general notes upon all striking features of Natural History be made. I feel confident that even with my meagre knowledge of general biology I can give some idea as to the difference between various islands touched. Then future expeditions can better select the representative islands for particular phases of scientific research.

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1. How important is the botanical collecting to be considered by this expedition. How thoroughly is it to be done? Photographs, pickled specimens, etc.

2. How important are natural history photographs of birds, animals, insects, fish, plants, geology, geography, and people?

3. How important are eggs, nests, and nestlings as compared to a definite number of adult specimens?

4. How important are land birds which are difficult to obtain like the rail? and cliff-nesting seabirds?

5. How much risk should one take to reach nests and rare plants?

6. Will the Museum pay for medical care in all cases of disablement directly due to the fulfilment of duty.

I would very greatly appreciate any suggestions regarding notes concerning birds or any other branch of science and would enjoy receiving any publications that will help give an idea of what facts are most desirable to members of the Museum. Hoping to hear from you against our return to Papeete in December concerning this matter, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Quayle.

2. How important are natural history photographs of birds, animals, insects, fish, plants, geology, geography, and people?

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I would very greatly appreciate any suggestions regarding notes concerning birds or any other branch of science and would enjoy receiving any publications that will help give an idea of what facts are most desirable to members of the Museum. Hoping to hear from you against our return to Europe in December concerning this matter, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Ingle

Taiohae, Nukuhiva, Marquesas Islands

November 13, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Your letters of August 1, 4, and 7, came to hand last week at Hivaoa, and as the French steamer due to arrive here two weeks ago from Papeete for France via Panama is still due I will drop another line, as we ran in here expecting to see her and repair a loose part of the engine. We have partly worked Uahuku 30 miles from here and a couple of more days there will finish the northern group of islands for this time, though the four months are not enough to work the group satisfactorily. I expect to get probably all of the species of birds except the rail from some islands and that species, after Quayle's work on them at Tahiti, will take some months of a collector's time I figure so don't spend time long on them here. Quayle got one on this island in the three weeks' time he spent in the mountains. Peale's Petrel possibly breeds here but possibly at another time of the year, for I have seen but the one though I spent several days on the water where the Bulwers were common and white-chinned occasional. A calm day at Uapu allowed me to land on a rock where Bul-

[Faint, illegible text continues in the background of the page, appearing as bleed-through from the reverse side.]

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wers were abundant and the white-chinned were through nesting, though I got a couple of young nearly ready to fly. Quayle has elaborated his desires again to you in this mail and if you think his observations minus birdskins are worth it you will have to cable me probably as this and his letter will not reach you in time to reply by mail. His inability to stomach coffee for morning, and pork and beans and sardines for lunch in the field which are the regulation foods on this voyage, leaves him with rather a limited list on which to draw. While on Nukuhiva for a month, and Hivaoa for 8 days, he had in the mountains with him canned corn, peas, fruit, as well as rice, etc. Had you someone to take my place in January on the ship it would please me, for Mrs. Beck writes me again that life without her husband being within speaking distance once a month or so is not very desirable. I presume you cannot dig someone up on such short notice so assume I will have to make the next trip. There are nearly three months' work at the leeward Society Islands for one man that I might do while the ship is elsewhere. I imagine Raitea, Tahaa, Bora Bora and Huahine can all be conveniently worked I think without the vessel. Quayle could do these if his proposals re field observer are unacceptable. I enclose with this the insurance form filled out and am glad to join on the favor-

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re field observer are unacceptable. I enclose with this the
insurance form filled out and am glad to join on the favor-

able terms offered. As I wrote formerly Quayle began at \$100 a month on September 1, and I am assuming you are paying him from the Museum after that date. While you were quite right in supposing that we had good opportunities to collect at sea while going from Bass Rocks to Pitcairn, we were disappointed in seeing no birds to collect. I put out boat one day I think and got a neglected shearwater. While I presume food was not plentiful in that region it is also to be remembered that the nesting season was hardly over and southern winter did not force birds north to that latitude till later. I was surprised to see no young wandering albatrosses for we saw a couple on our former trip to Rapa. I received a letter from the Administrator of the Marquesas, and Tuamotus yesterday, in which he said in accordance with the law passed in 1906 we were absolutely prohibited from taking birds other than sea birds, doves, and pigeons. This is the law that interfered with some English collector that year. As it cuts us out of warblers, flycatchers, paroquets, and kingfishers, I called on him as he is here temporarily and brought him aboard and showed him the changes of plumage in the flycatchers from this island, and a specimen of the birds from different islands, and he then said for us to go ahead. I have letters from 2 Governors to Administrators and special

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agents, but a new Governor has now arrived in Papeete since we left there and we should have a permit from him it seems. When we get back will probably have little difficulty in getting it and our permit to sail under French flag without half owner being Frenchman was for one year. That will have to be renewed if possible. How this new Governor receives the request I don't worry about now. If you have a French member of the Museum you want to work for the place, it will be well to consider if you anticipate keeping the vessel in operation for several years. Otherwise I will probably get the present Captain to take the billet for a small stipend, provided he stays as Captain as I hope he will during my occupancy of a bunk aboard. I told the Administrator that when the Museum had described the new birds from the islands I expected to ask them to send a specimen of each species to the Museum in Papeete. The Curator there asked me long ago to give them any birds possible but a red-tailed tropic and a dove, mounted birds, are all I did toward the matter. With Dr. Handy of the Honolulu Museum and Mr. Routledge of Royal Geographical and other English Societies I was elected a member of the Papeete Society last year and if you would send them a pair of the common birds at least it would probably create a

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favorable impression. As elsewhere we are accused of killing off hundreds of birds, and in Papeete more than one of the small colony of Americans can see no reason for taking more than a pair of each species. An entomologist from Fiji who spent some months at Papeete last year suggested he might try to hinder us at Fiji when we reached there. As he is a Government man it will be well to have fresh letters to the British Powers there when that region is reached. Having lots of time on his hands at Papeete this entomologist raised and turned loose over 75 butterflies to offset the half dozen he preserved!

I saw a couple of nests of the pigeon here but both were on slender limbs that could not be worked. Quayle saw several but did not find one to climb to. I could see no difference in the birds from one side of the island to the other. One canon on one side might have a species and the next canon a mile or two away yield not a bird, as happened with the pigeon and flycatcher here. It looks like one should go up each canon to be certain of what is present and the same holds good on Tahiti where the flycatcher and warbler occupy certain canons and are not found in others similar in appearance

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and nearby. Quayle would like you to hold his note books till he asks for them he said some time ago.

We still have 3 islands to visit within the next month, but as they are all too large hope to get a small series at least of the birds there now. The seabirds are rather irregular in their nesting as might be supposed here so near the same temperature the year round, but whether the Sooty Terns for instance nest twice a year as at Mopelia as the natives told Quayle remains to be worked out. If the mail boat from San Francisco is due at Papeete early in January we may wait till it reaches Papeete before sailing again. If you send a telegram to Hind, Rolph & Co., San Francisco, who are the agents, they can tell you the sailing date and you will know then when your letters will leave San Francisco. The time to Papeete is about 11 days.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Aboard the "France,"
Taiohae Bay, Nukahiva,
13 November, 1922.

Dear Dr. Murphy:-

Your letter of August 4, 1922, received and contents very carefully noted. It arrived at a very opportune time for I was quite ready to withdraw from the expedition and Mr. Beck was quite as decided that I should withdraw. My bird-skinning and even my field work this cruise has been very unsatisfactory for which I make no excuses. I am not fitted for that work as Mr. Beck does it, and I do not care to continue doing that work alone.

