

42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
9 August, 1988.

Dr H.J. Lavery,  
Acting Chairman, Raine Island Corporation,  
P.O. Box 190, Brisbane North Quay,  
Queensland 4000.

Dear Dr Lavery,

Thank you for kindly sending me the Annual Reports and other literature on the work of the Raine Island Corporation, which I have read with much interest and will deposit for preservation in my Pacific Islands Library, now housed as a Special Collection in the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide: it has a special section on off-shore islands.

I heard my wife's cousin, Betty Butler, mention Raine Island one day when we were staying with them in Cairns and my interest was immediately aroused because our great friend Sir Albert Ellis often talked about Raine with great affection, not least because his mother was buried there.

Later, after 20 years of living on the coral atolls of the Gilbert Group, without fresh vegetables, fruit or meat (except coconuts and pandanus fruit), we moved to other islands and I eventually joined the Australian National University as Professorial Fellow in Pacific Islands history. Here my connection with Raine was renewed, albeit briefly, when David Stoddart of Cambridge asked me to locate the documentation on a wreck there in the 1860s: a pleasant diversion while working in the Mitchell.

As you possibly know J.T. Arundell founded and was chairman of John T. Arundel and Coy, the company which employed George (the Chemist) and Albert Ellis on Raine and many other islands. Soon after World War II Mrs Sydney Aris, Arundel's daughter, handed her father's diaries and other documentation to me with a view to my preparing a definitive biography of the great man - often called the Cecil Rhodes of the Pacific. The originals of this material have now been deposited in the National Library but I have kept copies of everything on microfilm.

Arundel spent several days on Raine Island in August 1890 and June 1891 and if you thought it useful I could reproduce the more interesting parts of his diary entries, after a brief introduction saying who he was and why he was there, for publication in one of your Annual Reports. It is only a thought in case

you find it difficult to procure historical material on the island to add to the scientific reports.

I enclose a couple of items on Raine Island which I jotted down one day in the Mitchell, as I do not see them listed in any of the Reports. \*

Again many thanks for the literature, and especially for the copy of your own excellent article on the Beacon. The pictures of the lonely tower have a strong emotional impact on an island lover like me, and remind me of other, though less spectacular, artefacts which I found when colonizing the till then uninhabited Phoenix Islands in the Central Pacific during the thirties: such relics create a vivid visual image which never fades.

Yours sincerely,

*Harry Byrnie*

\* I fancy they have been recently removed there from the Parliamentary Library.



Enclosure

Raine Island

V4 B  
RAIN 1  
1

(1)

Fernyhough, W.H. Sections of the Beacon erected on Raines Islet and view of Islet and the Beacon from the N.E. c. 1844-1849. 2 lithographs on sheet 47.3 cm X 62.4 cm. Unsigned. Dated from the building and Fernyhough's death. Titled at lower centre of both sketches.

The same: Lithograph 29.4 cm X 35.9 cm.

Drawn on stone by W.H. Fernyhough.

Liley - lithographer.

SV4B  
RAIN 1  
1

(2)

PX A4358-1

Raine Island Beacon.

Issue cy pos 491.

Macarthur, Sir William  
(comp)

NEGS at ONCY 51.

Raine Island Beacon Torres Straits

Stereoscopic photograph.

(Macarthur, W. - Album of views etc., p.108) pto.

(Macarthur Papers, part IV - Family and personal).



Dr Harry Mand

PO Box 190  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

Raine Island Corporation

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

with compliments

For your interest, at Ken Butler's  
suggestion

Best wishes

Aug Payne





# Raine Island Corporation

Post Office Box 180  
North Quay Brisbane  
Queensland Australia 4002

18 August 1989

Professor Harry Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive  
WESTON A.C.T. 2611.

Dear Professor Maude

What a very great pleasure it was to receive your carefully documented essay on J.T. Arundel and Raine Island! This represents by far the most accurate piece of information we have on this important period of time at the island.

I am sure the Corporation Members will be as interested as I have been to read your conclusions; I shall send them off to Ken Butler immediately, of course!

