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SYMON, HAMMOND & HUBBLE,
IRON, HARDWARE, & GENERAL MERCHANTS,
SHIPPING AGENTS, & C.

P.O.
Perth

Telegraphic Address
"SYMHAMBLE"

Carnarvon 10 Nov 1906
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I am sorry and hope
the notes and maps
by the next mail

My dear Mr Thomas

I am sending you a list
of what I collected in my trip inland where
owing to the extreme difficulty I have had
in getting about I have been a longer time
than I intended - If I had known of the
irregular means and expenses of transport and
the scarcity of mammals inland I should not
have attempted it - It seemed so much
more easy than it proved out. After waiting about
in Carnarvon & having no luck with dingoes
which was the only thing to get there I at last got
on a team that was going inland on a dingoing
was caught while I was up country & the shearer
kept for me -

in a way about I have been a longer time
than I intended - If I had known of the
irregular means and expenses of transport and
the scarcity of mammals inland I should not
have attempted it - It seemed so much
more easy than it proved out. After waiting about
in Carnarvon & having no luck with dingy
which was the only way to get there I at last got
on a train that was going inland on a dingy
two days while I was up country & the steamer
kept for me - unfortunately it was boiled -
the journey up country was very slow taking less
days to go 120 miles - Here I stopped at a
station called Clifton down the Gwyer sheep station
in the north west said to be three million acres
the country however is so poor that the stock is very
small compared with the size of the station - I went
twenty miles further on with a mule & pack horse
for some of the time to the Wyndham ranges
after successful shooting (civilians) locally called the hill
Kangaroo but only managed to get three specimens of it -

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Telegraphic Address
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(2)

Carnarvon
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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I got a good number of *Acridus rufus*.
which was more plentiful than I have seen it
anywhere - as - any the year on this trip - had to be
put on the pack horse I had to roll up the large
skins as best I could - beyond the kangaroo there
seems to be practically nothing else - except odd bits of
Schedona & Peragale lizards - both of which were very
rare. There were hardly any bats seen. Consequently
this is chiefly a bird collection. From such
anyone has told me a few which I have seen
of this north west country - I don't think there
is any mammal collecting to be done in any
of the ports south of Broome - except on the
islands - from Geraldton northwards as far as
the Indian rainfall district. The whole coast is a
flat stretch of sands - or stone deserts.

some a Karyak Kayda - both of which were very
rare. There were hardly any bats seen. Consequently
this is chiefly a bird collection. From Rich
Langue Les told me a few that I have seen
of this North West country - I don't think there
is any mammal collecting to be done in any
of the ports south of Broome - except on the
islands - from Geraldine northwards as far as
the tropical rain fall district. The whole coast is a
flat stretch of sandy or stony desert with nothing
but salt scrub growing on it. I have had letters with
the for Onslow, Port Headland & all the N.W. towns
& they all tell me that there are plenty of kangaroos but
not elsewhere - a lot I would have. To get inland for
the kangaroos seen. Except on the islands there seems
to be nothing in the way of wallabies - South of Broome.
I would have liked to have gone to Barrow Island
which is uninhabited & 90 miles off the coast
so that the expense of getting there & being called for
would be altogether too much. Barrow together with the

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Telegraphic Address
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(3)

Carnarvon
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

189.

adjacent small islands seen. These the northern
names - *Lagodon*, *Conopsea*, etc.
From Moore northwards I hear that as in the S.W.
districts snails start being plentiful
This is probably an account of the further distance getting
a good name fall - getting the tropical summer rains
At the same time there appears to have once been
a famine in these parts corresponding with that on the
islands the old settlers all say that is late - as 1882
well as here is plentiful ~~in~~ *Bermier* around Carnarvon
is on *Bermier* island & the idea of anyone here
seems the most acceptable way of explaining the
complete disappearance of snails naturally. That is that
some epidemic probably to do with white settlers
or the introduction of sheep. Killed them all off.
The only other little he: 11 - 1 - 1

as far as in these parts I have never seen a name once before
islands the old settlers all say that is late - as 1802
wallabies were as plentiful ~~as~~ Bernier around Carnarvon
is on Bernier island & the idea of anyone here
seems the most acceptable way of explaining the
complete disappearance of ~~small mammals~~. That is that
some epidemic probably to do with white settlements
or the introduction of sheep. Killed them all off.
The only things left being those which had a wide range
island namely Kangaroo Echidna etc. - which have
since straggled back. I am told that they suffered to
be had a kind of marasmus - curiously about that
time an epidemic of measles went through the I.L.O.
which still by no means severe than would among the Whites
about exterminated the Aboriginals - for which they have
never since recovered in numbers. Although the wallabies were
as plentiful as Bernier they were in a very poor & wretched
condition looking almost as if some disease had hold of them
of whom it is a great pity as it seems the only stragglers
left for Supercal's heron's particular use by poultry is
unless it is found in the north. I have never seen that a few still exist quite common on the
island