In your letter you advise me as follows: "By all means make your observations, especially on life history and distribution, as full as possible, for such observations are of the utmost importance in connection with working up the material..... It is birds, and information about birds, that we want on this expedition," Which was my idea from the very beginning, but Mr. Beck and I differ widely in our viewpoints. Mr. Beck figures mostly upon the number of specimens taken, I think I can honestly say that he figures almost entirely upon them, making photographs, nests, and notes very decidedly subservient to them. Now I fully appreciate the value of a specimen, but I think that a few birds should be ob-

Aboard the "Trance,"
Tahiti Bay, Tokelau,
13 November, 1932.

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I understood that this expedition was to be not like
all the preceding ones in Polynesia a mere touching here
and there and a skimming of the easily obtained cream, but
a thorough scientific survey of each and every Island. Our
work in the Marquesas has certainly not been a survey - we
have not searched for birds where other collectors might
have overlooked them, nor have we even endeavored to find
birds reported by natives. At Hivaoa there is an entire
range of mountains crossing the Island in similar fashion
to that at Nukahiva where we have not set foot. That is
the sort of work I am interested in. What is wanted to
suit Mr. Beck's ideas is a hunter and taxidermist, and I
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Personally, there is nothing in the world that I desire more than I do to remain with the Whitney South Sea Expedition. I would like to be a passenger on every cruise of the "France" for the next ten or twenty years, in preference to anything else I can imagine. Now then can we not get together. If notes regarding birds, and I am getting very deeply interested in birds, their life habits, distribution, and habitat are of the "utmost importance in connection with working up the material" and if "information about birds" is secondary only to specimens why then is it not desirable to have one member of the expedition concentrate upon those phases while the other member is concentrating upon the obtaining of the specimens. Such person would go ashore with notebook and camera at every landing, carrying gun and ammunition also, but his purpose would be to get the desirable information and all photographs of scientific interest concerning the birds. This would include the plant life directly connected with the life history and habits of the birds, and especially the general aspect of the locality where they breed. In this regard why not add a cinematograph to our equipment?

Thus far I have done little photographic work because I considered that as being Mr. Beck's field. I did take Christmas Island, Ducie, Henderson (and I understand also, and Makutu) and Fatuhuka passed up without any record of the marvellous bird life save a few rapidly obtainable photo-

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a great deal of work during my Marine Corps service in Texas and with very satisfactory and encouraging results. In that respect I can refer you to H. H. Morris of Galveston, Texas, (2119 Post Office Place). I have confidence in my ability to handle a cinematograph machine, and spent some time watching the operators with the Goldwyn Company in Papeete last July. One of them has offered to send me information regarding field machines and has agreed to correspond with me while I learn to operate it - for I planned to buy one with my own money if I continued on a salary. He said Bell & Howell Co., Chicago, U. S. A. put out a machine for just such work, and also complete field developing apparatus in a very compact form. When on extra long voyages we could use crude hypo for reducing temperatures of water and so prevent films from spoiling. Now it strikes me that if such information and studies are desirable that one man could concentrate his efforts almost entirely upon photographs and notes while the other went ahead with the collecting and specimens. When no promising note ~~work~~ or photographic work was at hand, I, were I that person, would be only too glad to collect specimens and see how many of them I could put up in a day. It has made me sick - actually as well as figuratively - to see such opportunities as Christmas Island, Ducie, Henderson (and I understand Eiau, and Hatutu) and Fatuhuka passed up without any record of the marvellous bird life save a few rapidly obtainable photo-

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graphs.

Of course for concentrated studies specialist can be sent to those particular islands but there are frequently chances for good live pictures as well as stills, and always there is the opportunity for unlimited notes. My ideas conform to the main purpose of this expedition in regards to the information about birds. I think I have thoroughly explained that what I object to is becoming a mere hunter and taxidermist - that holds no prospects for my future life after this Expedition ceases.

Under existing conditions I am going to request that my salary cease on the last day of December. I am going to offer to accompany the next expedition without payment of salary. I will request to be allowed to make my own decisions as to the time spent making observations and photographs with whatever means I may have, I will always carry gun and ammunition and will hunt as I think most valuable for the interests of ornithology from my viewpoint. I will voluntarily skin birds whenever I think it best that I should, (an accurate account being kept of the birds I obtain and of those skinned), I will also take care of the plant work which will not be very bothersome through the Tuamotu Atolls, and will then leave it up to the Museum Committee what they wish to pay me for the work accomplished. I hereby agree to accept whatever payment, or emoluments deemed fitting by said Committee,

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for such service as I shall render upon the Third Cruise of the France.

I have before me my copy of my letter of October 15, and wish to merely remove from it the emphasis placed upon the Botany work, that will be entirely subservient to the main purpose if I continue with the Expedition. If this arrangement meets with your approval I hope we will hear from you before the next Cruise. If we do not hear, I think Mr. Beck will agree to this proposal, and then if my stomach is sufficiently improved (for I have been suffering from nervous indigestion ever since we were at Henderson Island) I will go along and leave the decision entirely up to the Committee as herein agreed.

This of course sets aside the insurance unless the suspended payment of salary could be overlooked, and I am still held an employee of the American Museum. Apropos Mrs. Quayle she was my first college acquaintance and has been a companion and friend for the past six years. She returned to America to locate in California where she expects to find some means of helping to build a home for the future. Whether or not she joins me later in my scientific field work all depends upon circumstances.

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companion and friend for the past six years. She returned to

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Whether or not she joins me later in my scientific field

work all depends upon circumstances.

If I do not continue with the France I intend to spend several years in Polynesia carrying on scientific research according to my very limited means but as I deem myself most adapted. The Society Islands will probably hold me for a year or more where I will spend most of my time along the higher mountain ridges - in the habitat of Pterodroma rostrata and cliff nesting seabirds - my notes will then constitute the bulk of my results. Do you care to have them sent in for your inspection. You are perfectly welcome to anything pertaining to science that they will contain, and although I will make no stipulations regarding the same, for it concerns me less than anything else, still I will appreciate anything remunerative that you deem them worth.

Hoping to hear favorably from you in this regard, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) ^{Ernest} ~~Herbert~~ H. Quayle.

I hope to keep in touch with you and will write at greater length concerning the botanical work, and my success with nests and life histories here. If my health

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 I will appreciate anything remunerative that you deem them
 worth.

Hoping to hear favorably from you in this regard, I

beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) ~~Harold H. Quayle~~ ^{Ernest}

Atuona, Hivao, Marquesas Isles,
30 November, 1922.

Dear Dr. Murphy:

The condition of my stomach continuing to bother me as much as usual, I have decided definitely to give it a rest from the sea. I met a man here at Hivaoa who has made me a proposition to remain over with him and so I have accepted it. He is personally interested in birds' eggs (An artist by the name of Cadwallader Washburn) and I am going to devote the next five months searching for nests and eggs here in the Marquesas Isles, probably at Hivaoa only, but I hope to reach Nukahiva and spend a few weeks in the famous Rupi Valley. My note books will continue with even more volume than heretofore and after my new employer sees them you are welcome to whatever is in them of interest to you. The four volumes written concerning this Cruise I will mail at the earliest opportunity. There is much in them that I want to go over before sending them in.

