

Dr Harry Maude  
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Dr Thomas F. King  
410 Windsor Street  
Silver Spring MD 20910-4242 USA

Dear Dr King

Your letter of 20 October has duly arrived, and I am glad to find you still interested in the Central Pacific Coral Atolls.

In reply to the first of your two queries: Yes, curiously enough I do seem to remember the low pile of rubble that you mention. As far as my fickle memory of small events 60 years ago, it was in an open space at the other end of the lagoon to the village. I would describe it as a little pile of debris, not much higher than the surrounding earth, and after scratching around and on it I came to the conclusion that it was a rubbish dump used by Arundel's labourers when they spent some years on Nikumaroro planting coconuts for him.

On your second question, Gallagher spoke simple Gilbertese but he certainly had not had either the time nor opportunity to become fluent in the language. As regards using an interpreter he certainly did but so did all Europeans in the Government Service with the single exception of Arthur Grimble: we were advised to use interpreters by the Government, as saving the Gilbertese from going away with a number of misconceptions owing to our using the wrong terminology. I was the Chairman of the Gilbertese Language Examination Committee, but I still used an interpreter for formal occasions.

I took my Honours Degree in Anthropology and Archaeology at Cambridge University so I can appreciate your desire to preserve what is left of interesting sites. Which reminds me that I had a detailed plan to scale of the village on Nikumaroro, including the sites of the various houses and what they were used for. But it has gone to my archive for deposits with the Archival section of the University of Adelaide owing to my blindness and being past 90 years of age.

I have been spending my retirement in publishing a series of monographs on Gilbertese ethno-history, partly to return to the islanders what my predecessors and I had learned from their grandfathers and which in the hurry to Europeanise themselves they have forgotten and are now most anxious to regain. They have also been found useful by the very few anthropologists and historians who are interested in the traditional past of the islands peoples. If you should want any yourself you can obtain them from me, or if I am then dead, from the Publications Fellow, Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, PO Box 1168, Suva, Republic of Fiji.

Wishing you all the best in your valuable work.

Sincerely yours,

*H. Maude*

Dr H. Maude

BOOKS ON THE I-KIRIBATI

General Editor: H.E. Maude

- (1) The Evolution of the Gilbertese Boti  
by H.E. Maude. Suva, University of the South  
Pacific, 1977.
- (2) The Gilbertese Maneaba, by H.E. Maude. Suva,  
University of the South Pacific, 1980.
- (3) Tungaru Traditions, by A.F. Grimble. Honolulu,  
University of Hawaii Press; Melbourne,  
Melbourne University Press, 1989.
- (4) Traditional Stories from the Northern Gilberts, by  
Ten Tiroba. Translated by Reid Cowell. Suva,  
University of South Pacific, 1990.
- (5) The Story of Karongoa, told to Tione Baraka by an  
Unimane of Karongoa n Uea. Translated by  
G.H. Eastman. Suva, University of the South  
Pacific, 1991.
- (6) An Anthology of Gilbertese Oral Tradition.  
Translated by A.F. Grimble and Reid Cowell.  
Edited by H.C. and H.E. Maude. Suva, University  
of the South Pacific, 1994.
- (7) The Book of Banaba.  
Edited by H.C. and H.E. Maude. 1994.
- (8) The Atoll of Nui: its Settlement and People,  
by Anetipa of Nui. Translated by Reid Cowell.  
(Due for publication in 1997).