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Telegraphic Address
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(4). Carnarvon
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 189

As I will not have much more time in W.A. I am
writing it that you send me to get to the place where
I shall get a good mammal collection - Brown island
seems to be important - Jimmy has been there so that
I should have got much new stuff most probably.
There was a small station on the island when he was
there but has since been given up - So I have
decided to go south to Busselton which should be
central for the small mammals - Platycybe etc. that
I built some well in - I hope also to get Pseudocetus -
I know that Dinjors are more plentiful there than any where
in the S.W. There are lots of caves which should be good for
bats & I have also heard of a small band of the
grey kangaroo - which sounds like Melanops which if so
doesn't seem to have been found in W.A.
I am sure the said with the time ...

then did his since been given up - so I have
decided to go south. to Busselton which should be
central for the small mammals - Pterodroma etc. that
I haven't done well in - I hope also to get Pterodroma -
& the other things are more plentiful there than anywhere
in the S.W. There are lots of cases that should be good for
study & I have also heard of a snake class of the
grey kangaroo - that sounds like Melanops which if so
doesn't seem to have been found in W.A.

I am amply pleased with the plans of Java & S. America
only I think I should have smeltier extra besides the
kangaroo. For incidental ex's that will necessarily come
in going to a new country - I have at times found
it more difficult to move as much as I would have
liked - For instance in this last trip I should have moved
somewhere else. or had the country so poor, but the
expense of waily about. & transport up here has been so
heavy that I had it the best to do it with - has since
I have been out here the whole £300 has almost gone
in ex's. I've even had to send home for clothes.

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Telegraphic Address
"SYMHAMBLE"

(5)

Carmarvon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

189

If you were to work out the expenses of travelling about
 board & provisions ammunition, collecting & preserving
 materials taking into consideration the best Australia
 is the most expensive place in the world I think
 you'd understand - a price list of some of the things
 out here would give you a good idea - I am not
 really discontented only you can see that if I had a
 little more I could move about a whole good deal
 without often being compelled to stop in some poor
 collecting camp - until the next quarter's money comes
 round - I could have gone to any distant place
 on this quarter as well with having had Bell with
 me & the rest of the crew. I had to now draw a
 little bit - I made up my mind not to go further
 north now to save a double journey as the
 boat to Java looks as if it will be late

ably discontented only you can see that if I had a
little more I could move about a choice good districts
without the being compelled to stay in some poor
colony - until the next quarter's money comes
round - I could have gone to any distant place
in this quarter, as I did with having had Bell with
me, & the care of her. I had to now draw a
little bit - I made up my mind not to go further
north now to save a double journey as the
boat to Java touches at all the N.W. ports.
& if you still wish me to try Pt. Headland or any
other N.W. port a chance doing badly in mammals
I could put off there on the way up - & Brown by
the smaller boundary for the northern fauna which you
tell me has been fairly well worked. I haven't
thought much about it. I am sending some maps of
W.A. with which I think is a very fairly correct
plan of the distribution of West Australian mammals
south of the base of Capricorn - the red dots showing
where mammals occur. The black dots where they once were but
are now extinct.

LONDON.
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Telegraphic Address
"SYMHAMBLE"

(6)

Carnarvon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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Besides wallabies - possums once occurred around Carnarvon - they died off tremendously some years ago in the S.W. especially around settlements - but have increased again except in the vicinity of towns during the last few years - possums nearly about stopped in the S.W. at the time they died off - Have you any localities for the rock wallabees recorded from the N.W. I think they must come from the far north. I heard a vague report of one being found at the mouth of the Murchison, but there is no way of getting there. I don't think they will be found in the north central districts as like other wallabies except in very well watered districts they seem to be coastal. Although I got a large series of *Lepus thomasi fasciatus* it is very local now in the S.W. I only heard of your localities for it on the mainland, around the Wongan hills, East Pingelly East Wogin & Salt River - it is probably dying out as it once

one of my own self - Have you any collection for the
Rock wallabies recorded from the N.W. I think they must
come from the far north. I heard a vague report of
one being found at the mouth of the Murchison, but there
is no way of getting there. I don't think they will be
found in the north central districts as like other wallabies
except in very well watered districts they seem to be coastal.
Although I got a large series of *Lepidobates fasciatus*
it is very local now in the S.W. I only heard of four localities
for it on the mainland, around the Wongaw hills, East-Perth
East Weyin & Salt River - it is probably dying out as it once
had a wide range - they seem to have once been plentiful around
Albany. There were plenty of tracks on the station I was on
but did not get me any of the way of mammals & then stores
of wallabies altogether agreed with those of the white settlers.
The only small thing I saw for the N.W. was *Smallomys*
eremicus for Day Dawn (Cue). It seems to have a
wide range. If continents occurs of here it must be
irregular & irregular in appearance. Bell is not now with me
he turned out for his experience & as he had an invitation to
visit with some relations in N.S.W. I advised him to go there