Thank you for the considerable effort you have put into this work on our behalf. It will be one of the cornerstones of our history of the island as we continue to compile this from the fragmented records. Already, there is a quite sizeable volume of material - far more than might be anticipated from such a tiny place.

I shall keep in touch with you as matters of interest arise. In the meantime, you may enjoy reading the attached.

With warmest wishes

Yours sincerely

(Dr Hugh Lavery)  
ACTING CHAIRMAN



42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
8 August, 1989.

Dr Hugh Lavery,  
Raine Island Corporation,  
Box 190<sup>5</sup>, Brisbane North Quay,  
Queensland 4000.<sup>2</sup>

Dear Dr Lavery,

As promised in my letter of 9 August, 1988, I enclose a little piece on J.T. Arundel and Raine Island for any purpose which you may care to use it for, either in whole or part. I told Ken and Betty Butler that I would do something on the subject in view of my long-standing friendship with the Arundel family through his daughter Mrs Sydney Aris.

I had hoped to be able to reproduce his diary entries, or parts of them, on Raine but when I worked through the entries for 1890 and 1891 I found that in fact there was little on the subject except laconic scraps to remind him about something he had to do; he left the running of the Raine Island operations in the hands of his cousin George, the uncle of Mrs Milne in Wellington.

There was virtually nothing in the nature of quotable quotes, except on such subjects as his addresses to the Sunday School children at Cooktown, and I now know why Aimée Bright, his would-be biographer, made such a mess of her job: she had no raw material to work on.

Alas today's mail brings the news of the death of John Aris jun., the son of Mrs Sydney Aris and grandson of J.T. Arundel of Raine Island fame. The head of the family is now his son Michael, but he is married to Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader in Burma, and is holed up with her under house arrest in Rangoon; and one wonders if either will ever emerge alive from the detestable regime of Saw Maung.

We are off to Adelaide to celebrate our Diamond Wedding with the rest of the family,

Yours sincerely,

*Harry Aris*



## J.T. Arundel and Raine Island

The name most often associated with Raine Island by Pacific historians is that of John T. Arundel, whose London based company exploited the guano deposits there from 1890 to 1892.

Born in 1841, Arundel joined the staff of Houlder Brothers, contractors for carrying immigrants to Australia and New Zealand, who had shipping interests in many parts of the Pacific. In 1860 the company sent him to the Chincha Islands, ostensibly to recover from an illness, and there he acquired his life interest in the guano industry.

Some of his enthusiasm rubbed off on the Directors of Houlder Brothers, who reasoned that if Arundel could find and exploit workable deposits of guano in the Pacific Islands they could develop a lucrative business out of shipping it to Europe and America, where a keen demand had developed in the 1860s.

In 1868, therefore, Houlders sent him on a prospecting trip to the islands and later gave their blessing to his returning there as John T. Arundel and Company, to act as their agents in developing guano interests which he had acquired on Starbuck Island.<sup>1</sup>

From 1870 to 1890 Arundel's company worked successively the guano deposits on Starbuck, Caroline, Christmas, Flint, Sydney, Canton, Enderbury, Baker and Howland Islands, exhausting all the known and available deposits in the Central Pacific and compelling him to move his interests to the Queensland off-shore islands.<sup>2</sup>

It was decided to start by mining the guano known to exist on Raine Island, using the European staff then loading the last of the shipments from Howland. These comprised Arundel's cousin George Ellis (with his wife Annie), their son Albert (known as Bertie) and Messrs Gale, Sunstrom and Murdock, who sailed on the schooner Maile (Capt. W.S. Lane), leaving



Howland on August 2, 1890, and arriving at Raine on the 19th after a fine passage of 16 days.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile Arundel was visiting Melbourne, Sydney and the Queensland ports from Townsville to Thursday Island, investigating local shipping contacts and seeking advice on obtaining a labour force for his operations. Hitherto the company had employed Polynesian labourers from Rarotonga, Niue and Hawaii, but what were locally termed kanakas were no longer permitted to enter Queensland territory and he was advised to employ Chinese or Malays instead; though Filipinos were considered the best workers if obtainable.