I hope to keep in touch with you and will write at greater length concerning the botanical work, and my success with nests and life histories here. If my health

Atona, Hiva, Marquesas Isles,
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I hope to keep in touch with you and will write at greater length concerning the botanical work, and my success with nests and life histories here. If my health

Papeete, Tahiti,
December 25, 1922.

holds out on the islands I expect to find some means

of spending a year or two in the Society Islands,

and some time on such an atoll as Christmas. Please

let me know if there is anything I can do for the Museum

and especially if the Museum can do anything for me.

Thanking you and the Museum for the splendid

introduction to field science which was given me as Mr.

Beck's assistant, and hoping that we will be able to work

together in the future, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Quayle.

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of spending a year or two in the Society Islands,

and some time on such an atoll as Christmas. Please

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together in the future, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Quayle.

Papeete, Tahiti,
December 25, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

In addition to your letters of August 1, 4, and 7, I now have your letters of September 12 and 19 as well as November 6 and 13, finding them here on our arrival last Sunday. I presume there is one lost for I have had no word regarding the July shipment of birds though imagine they reached you or there would have been mention of the loss in November letters. The shipment going forward tomorrow includes slightly over 2500 skins if memory serves and includes the eggs as well as a large case of plants. I will not send the plates this time for the trans-shipment at San Francisco might break some but will hold them hoping to get a chance to ship direct as last time in the care of ship's officer direct to New York. I met the Governor's Secretary the other day and in conversation mentioned that I had written the Museum re sending a specimen of the different species of birds to the Museum here. I have to tackle them in a few days for renewal of permit to sail without a French co-owner of the France. Believe the specimens would be more appreciated if they were mounted but whether the Museum cares to do anything in that line I do not know. I have not obligated myself to deliver any-

143
Repete, Tahiti,
December 25, 1922.

Dear Doctor Murphy:
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thing to them. I noted in the Journal yesterday that Mr. Andrews had proposed something along the same line to the Chinese authorities and believe that it is good policy. Mr. Quayle quit the job on Nov. 30 at Hivaoa. His stomach was not settled and he had a chance to do what he wished to do. Field work without the drudgery of bird skinning. Collecting birds' eggs, is the new work, to go to the Santa Barbara Museum I understood. I opine the landbirds will come tolerably high priced as in our two years we have taken not an egg of the flycatcher or dove. I rather doubt if they get to the Bulwer petrels and red-tailed tropics or any of the shearwaters, but Quayle is optimistic and may induce his patron to pay a schooner to stop at Uapu where the Bulwers are abundant, though calm weather is needed to make a safe landing. Washburn the artist is a Director of the Santa Barbara Museum I believe. I let Quayle have a gun and some shells to be paid for in specimens, thinking skins in a different season might be desirable as they average about 50 cents each. I would like a couple of the different species of birds to mount for myself, and if you care for none of them having a satisfactory series, will take what he secures. The intention when we left was to spend most of the 3 or 4 months on Hivaoa. His patron wants but one or two skins of a water mark for me as far as material collected is concerned.

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species I understood. As I wrote you in a former letter, doubt if he is the man you want to carry on this work for years as Director of the Expedition, but from his journal you may decide as to his qualifications. I did not get his volumes for the trip as he wanted to go over them before sending them in but he will mail them to you within a few months I presume. I gathered from your letter re salary that his November salary would be paid in last of January and this will reach you before you pay more. I presume the Museum will pay his fare to San Francisco and I will pay him that, less various advances which he has drawn since last August. From what you say of Correia I think he would fit in on the ship here very well. My engineer skins birds about as well as Quayle on the average, as you may see from the many specimens in this shipment; and the cabin boy skins also when a bunch of terns or boobies are on hand. The engineer's wife is sickly with consumption and whether he will continue in case she dies can't say now. He likes the ship I am told by others. As I wrote before, Mrs. Beck's inability to stand the sea induces us to give up the sailing ship part of collecting, and I trust you can dig up some one to direct the collecting as the post has lost its glamor for me. This past four months and a half constitute the high-water mark for me as far as material collected is concerned,

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and I will watch with interest the bags of other collectors for similar periods of time. I expect when the British and other islands are reached 100 of a series will be excessive, but the excess from this section I assume will be well used in exchanges. I am thinking now of spending the next 3 months about the western end of the Tuamotus where there are anchorages at nearly every island in case of a hurricane, the first 3 months of the year being the likeliest for such blows, and then running in here before the east end is visited as it is but a couple of 100 miles to the north of here, where most of three months would be spent. The Nautical Almanac came safely to hand but it is very unlikely that I can find a 6th edition of code. The stomach labels came through safely, but I fear labels for skins will peter out before we return. Thought I wrote for more but maybe not time for them to reach here. Also an abundance of envelopes were received but no letterheaded writing paper. The supply of that is low though will do till return I think. I use quite a bit for necessary correspondence.

Due to your kindness in not mentioning the size of the boat, I am able to comply with your request for the boatload of Peale's petrels, and enclose the entire take of that species in this shipment.

As I wrote before this species may, as I think the White-chinned does, nest at a different season of the year

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note your desire that Mr. Benson get no specimens from from the Bulwers. The white-chinned perhaps from necessity for the Bulwers probably can drive the smaller bird from the nesting sites. I saw many Bulwers eggs laid at random and deserted on Uahuku due to scarcity of nesting sites. takes a special trip and Quayle did not go there so

I note the desire for scorpions and spiders and may pick up a few more than in the past, though don't know about suitable containers. The plant collection is liable to languish now though I may get the cabin boy broken in to collecting plants. Quayle started out to take 5 of a kind but he spoke of your Museum keeping but one specimen of a number, sending the remainder to Honolulu. I take it the botany curator does not exchange duplicates so I gather 2 of a kind will answer the purpose. One box of aux shells is in the custom house here and they may answer for a short trip. As you no doubt realize now we are using a somewhat larger number than when we first arrived, for in the Marquesas especially there were no idle week days and there shouldn't be very many in the Tuamotus though the absence of flycatchers will make the collecting principally of doves and warblers. Many terns are also shot with the aux. I

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. E. Beck.

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note your desire that Mr. Dawson get no specimens from the field here and will act accordingly. If Quayle's boss wants to spend much money he can get tern eggs, boobies (not blue-faced) and frigates, but not neglected Shearwaters. Parvirostris and Christmas nest at Hatutu but it takes a special trip and Quayle did not go there so doubt if they get them. I write Dr. Fisher that stomach numbers correspond to bird numbers and he will have to get them from you. I enclose a set of stamps from here. The islands do not postmark their letters and one could take off the stamps to use another time, except when they go through Papeete office they are marked. I will send the egg data and my bird notes for the Marquesas trip in this mail.? Think you may figure we will be in Papeete last of March if no hurricanes are reported from this region during January and February or March. Don't believe it will be necessary to go on slip then so if you send some one by March steamer they will be on hand then and I can run out to a nearby island with them to show the ropes. I will try to get rid of most of the bills for the coming trip before we sail and can say on next mail about funds required.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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quired.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

A cable from Beak dated at Papeete, January 14, 1923, reads when translated from code as follows: Charles quit 30th day of November stays Marquesas. By the way, please have the Bursar's office compare the Maxwell bills of this mail with the bills from that firm sent in August. I was under the impression that some items were paid for in July and August that I found on the bill I paid the other day. Should any item be on both bills it will be necessary to return to me the August and July bills paid in those months to obtain the return of the money.

A friend of mine, Mr. E. W. Gifford of Oakland is interested in keeping pigeons and doves alive and asked me to get him ground doves from this region as he has some from Fijis, so I got the sailors to catch a few of the Hatutu birds. I am sending him the live birds and if they reach him safely and if you care for a couple of pairs, he will send them if they will stand the journey. I suppose that the species will take the name of the figure that was labeled from the Marquesas, but Gifford will not describe it but will wait to hear from you as to the name.