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Carnarvon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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I will write to you if you like about collecting - but I don't think he would go alone on his own. - or by way of Brisbane & Bundaberg I shall stop for a few days at Perth. & find out about boats to Java & S America - there is a Dutch consul in Perth who I shall see. - I shall want some kind of passports & my letters will be very useful, as I hear the Dutch there are not too friendly to foreigners - I hear there is a route to Panama for Sydney - via Wellington but there may be a more direct route for Singapore I am sending some notes on the mammals of Java but I have an idea I sent the Bernier about notes before. Are there any papers or books on mammals & birds for islands or places near Java. - or even notes on collection - please send me anything that there is, or anything the way of a guide notes collect birds & insects -

2 my letters will be very useful, as I hear the Dutch there
are not too friendly to foreigners - I hear there is a
route to Panama for Sydney - via Wellington
but there may be a more direct route for Singapore
I am sending some notes on the mammals up here but
I have an idea I saw the *Peromyscus* notes before.
Are there any papers or books on mammals & birds
for islands or places near Java - or even notes on
collections - please send me anything that there is on
anything the way of a guide notes collecting birds is
interesting - I'd be very glad of anything in that way to
give me some idea of what there is to get - I hear there is
a very dense population on the island, I have by notes
on birds collected are here chiefly on *Distribution*
I wonder if Mr Grant would like to see them - I
would be a full list of a corrected list of the birds I
have already got out here. I have had my bad accounts
of Suva - the rainfall is less than I have ^{heard} - the place
is said to be a hot desert with no fresh water & a supply
entirely from rain.

Telegraphic Address,
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(8).

Carnarvon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

189

But I shall find out more about that when I go south
there is only a telegraph station there now. a bottle of
call there ^{any} three months to leave provision - you see
it is not ^{near} far enough east to get into the South Australian
zone which begins in the Lake District & two feet
into the zone for W.A. as it is outside the
British rainfall area. It ends just beyond Esperance
if I go I shall have to stop three months which even
the time is like - & as man as I met at once there
tells me. Not beyond my old struggles of red kangaroo that
is really a great but rabbits - I never has been at Esperance
before. I will find out what to get there when I leave.
as the rock valley to get on the islands the same as
I got at Beaufort - they both leave Carnarvon on the
20th of the month. - I had heard from Mr. Bilson
since his return from Jamaica - I wrote to him some
time back.

... are. - dit ends just beyond Esperance
If I go I shall have to stop three months at least
The place is like - a man who I met was once there
tells me. Not beyond my old staples of red kangaroo there
is nothing but rabbits - I mean has been a long
while. I will find out what to get there when I leave.
on the road will be to get on the islands the same as
I got at Beaulieu. - My book leaves Cornwall on the
20th of the month. - I haven't heard from Mr. Balton
since his return from Jamaica - I wrote to him some
time back. when I heard of his return. I am a close friend
of his but to Java very much - there is a sailing though the
wind will not be easy to get about. I should have
liked to have been sent to Dirk Hartog to try to get the
best of it. I missed an Bermian - I hear the wallabies
are dying the fast on Dirk Hartog & are only found now
in the extreme north of the island - there is a sheep station
there which probably accounts for this. The Perth merchant says
a very good deal of "Peculiar long eared" of western Charles Bay
which probably came from the islands - Donné told I had seen
find out.

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Telegraphic Address,
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(9)

Carnarvon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

189

I got a letter from you by the last mail.
I am glad there were good things in the Bernier Island collection
& I am looking forward to seeing the papers on my collection.
The white flake on the skulls was only plaster of Paris
I don't use arsenical powder for anything. I use the soap
for large skulls & for the small a mixture of Alum
Salt fels? & naphthalene? as the soap. makes the greasy.
The maps will I expect give you a good idea of the
distribution of the Kangaroo rats you asked about.
I will send a line to my old but I expect the
Jescayne sp's - they will probably come about as soon as
this letter. I shall wait to hear from you about the
the Di. I am afraid there will be much loss of experience -
the Bandicoots skull - from Bernier Island or at least
the fragments of it were in a glass tube - with part of
a mouse skull. I hope you will be able to make out

... Salt felts? + naphthalene? as the soap makes the greasy.
The maps will I expect give you a good idea of the
distribution of the kangaroo rats you asked about.
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Joscayne sps - they will probably come almost as soon as
this letter. I shall wait to hear from you about Eulas
Mr J's opad there would be much lost of experience -
the Bandicoots skull - for remains used or at least
the fragments of it were in a glass tube - with part of
a mouse skull. I hope you will be able to make out
this letter, it seems rather a scribble - truly I fear for
you soon don't seem to start etc.