In the event Arundel decided to book a passage on the Quetta for Java in the hope of procuring his labour there or in Singapore; but fortunately he missed his connection for she struck a rock after passing Thursday Island and only 128 of the 394 on board were saved. As time was now running short he then took local advice and appointed Burns Philp as his agents, who had no difficulty in engaging all the Chinese he wanted for about £2.10.0 a month with food costing 11/- to 14/-; while white overseers, normally to be avoided as 'very troublesome, were obtainable at £6 a month, with food and accommodation.<sup>4</sup>

Arundel took the first batch of 30 Chinese to Raine himself on the schooner Griffin (Capt. German Harry), arriving on the 23rd August, only four days after the Maile, and a week later the cutter Mercury brought 17 Malays:<sup>5</sup> just in time to save the situation as they proved capable boat workers for loading the guano, whereas the Chinese disliked the sea and refused to wade in water above their knees, but were excellent in the guano diggings and indeed willing to tackle any job ashore.

The apparent absence of potable water proved an initial difficulty. Robinson, of the Jennie Scott, who had lived for some months on Raine in 1879 collecting marine products, had found some indifferent water by digging down to 20 feet 'near the cross', but was eventually forced to get water for himself



and his labour from the mainland.<sup>6</sup> The Ellis party fared no better at first and had to rely on using a 400-gallon tank and a length of galvanized pipe as a makeshift condenser fired by driftwood.<sup>7</sup>

Arundel, however, was accompanied by a Mr Baker from the Customs Department in Brisbane who, while inspecting the guano operations, was able to point out where there was known to be 'good permanent water under some rocks at one end of the island'. It seems probable that this was the source known today as 'Arundel's well'.<sup>8</sup>

Water caused another problem, as the early 90s are still remembered in Queensland as the years of the big floods and the incessant rain made the guano too wet for shipment; as a consequence heating chambers had to be made to dry the guano. 'The Cleveland Foundry [in Townsville], at work on these, is open night and day pressing through the contract'. By mid-1981 six 'furnaces', as they were called by Arundel, were working daily: it was an expensive business as they burnt nearly 2½ tons of coal a day each and required two overseers and up to 40 men to keep the guano moving.<sup>9</sup>

Regular communication with the outside world was maintained by the 10-ton lugger Speedy, which Arundel had chartered from the well-known Cooktown character German Harry to leave Raine Island each week in time to connect with the coastal steamer from southern ports to Thursday Island at the Piper Island Lightship and return with the mail, passengers and any cargo. The system worked well until the Speedy was wrecked at Raine Island during a storm and had to be replaced by other small craft, notably the 30-ton cutter Lizzie, owned and operated by German Harry himself and large enough to visit Cooktown and other mainland ports as well as Piper Island.

This was the only wreck at Raine while Arundel's company was there, despite the absence of an anchorage nearer than five miles away and the fact that the 1,000-1,500 ton ships which



loaded the guano for Europe (or on two occasions for Melbourne) were all sailing vessels. Their trouble-free record was probably due to the excellent moorings laid by George Ellis in a sheltered position as long as the prevailing south-east trades were blowing.<sup>10</sup>

Arundel only visited Raine in person on two occasions: once, from the 23rd August to the 5th September, 1890, to inspect the island and discuss the best way of conducting operations with his cousin George. It was not his custom to interfere with the day to day work on any of his guano islands unless there was trouble, an unlikely event since George Ellis was by far the most experienced island manager in the company service.

The second occasion was on hearing of the sudden death of George's wife Annie, when he stayed on Raine from the 12th July to the 31st August, 1891, to enable his cousin to have a break on the mainland.<sup>11</sup>

Though an attempt has been made by a New Zealand journalist, Aimée Bright, to prepare a biography based on Arundel's diaries they are essentially discrete notes jotted down for his own use, with pages of mathematical calculations, forecasts for months ahead of the probable location of his chartered shipping and details of sermons and addresses he had heard or intended to give, for he was a deeply religious man and had applied to the London Missionary Society in 1872 to be trained as a missionary, only to be told that he was doing a more important work for the church as a prominent Christian entrepreneur and a model employer of island labour.

