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Weston, A.C.T. 2611,
Australia,
19 February, 1990.

Dr Thomas F. King,
410 Windsor Street,
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4242,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr King,

Your letter of 10 January has been forwarded to me by the ANU but things have been hectic of recent weeks and my correspondence as a consequence got into arrears.

I retired from the ANU some years ago to finish my own writing and have only two more books and a few articles left to complete out of a fairly lengthy list.

This should have enabled me to finish my life's work on the ethnohistory of the central Pacific stolls by my 85th birthday, i.e. in a couple of years, but alas I can no longer see to read or write which is delaying my schedule somewhat; at least until the Blind Society has been able to fix me up with enough gadgetry to overcome this handicap.

I agree with you that Nikumaroro is a lovely atoll - it is so petite and self-contained, and one can sit on the edge of the lagoon and really feel at one with all the teeming life which it mothers.

I agree too that the Phoenix Islands would make a superb book - and one which would sell if you could bring alive the marvel of the lovely islands and the dreams of those who knew and loved them: John Arundel, Albert Ellis, Gallagher and myself, to name four.

Arundel was the owner and manager of his guano empire stretching from Raine Island on the Barrier Reef to Clipperton off the US coast. He exported the guano and planted the coconut trees. 'Bertie' and the other members of the Ellis family supervised the work.

For a time Arundel set up his headquarters on Sydney Island (Manra) and his daughter, Sydney Aris, left me all his extensive papers and his 47 diaries to write a biography of him. They are

now in the Rare Book Room of the National Library here and are available on microfilm through the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. Both Sydney Aris and her son John, who died last year, were close friends of ours, as was Bertie Ellis, later Sir Albert Ellis, all being lovers of the equatorial islands (Mrs Aris was born on Manra, hence her name). I have also Aimee Bright's MS biography of John Arundel.

I doubt if I can help you much over Gallagher. We were good friends but both essentially loners, or we would not have taken jobs in the remotest islands in the Empire. Being loners we kept our personal and private lives to ourselves, our conversations being concerned with the islands, the people, the work done and to be done.

I met his mother in England, but she would be long dead now, I guess.

Again, I could tell you little about the progress of Nikumaroro or the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme after I handed over to Gallagher as I moved to other work. The war intervened and we went to live on Pitcairn Island for a year or so and then to the Kingdom of Tonga and after the war ended I took over as Administrator of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Later on I was Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission and finally became Professorial Fellow in Pacific Islands History at the ANU. So I had little opportunity to keep in touch with the progress of the Settlement Scheme.

Where I could help you is on source material, for after sixty years of documentary research on the central Pacific I should know all the published material and anything worthwhile in the manuscript line.

Dr Angela Kay Kepler, an environmental consultant (ornithology and botany), of Athens, Georgia, is particularly ^{interested} in Nikumaroro and 16 other central Pacific islands, and is leaving for them this month or next in a chartered vessel.

In addition to the two documentary items which you have seen, the following would seem to be of relevance to your proposed

monograph:

- (1) Maude, H.E., 1937. Report on the Colonization of the Phoenix Islands by the surplus population of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. 54p. Suva, Government Printer. (Printed but not published for sale).
- (2) A detailed monograph on Nikumaroro in 1949 by P.B. Laxton.

MS.

And possibly:

- (3) Report on the Expedition to Nikumaroro , 1978. Tarawa,
Government Printing Division. 34p.

This last is a report on the proposed resettlement of Nikumaroro printed but not, I think, published by the Republic of Kiribati administration. There are several large folded maps which might add to the expense of copying.

I enclose a copy of Section K^r of the Maude archival deposits in the Adelaide University Archives, relating to the early days of the Settlement Scheme; but there are others scattered through the relevant years of the Correspondence Section. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Any of the above, bar the archival material, can be copied in Canberra if you like, but it may take a bit of time. For the items in the archives you would have to write to Susan Woodburn the Archivist, at the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, South Australia 5001, who could give you an estimate of cost.

As to your book I fancy that it could best be worked out as a struggle between the romanticists or idealists - Maude and Gallagher - and the pragmatists or realists - Cartland and Bedford. When the British Government lost interest in colonizing the Phoenix because it was no longer required for commercial aviation and Gallagher had died, and I had moved elsewhere, the pragmatists won and the colonists were moved to the Solomons, where they have had a mixed reception. But they have probably benefitted from an economic viewpoint.

To understand all this you would need to study Cartland's Report and correspondence as Chief Lands Commissioner in the Tarawa Archives, and his personal correspondence and other material in the Colonial Service Archives at Oxford; and Bedford's 1961 Auckland University MA thesis on 'Resettlement: solutions to economic and social problems in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony'.

For the Solomons resettlement you will need to read Knudson, Brett Hilder and Stuart; while for the more recent period since the independence of the Solomons in publications by the USP (I would need to make a detailed list).

Thanks for the maps - knowing the areas enables me to form a mental image of what they are like today.

This rambling discourse may hopefully give you an overview of what source material is available to prepare the monograph and the book. For the latter, however, it would save you a heck of a time if you paid a visit to Australia where everything bar the Cartland Oxford Papers is readily available and you can ask me questions and record the answers on tape. But you would need to come fairly soon for in the nature of things I am not getting any younger.

With best wishes for the success of your fascinating projects,

Yours sincerely,

R/arry M. ande.

PS. Please forgive the excrable typing, ~~but~~ I cannot see what I have typed. Re Laxton, when I last saw him we were on the island of Guernsey, where he used to live - and quite possibly still does, in which case you could look him up in the local Telephone Directory.