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Papeete, Tahiti.
 A cable from Beck dated at Papeete, January 14, 1923, reads when translated from code as follows:

Dear Doctor Mayr,
 Quayle quit 30th day of November stays Marquesas.

on the ship for painting and cleaning the bottom of the "France." On arrival we were told by the contractor managing the ship that we would get on about the 1st of this month, but unexpected repairs on the ship then on the ways have delayed us as well as others waiting. While waiting the Captain has had various small things attended to and the upperparts painted so as soon as we can get the ballast in we will be ready for the sea.

We do not anticipate any repairs to the bottom but will know tomorrow as soon as the bottom is cleaned. The engineer and cook spent last week in the field after pigeons on Tahiti but saw not a bird of that species. A couple of runs outside of the pass yielded nothing, but terns and boobies being elsewhere on the days the trips were made. The steamer for San Francisco is expected a day before the one from San Francisco so I may not get time to reply to yours which you cabled to wait for till

A cable from Beck dated at Papeete, January 14, 1923, reads when translated from code as follows:
Quayle left 30th day of November stays Marquessa.

Papeete, Tahiti,
January 19, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We are at last being pulled up on the slip for painting and cleaning the bottom of the "France." On arrival we were told by the contractor managing the slip that we would get on about the 1st of this month, but unexpected repairs on the ship then on the ways have delayed us as well as others in waiting. While waiting the Captain has had various like small things attended to and the upperparts painted so as soon as we can get the ballast in we will be ready for the sea. We do not anticipate any repairs to the bottom but will know tomorrow as soon as the bottom is cleaned. The engineer and cook spent last week in the field after pigeons on Tahiti but saw not a bird of that species. A couple of runs outside of the pass yielded nothing, but terns and boobies being elsewhere on the days the trips were made. The steamer for San Francisco is expected a day before the one from San Francisco so I may not get time to reply to yours which you cabled to wait for till

Espeete, Tahiti,
January 19, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We are at last being pulled up on the ship for painting and cleaning the bottom of the "Francee." On arrival we were told by the contractor managing the ship that we would get on about the 1st of this month, but unexpected repairs on the ship then on the way have delayed us as well as others waiting. While waiting the Captain has had various small things attended to and the upperparts painted so as soon as we can get the ballast in we will be ready for the sea.

We do not anticipate any repairs to the bottom but will know tomorrow as soon as the bottom is cleaned. The engineer and cook spent last week in the field after pigeons on Tahiti but saw not a bird of that species. A couple of runs outside of the pass yielded nothing, but terns and boobies being elsewhere on the days the trips were made. The steamer for San Francisco is expected a day before the one from San Francisco so I may not get time to reply to yours which you cabled to wait for till

the January boat. As I wrote last month, I expect to work some of the western Tuamotus during the hurricane season and trust to getting into a lagoon if a blow does come on.

I am hoping to receive a lot of labels next week from you, though I ordered some in a local shop here but they were twice as large as the sample and I refused them. If you have found any difference in the sooty or noddy terns of the Tuamotus, I would like to know of it for the noddies and lesser noddies are often the easiest collected birds, but we take only a few from an island, having something of a series already I imagine.

January 22. Called today on the Governor (the 3d or 4th since my arrival) and explained mission, and he will grant me the permission to fly flag but thinks it would be nice if the Papeete Museum could get duplicates of local birds. I have practically guaranteed that I will provide them with some specimens if the Museum does not feel disposed to mount some for

the January post. As I wrote last month, I expect

to work some of the western Tuzumtus during the
hurricane season and trust to getting into a lagoon
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if the Museum does not feel disposed to mount some for

them, or send some skins, but I assume you can furnish them with the commoner birds of this region.

No one here knows much about the birds and showy birds will likely take best. We are now slipping

off the slip and will be replacing the ballast tomorrow. Invited the Governor to see the specimens

I reserve for comparison, and he calls Thursday.

be filled, it appears that we will have to crush down our surging desires for a life of quiet domesticity till a more propitious season, and continue sacrificing our declining years to the insatiable demands of science.

Mrs. Beck may sometimes drop you a line or two refining our position more concisely, definitely and to the point, than I have done in the above sentence, but in view of the fact that you seem willing that we spend a few dollars of the expedition funds in recreation after a season of intensive work such as the Marquesan trip demanded, I will say we will try to hang on till 1925. After Correia has made a trip to the Tuamotus

with me he can likely do some of them without my presence on board, and Mrs. Beck and myself may run down to New Zealand for a month or possibly to California where our growing orchards may demand a personal inspection. I perhaps have not fully realised yet "that

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Papeete, Tahiti,
January 23, 1923.

Dear Dr. Murphy:-

Your letters of December 14 and 30 are at hand today and in reply, after going over the situation with Mrs. Beck and noting your undoubtedly more apparent than real statement that my place cannot be filled, it appears that we will have to crush down our surging desires for a life of quiet domesticity till a more propitious season, and continue sacrificing our declining years to the insatiable demands of science.

Mrs. Beck may sometimes drop you a line or two defining our position more concisely, definitely and to the point, than I have done in the above sentence, but in view of the fact that you seem willing that we spend a few dollars of the expedition funds in recreation after a season of intensive work such as the Marquesan trip demanded, I will say we will try to hang on till 1925. After Correia has made a trip to the Tuamotus with me he can likely do some of them without my presence on board, and Mrs. Beck and myself may run down to New Zealand for a month or possibly to California where our growing orchards may demand a personal inspection. I perhaps have not fully realized yet "that

Papeete, Tahiti,
January 23, 1935.

Dear Dr. Murphy:-

Your letters of December 14 and 20 are at hand today and in reply, after going over the situation with Mrs. Beck and noting your undoubtedly more apparent than real statement that my place cannot be filled, it appears that we will have to crush down our surging desires for a life of quiet domesticity till a more propitious season, and continue sacrificing our declining years to the insatiable demands of science. Mrs. Beck may sometimes drop you a line or two defining our position more concisely, definitely and to the point, than I have done in the above sentence, but in view of the fact that you seem willing that we spend a few dollars of the expedition funds in recreation after a season of intensive work such as the Marquesan trip demanded, I will say we will try to hang on till 1935. After Corvira has made a trip to the Tuamotus with me he can likely do some of them without my presence on board, and Mrs. Beck and myself may run down to New Zealand for a month or possibly to California where our growing orchards may demand a personal inspection. I perhaps have not fully realized yet "that

this expedition is the most expensive and elaborate that has ever been equipped for ornithological science" as you say. I sent you a sample of the equipment used by the chief during the Marquesas voyage and you perhaps wonder as I do if such economy is practiced where in thunder does all the money go to. I'm still hoping my estimate of running expenses will tally with the outgo, but to date it is short. I raised the Captain a couple of hundred francs on January 1, on his request, and consider him worth it, and will add a little to sailors' modest salaries also, having several satisfactory men.

As I wrote by last steamer I do not expect to equal our Marquesan record for quantity of specimens, but with Correia in trim we may get through the Tuamotus more rapidly than I expected. If you want say 10 specimens of fairy, noddy and lesser noddy terns from every island we visit write me not later than March 1 to that effect.

We often take but one though they may be common and easy to prepare. Redfooted boobies also can be taken to any number you say when we get to islands where they occur. If you want 85 instead of 40 or 25 warblers from each island where it is possible to get them, a word

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We often take but one though they may be common and easy to prepare. Redfooted boobies also can be taken to any number you say when we get to islands where they occur. If you want 85 instead of 40 or 35 warblers from each island where it is possible to get them, a word

to that effect will add to the total of specimens for the trip. Some islands have few or maybe none.

I wrote Quayle yesterday that if he wants to try the schooner life again under the new arrangement to be in Papeete by the 1st of April. I opine he will want to try out the moving picture end of the work, but I am of the opinion of Doctor Setchell who writes me this mail regarding Quayle "I have realized more and more that he is not altogether practical." Money making has no attraction for him and I would suggest that you state quite definitely to him just what subjects you consider of most value. The remainder of the Tuamotus will be quite similar in scenic views, except Makatea which should be worked for more pigeons. As to rails, they occur on probably several islands of the Tuamotus but to get them is a question I have not yet solved.

Quayle had dogs and traps on Nukuhiva for 3 weeks and few other birds to bother with but only got one. The dry season with leafless bushes permitted us to get a half dozen on Hatutu. We saw and heard them on Tikei but to get them Quayle will have to camp there and miss another island or two, for I have not ^{yet} considered the chance of getting one or two of them worth the cost of holding the vessel several days after we have a series

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the trip. Some islands have few or maybe none.
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Papeete, Tahiti,
January 25, 1923.

of the other birds. As you feel that Quayle's pen work has justified his employment, it is likely that at a reduced salary he may continue to pay his way, though the cost of movie film will be considerable in my estimation. It cannot be developed here by the local photographers and will likely carry as well to New York as to San Francisco.

I received a letter from Doctor Casey Wood yesterday who wants some birds heads for study. As it will be simple to cut off heads of birds unsuitable for skins I will stick some handy ones in pickle and unless you object or want to take a look at them yourself will send them to his address. If you can get anything in exchange for the heads it will be better to send them to you even if they cost him a few dollars for express. Let me know by March steamer for I will have a few in April. R. H. Beck.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

of the other birds. As you feel that Gaudy's own work has justified his employment, it is likely that at a reasonable salary he may continue to pay his way, though the cost of movie film will be considerable in my estimation. It cannot be developed here by the local photographers and will likely carry as well to New York as to San Francisco. I received a letter from Doctor Gassy Wood yesterday who wants some birds heads for study. As it will be

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Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti,
January 25, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

Heavy rain yesterday prevented loading so I will add a few words to the mail. 6th edition of A B C code is not in Papeete as far as I have inquired tho some merchants have a copy of Bentleys for their own use. I see no evidence of labels in this mail and if inquiry pretty soon again finds none will have to have some printed here on poorer paper than Museum uses. Best send 5000 in a couple of lots. Am mailing a few more photos as you may care to use some before you get the plates. Just learn its too late to register package so son't send photos.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

If the expedition funds are not sufficient to send me a letter of credit for \$1000.00 to reach me by April 1st, and another one to reach me by July 1 for \$2000. If less bother the \$3000 can be sent in the first letter. I should have \$3000 sent to my account in Bank of Italy to be there the 10th of July.

The Government Secretary is interested in the local Museum and asked me for a short account of the expedition's doings and I enclose a copy of what I gave them for publication in their bulletin to be published shortly. If you can send me some specimens within a few months it might be well though I think I am fixed with them for this year.

Sincerely,

(signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti,
January 28, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-
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don't send photos.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti,
January 27, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

We expect to get away this morning for a two months trip getting back to pick up Quayle and Correia by the first of April as they should be there then. I anticipate that Quayle will be anxious to try again under your proposition. Have just paid the duty on box of 2000 aux shells and would suggest that your shipping clerk value them at a slightly smaller figure for I paid 565.15 francs duty which amounts to more than \$35.00 American. The value is computed from the invoice which the shipper sends.

No writing paper came nor did any labels. Perhaps my letter re labels did not reach you, and if you wrote a word regarding the shipment of birds sent last July I have not gotten it yet.

If the expedition funds are drawing interest it might suffice to send me a letter of credit for \$1000.00 to reach me by April 1st, and another one to reach me by July 1 for \$2000. If less bother the \$3000 can be sent in the first letter. I should have \$3000 sent to my account in Bank of Italy to be there the 10th of July.

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send me some specimens within a few months it might be well
though I think I am fixed with them for this year.

Sincerely,
(signed) R. H. Beck.

Papeete, Tahiti,
26 February, 1923.

Dear Dr. Murphy:

By the last mail I received from the Museum a Cashier's Check from the National City Bank of New York drawn upon the First National Bank of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). I cannot understand why it was drawn upon the Honolulu Bank, when there is no connection between that concern and the Bank de l'Indo-Chine, Papeete, Tahiti. Had I not been in need at the time I would have returned the check for correction. The Bank here discounted it twenty-five centimes upon the dollar, which cost me twenty-five francs, or an equivalent of one dollar fifty-four cents (\$1.54) which amount I consider is still due me.

I this day mailed by registered mail the remaining ~~volumes~~ volumes of my notebooks. Attached hereto is post office receipt for same. If you are at all interested to know the full details of the circumstances leading up to my leaving the Expedition you will find them recorded therein as they occurred. Unfortunately the new proposition you sent out passed me somewhere between here and the Marquesas Isles. Mrs. Beck informed me as nearly as she could remember the details of it. No matter what the proposition is I cannot accept it. I have personal reasons for not wishing to be connected with the Expedition while it is under the present field leadership.

I intend to devote most of my future life to the art of letters, but do not intend to confine my efforts to Natural History subjects. Should I find anything that I think would be of interest to you I will gladly let you have it.

Please send all the notebooks you have copied to my College mate Carl D. Duncan, Stanford University, California, as early as possible. He has instructions to preserve them for me. I am awaiting Mr. Beck's return ere I depart Westward to look the world over. New Zealand is my next stopping place.

Hoping the Expedition has better success in the future than it has had thus far, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed)Ernest H. Quayle.

Papeete, Tahiti,
26 February, 1923.

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Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Ernest H. Caspary.

ERNEST H. QUAYLE ENDS LONG VOYAGE

Stanford University Man Back
From 3-Year Cruise Among
South Sea Islands.

Special to the Mercury Herald.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, May 17.—After three adventurous years among the little known islands of the South Seas, Ernest H. Quayle, a graduate from Stanford with the class of 1920, has returned to the campus, bringing with him a collection of unique pictures and a store of unusual reminiscences.

Quayle left here in 1920 with the Whitney South Seas expedition under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History of New York City. Together with R. H. Beck of San Jose, he sailed on the schooner *France*, which was purchased by the American museum for the expedition, and visited more than 40 islands of French Oceania, collecting birds, skins and eggs for the museum.

The Stanford man was forced to abandon the trip after becoming seriously ill from fish poisoning. He has not fully recovered from this

illness, although he has been spending some time in Tahiti in an endeavor to regain his health.

In addition to the ornithological collecting work, Quayle has made general scientific observations for the museum and has sent back more than 4000 manuscript pages of notes covering a wide field of general biology and other matters of interest.

Quayle will re-enter Stanford next fall. He plans to give lectures on the material he has gathered, illustrated by photographs and lantern slides of the places he visited.

NOTICE
 The undersigned, being the
 owner of the above described
 property, do hereby certify
 that the same is the
 property of the
 Estate of the late
 John J. [Name]
 deceased, and that the
 same is being sold
 under the will of the
 said deceased.
 Witness my hand and
 seal this [Date] day of
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Papeete, Tahiti,
April 6, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:

I will repeat in another letter the needs for July as letters seem to frequently go astray. I think \$3000 in letter of credit should be here on July 1, and \$3000 sent to my account in Bank of Italy, San Francisco, to be there July 10. 4000 aux shells and 5000 labels should come here on the June boat. We outfit in July to last till January, probably the vessel getting out of reach the letters might reach it once or twice. If there are auxes made 10 or 12 inches long in New York or elsewhere in the East we should have about 3, for it seems to me they should carry better than the short one Correia and the engineer will use. I have not taken and compared carefully the pattern of the long and short barrels but am surprised sometimes at the range of the long one I use. You sent me a short one for 12 and 20 gauge and I still have them, Quayle having lost my long one carried around South America soon after our arrival here. The aux shells are good unless weather gets rainy and then they seem to weaken carried in wet coats.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

P. S. The France is expected to sail for a number of uninhabited islands in the Eastern Tuamotus and working west toward Makemo Island, about July 20th and will be gone till in December some time. There will be a berth that Professor Starks can use. Landing will often be dangerous and he should be a good swimmer for boat may be overturned at reef landing.

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Dear Doctor Murphy:

We came in a few days ago and will go out again in a couple of days for a three months voyage. Correia is on hand and looks like he might get along with schooner life better than the lamented ? Mr. Quayle. Quayle returned from the Marquesas in January without having found a single egg for his patron, if I understood him correctly.

He looked over my photographs today selecting the ones he wants to use in his lecturing and writing, two things which he is preparing to do as soon as he reaches California on the next steamer.

On first meeting him here he declared his intention of staying here for a year doing writing and other work, and I decided the Museum would have to give an opinion on his necessity for return passage to S. F.

The next day he came around wanting to know if I intended to leave him stranded on the beach here after destroying his health with our old canned foods. After consideration I decided that a second class passage to California would probably dispose of his case most satisfactorily so I furnished that. Owing to his attitude at various times I have not decided on just what terms I care to let him have slides or prints from my negatives. He wished of course to write articles and use slides illustrating them with the pictures taken

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on the expedition. He had his own camera and took pictures as he wished except when his machine was out of commission, and I presume most of his negatives are in the Museum except the Marquesas ones which he will forward when he reaches California, he says. I think I will likely want to go up to California in August when the France is working some of the Tuamotus and will take all the plates I have with me as baggage, and will forward them from San Francisco, for I don't care to leave the plates here to be forwarded as I will do the birds. I still have a lot to label, as little time is available on the voyages.

You have prints of most of the finest or most interesting tho of course there are dozens that will be little used. As Quayle wants to use my negatives as well as the Museum's before I get a chance to make use of them other than for the Museum, what would you suggest as a proposition to make him? I figure on giving him photos in which he figures, if possibly some are not Museum pictures, but others will be on another basis.

Watched Correia start to poison a skin yesterday and noted the careful way in which he had preserved various bones which I dispense with in making up a skin, and wondered if perhaps in some particular his skins were more desirable for Museum use than mine. For mounting I expect his present method of skinning suits the preparateur better than my method, but for study I assume my skins answer the purpose as well as his. Assuming this I expect he will come to pre-

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fer my style of handling skull and wing bones for there will be minutes of time saved on each large skin put up.

Mrs. Correia will make the voyage with us and should fare well enough as we will be in lagoons most of the time I expect, on this trip.

He begins on April 1 with the ship, tho he has been here in Papeete over a month waiting for us to arrive. I didn't expect him down till March boat as I wrote you in December or earlier I think, that I would come in last of March. Some letters have been lost I assume for no labels have come to hand tho I wrote of their scarcity some months ago. The \$1000 came to the bank on the 1st of April, as requested, and I think \$3000 should be here in letter of credit on July 1, and \$3000 in Bank of Italy, in San Francisco on July 10. 4000 aux shells should come on the June boat, and 5000 labels, as your labels are much stronger than the ones I am able to have printed here. I didn't make myself clear on the labels I ordered for formalin and alcohol tanks. If it is possible to have 200 or so cut of same paper as lot you sent, but twice as long, they would be very useful. I can hardly write much but a number on the short ones and I often want to write date and locality, on pickled specimens other than stomachs. Looking at your letter of February 1, would say I don't think Quayle put up any skins after we left. He got sick of bird skinning or killing, if I remember his statement, and it is quite

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unlikely that any other species than the ones we secured will be taken by Mr. Washburn, altho if the cuckoos vary in this region he might get one of these. I heard of one being killed on Nukuhiva and think both Quayle and myself heard one on other islands but did not see one. Quayle had 3 days on the mountains looking for shearwaters while I visited Motane, and found none, nor did he find any for Mr. Washburn. I presume it was Peale's petrel that comprised the boatload sent you, and the white-chinned petrel was the same as the Christmas Island bird as was the parvirostris shearwater?

I've not heard re the Ducie trip yet giving your name for the blue shearwater, and was the Bass Rock sooty tern the same as Tuamotu and Christmas birds; and were the Henderson and Ducie shearwaters the same as parvirostris of Christmas Island? Has anything been done about preparing birds for the Museum in Papeete? But one member has tackled me this time, but I expect a number of pointed inquiries in July if no specimens are here.

This last trip gave us a 1000 birds but I was greatly disappointed in finding no ground doves. Natives on 2 islands said on Tahanae Island we would find them, but the natives on the island which was last worked said the last were seen several years ago. On Raraka Island a native said they were there yet but I could find none, then went to the village and got the native and took him to the motu where he last saw them and he could find none, and he

184

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I have not heard re the Dacie trip yet giving your name for the blue shearwater, and was the Bass Rock sooty tern the same as Trumote and Christmas birds; and were the Henderson and Dacie shearwaters the same as parvirostris of Christmas Island? Has anything been done about preparing birds for the Museum in Papeete? But one member has tackled me this time, but I expect a number of pointed inquiries in July if no specimens are here.

This last trip gave us a 1000 birds but I was greatly disappointed in finding no ground doves. Natives on 2 islands said on Tahanea Island we would find them, but the natives on the island which was last worked said the last were seen several years ago. On Raraka Island a native said they were there yet but I could find none, then went to the village and got the native and took him to the north where he last saw them and he could find none, and he

used with others to catch 100 a day for food. Possibly an odd bird is there yet but unlikely to last long as cats occur on several motus on the island. Scattering sandpipers were taken, but these likely fly along from one motu to another and when they reach a motu where the cats range are captured. On Raraka we secured but 2 adult rails, and both had tail feathers broken off. Its funny if both were shot off, tho possible and highly improbable. At Manihi we got 20 or so of various ages, tho Raraka furnished the youngest. At Manihi I secured the first doves nest and saw another being built. Have you found a difference in the Tuamotu doves from east to west? I will mail another letter asking for money, shells and labels in case this doesn't reach you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

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if both were shot off, the possible and highly improbable.
At Manihi we got 20 or so of various ages, the Hara birds
nished the youngest. At Manihi I secured the first doves
nest and saw another being built. Have you found a differ-
ence in the Tanager doves from east to west? I will mail
another letter asking for money, shells and labels in case
this doesn't reach you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

Faiite, Tuamotu Archipelago,
April, 24, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

Arrived here this evening, and following came a small schooner which the Captain says is leaving here for Papeete, so will drop you a line as you no doubt will be interested to hear how your protégé is panning out. Of course it is too early yet to get a very reliable line on him, but I think in the course of time he may come reasonably near your expectations. It gives me great pain to think how much quicker he could have become a rapid preparer of skins had he only come under my tutelage before he amassed such a multitude of methods for taking away the flesh from bones, for instance, or rather such a multitude of motions, that is to my eyes and to the eyes of my assistants here on board, the engineer and cabin-boy both preparing skins more rapidly than the new man. I have great hopes, however, that when he gets over the headache (not seasickness, he says) incident with our passing from a lagoon into the open ocean, his steadiness will in the months total exceed the others. He has a great advantage in not having to spend a lot of time preparing and smoking cigarettes. We have been at anchor or in lagoons at Taou and Fakarava last week and this, and his wife has accompanied him on his shore excursions and seems to stand

Palite, Tanager Archipelago,
April, 24, 1933.

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came a small schooner which the Captain says is leaving here
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and smoking cigarettes. We have been at anchor or in lagoons
at Taou and Takarua last week and this, and his wife has
accompanied him on his shore excursions and seems to stand

the life as well as he does. Expect to try them with the schooner, laying to at 3 small islands in a couple of weeks. Have gotten a bit of enjoyment out of showing him how a skin will stand up under brutal treatment, for the careful, delicate touch which one needs for a trogon, motmot, or thin-skinned doves - not Polynesian doves - is not required here in our style of manipulation. Admitting of course that it is not detrimental, and that all of my skins could be improved by one practicing such a touch. My enjoyment referred to came, this minute a portion of it, for the pupil interrupts me to say he has not the delicate touch to put the wings of a moulting warbler in their most suitable position. Till he gets more practice, I take the skin and say in effect, as I pound the skin into a shapeless mass with one mighty blow of my left fist, a delicate touch is not necessary. Press the skin a couple of times and poke the wings a trifle farther forward and they assume a slightly more satisfactory position, which is all one should expect from the specimen. My much greater enjoyment came the other day in watching the fearful amazement exhibited when a yellow-billed tern treated to a greater pounding on the breast and wings, came out of the shapeless mass in a few squeezes, punchings, and pluckings, and assumed the proper position for

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-3-

Copy of order to Mr. Beck to stop collecting birds in French
 a cabinet specimen, after he had spent his full quota of
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 tures and prints to make slides, but I am not yet prepared to
 say on what terms he can use the ones I took for myself.
 Should they have any value for magazine articles he figures on
 using them to the limit, if I got his intentions correctly the
 day I left Papeete. I hope to get a few days time when
 this voyage is completed to straighten out the plates and
 films before sending the numerous ones on board to you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. H. Beck.

J'ai, en conséquence, l'honneur de vous prier de bien
 vouloir cesser votre chasse aux oiseaux dans un délai de 3 mois,
 à compter de ce jour pour vous permettre de liquider votre per-
 sonnel et votre matériel.

Recevez, Monsieur l'assurance de ma considération très
 distinguée.

Signed By Governor

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Copy of order to Mr. Beck to stop collecting birds in French
Polynesia within three months from July 2, 1923

Papeete, le 2 Juil^{et}, 1923

Le Gouverneur des Etablissements Français de L'Océanie,

Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

A Monsieur R. H. Beck, Representant de l'American Museum of
Natural History.

Papeete.

Monsieur,

Le Directeur du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris a
signalé au Ministre des Colonies de danger résultant pour la con-
servation des diverses espèces d'oiseaux de l'Océanie française
de la chasse à laquelle vous vous livrez depuis près de 3 ans dans
les îles et archipels de la Colonie. En vue de la protection du
domaine zoologique de nos Etablissements français, le Ministre des
Colonies m'a invité à faire mettre fin à cette destruction.

J'ai, en conséquence, l'honneur de vous prier de bien
vouloir cesser votre chasse aux oiseaux dans un délai de 3 mois,
à compter de ce jour pour vous permettre de liquider votre per-
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Respectueusement, Monsieur l'assurances de ma considération très

distinguée.

Signed by Governor

Papeete, Tahiti,
July 2, 1923.

Dear Doctor Murphy:-

We reached Papeete a couple of days ago; it will be several days before we get on the slip for cleaning, but I hope to get away before the 20th. Our best take on the trip was a half-dozen white-headed ground doves. These were formerly common on many islands but have been destroyed on most; I rather doubt getting more, though there is a chance on a couple islands yet to visit. Correia has improved a lot, and will eventually make a bird-skinner if gets used to the small vessel, the roll of which bothers him. He plans to do some collecting with a shore base if birds warrant it on this next trip. There are over 30 islands, and I am not sure that they will finish them but hope they can. Should they do so the vessel may be ready to make a circuit up to Malden, Starbuck and a few others to the north. We don't want to go to Cook Islands till May as hurricane blows occur there more often than here, and there are no harbors, the schooner traders running up to Penrhyn Island till April from December. If Correia gets along all right I won't make the northern trip, but will go in advance and work one or more of the Cook group, and think it well to have British letters here by January or February next year. Hardly expect Governor

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here will give permission to sail in foreign waters without the French owner. I hear rumors that the government is still against our taking so many birds, and some of the rumors go back to Quayle who bore me a good deal of malice. Mr. Washburn, the artist who had Quayle with him for two months, was on board and I called on him and saw some of his silver point work. He characterized Quayle as a "contemptible character" whose notes should not be relied on, as he found him making conflicting statements. Quayle told Washburn that I took over 1000 white-cap doves in the Marquesas, and probably influenced government men in the Marquesas to make representations to government here. From what Washburn says, Quayle will hardly get any of my pictures for some time to come. I have your letters of March 17 and 21; April 5 and May 24. I received 4 packets of labels and 4 letters with formalin labels, also the check for \$2000 and an unexpected one for \$3000. I hope the Bursar has not sent the \$3000 for San Francisco here. I am sending a draft for \$2000 to the Bank of Italy to cover checks I am drawing for this steamer due tomorrow, for fear there has been a mistake. When I dig out the Christmas stamps I will try to remember to send you a couple. They are used by natives on island as stamps on letters to

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Tahiti. The newspaper article was very well written and extremely interesting to me. I imagine you had little time to skin birds as I reread your articles on the Peruvian trip. I called at the Museum Saturday but nobody home. I saw a copy of 1922 American Museum report on library table, and possibly someone in your Museum can give information on this one; I will see Curator soon and ask for information. I have passed out several of the Science reports and will try and think to get some when I go up next month. I think it would perhaps be advantageous to the expedition if I had a chance to look over the spread-out of specimens already collected, though if you are on the Pacific coast in August it would probably not pay for me to go on to New York. A couple of boxes of cartridges are in the Custom House, but the wrong clerk in American Express office sent the notice to bank here and no bill of lading or other papers, and I expect a little difficulty in getting them. The pickle labels are good size and will last some time. Note when packing pickle stuff several fish have gone in tank at times. Suppose they will be used; if unsatisfactory let me know and I won't pickle more. These were packed up casually as opportunity presented them. The long aux will make Correia happy perhaps for my present long one

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and 32-inch barrel Parker kill as far as I should hope for. 2 boobies at one shot one day. Correia made a shot one day that I couldn't make in 10,000 years if hunting every day here; 2 doves and a flying cuckoo with one barrel. If you knew the habits of the Tuamotuan cuckoos you could appreciate this shot more. I am glad that you are sending birds for museum here, tho hope you send some that do not occur on Tahiti. The Rimatara paroquet attracts much attention when our case is opened; also other paroquets. Frigate and tropics are showy. Best keep all the white-headed doves unless we find others. I expect to get for Gifford live doves of the white-breasted species from Eastern Islands, as I have heard they are tame on one island in far east. He writes he sent you a young bird in plumage not as far advanced as ones we secured. Am sending a dozen or two heads to Dr. Wood as you made no mention of caring to look at them. I am sending with my notes some that Correia made at my request, and I have requested him to make careful notes on all islands. Don't know whether the bunch of lizards from the Tuamotus are worth the little trouble getting, and the plant collection is not at all complete, as indifferent cabin-boy collected them tho I supervised labeling.

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Am expecting to get a little stuff off most coral reefs as Dr. Setchell thought some differed on different islands. He sent down several dollars worth of old papers of which we use a large quantity. Letters sent to me care of Bank of Italy before the 10th of August should be held for me I imagine, as I will call there if convenient on arriving in San Francisco. Hope to send a few prints of recent trip as I saw some negatives today that looked well. I have let local photographer develop most of my negatives since first lot which I did. He seems to get enough better results to make it pay.

July 3.

Received a letter from the Governor this morning, asking me to close up work in 3 months from date, as he has had instructions from France regarding the expedition. I am not certain whether your New York reporters talk of thousands of birds taken has dwindled to 100,000's reached ears of Paris Museum authorities, or whether Quayle is solely responsible. Quayle told government people in Marquesas of my slaughterings. He told Washburn I killed a 1000 white-cap doves in Marquesas in less than a year. Washburn tells me. Washburn calls him "contemptible character." Letters overlooked by Quayle when leaving Mar-

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quesas to a friend was handed to me by Washburn in which Quayle says he is thru with science and will now devote his life "to the art of letters." "So during these two months of peaceful solitude I have forced science to walk the plank." I read the letter. Supposed to be hunting eggs in the two months. He got 2 eggs, Washburn says, in the 2 months. I will write a letter or see the Governor, and if he refuses or can't extend the time will cable you long before you see this. To visit all remaining islands may take 9 months or possibly longer. As of course you know if there are 100 islands here I figure I'm not thru till we have visited all, and 99 done leaves the work unfinished in French Oceania. Suppose that is your viewpoint. Blamed nuisance. May be all from Quayle's desire to hamper me. I would not be surprised to hear he is shortly insane, as to me he resembled Bent's companion on our Alaskan trip.

Sincerely hope you get some sort of action on this extension before July 31, if I have cabled you, as I have arranged to go up on steamer leaving here that date. Am fearful tho that vessel will have to wait orders at probably Hikerau Island as diving is going on there, and vessels running there often. As I think of it now you cannot write to France and get reply by then, though they should cable

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July 4, 1923.

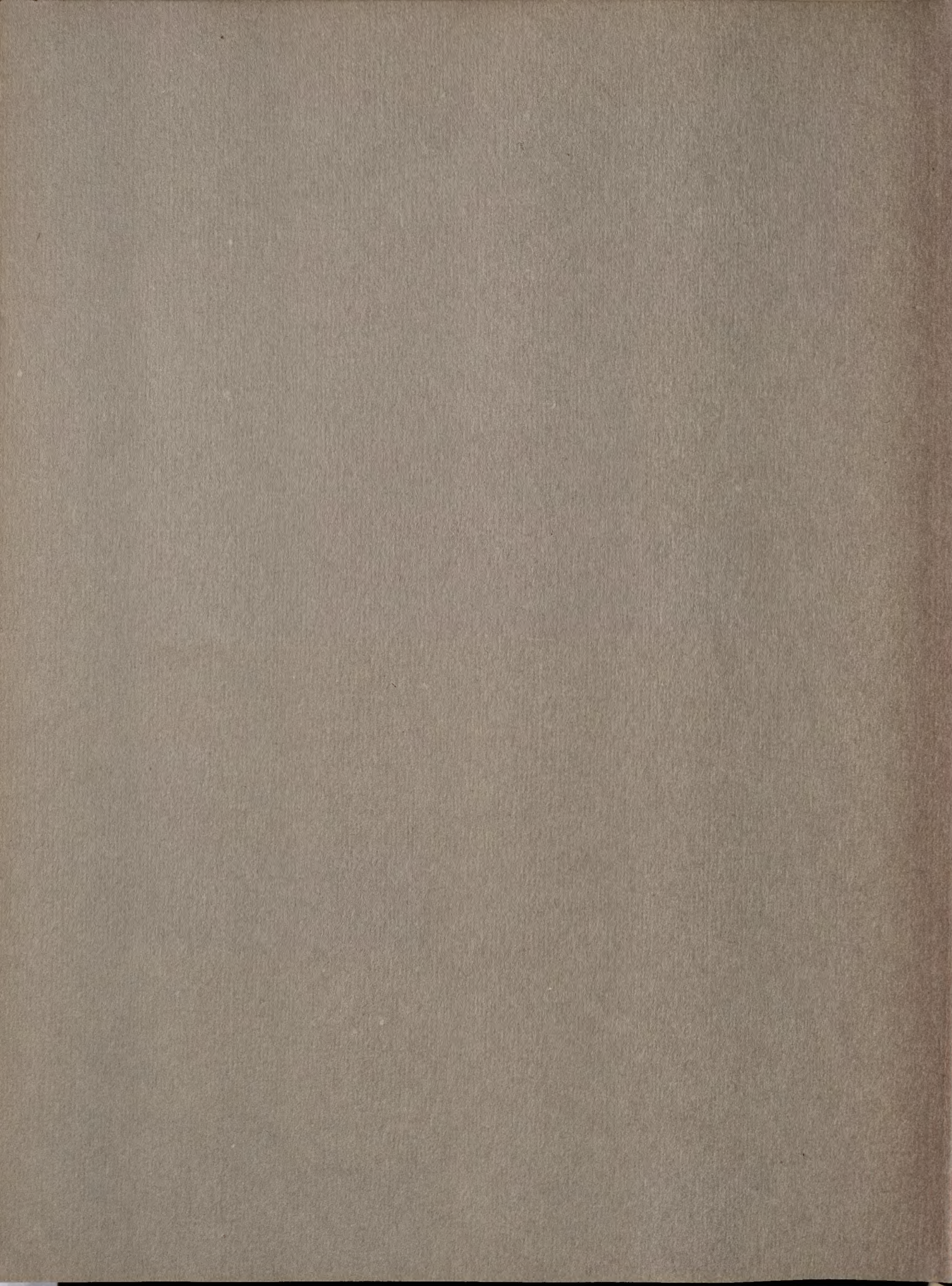
Ran across the President of Museum here today and he says your museum gets the reports of this Museum. Possibly your librarian has copies. Hope to see Curator tomorrow. Am sending the best bird photos taken on last trip, in another package. Haven't got time to write letter to Governor yet to send you a copy as mail closes in 3 hours. Have widely scattered islands to finish; Otoocho, Pukukpuku on the north and Morane, Pangatuafa, etc. on the south, and most of islands in between. Six months may finish and perhaps nine months may be needed; dependent partly on winds. I count 34 in Tuamotus and several Society yet unfinished. I will send boat out with orders to be in Hikerau probably October 1st in Governor here refuses extension. Imagine you ought to get an answer by September 1st, which should allow me to get word to Hikerau by October 1st, even from United States. Looks like it might have been profitable to have sent that 6th edition of A. B. C. code by last boat as I anticipate several code words to you day after tomorrow.

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ably somewhere in the Tuamotus waiting to hear from me the
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says your museum gets the reports of this museum. Possibly
your librarian has copies. Hope to see Crutcher tomorrow.
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