The whole Ellis family were also devoted Christians and as a result there was seldom any trouble over recruiting or working labour: even on Raine Island the Chinese and Malays were given tracts and gospel stories in their own languages, and the Malays in particular greatly preferred the island life to work on the canefields.



Like other visitors Arundel was fascinated by the lonely beacon and transcribed in his diary some of the graffiti which he found inside the tower:

'27.8.90. Inscriptions inside Beacon -

J.H. Robinson - Gatton - Aug.

A. McCallum - Brig 'Prairie' - 1876.

H.M.S. Challenger - Capt. Nares - Aug. 1874.

H.M.S. Herald - Capt. H.M. Denham - March 1865.

Fresh water at 7 feet. A. Mac.

J. Barnett - New York - Aug. 1876.

H.M.S. Virago - Capt. Bingham - Jan. 1866. 12

After his second departure in 1891 Arundel became immersed in difficulties over Clipperton Island in the far eastern Pacific and ceased to have any direct contact with the operations on Raine, though there were other visitors - notably H.M.S. Egeria and the Hon. John Douglas, British Resident at Thursday Island. The Ellis family, including Albert's elder brother George jun., who had arrived from Howland in November, continued to explore islands on the Great Barrier Reef and in the Gulf of Carpentaria for workable deposits.

The number of workers was scaled down from its maximum of nearly 100 and about the middle of the following year operations on Raine Island were finally terminated with the exhaustion of the remaining commercial deposits, and the staff, labour and equipment were moved first to Rocky Island in the Gulf, then to Lady Elliott Island off Bundaberg, and finally to North West Island and others in the Bunker and Capricorn Groups.

By 1897, with the last of the guano deposits exhausted, the outlook for John T. Arundel and Company looked bleak and it was reconstituted as the Pacific Islands Company to conduct general trading activities in the Gilbert, Ellice and Marshall Islands, which at least enabled it to keep solvent.



Then in 1900, with the discovery of the enormous rock phosphate deposits on Nauru and Ocean Island by Albert Ellis, the youngest of the Ellis team (who was knighted in 1938), all was changed overnight: the trading company became the giant Pacific Phosphate Company (later the British Phosphate Commission); John T. Arundel, often called in later years the Cecil Rhodes of the Pacific, died in 1919 aged 78; he was by then a rich man, and as his friend Lord Leverhulme wrote: 'It is by such as he that the British Empire has been built up'.

#### References

1. Maslyn Williams and Barrie Macdonald, The Phosphateers (Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1985), pp.6-7.
2. Aimée Bright, Biography of John Arundel, unpublished MS, n.d.
3. Torres Straits Pilot and New Guinea Gazette, Sept.13, 1890; Albert F. Ellis, Adventuring in coral seas (Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1936), pp.62-66.
4. John T. Arundel, Unpublished diaries, entries for Feb.12 and 28, 1890.
5. Cooktown Independent, Aug.23, 1890; Arundel, diary entry for Aug.24, 1890.
6. Arundel, diary for Aug.19, 1890.
7. Ellis, p.67.
8. Brisbane Telegraph, Oct.3, 1890, citing Cooktown Courier.
9. Arundel, diary entry for July 16, 1891.
10. Ellis, pp.95-97.
11. Arundel, diary entries for July 3 and 13, 1891.
12. Arundel, diary entry for Aug.21, 1890.





# Raine Island Corporation

Secretary  
Box 190 155  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

22 August 1988

Professor Harry Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive  
WESTON ACT 2611

Dear Professor Maude

Thank you for your encouraging and informative letter of 9 August about Raine Island. We are slowly building a substantial library about the place, but it is still far from complete. The two references you have listed are new to us, and are a most welcome addition because of their original content.

We would certainly be very interested to read Arundels's diary entries for his days on the island in August 1890 and June 1891; these would undoubtedly also make fascinating reading in one of our Annual Reports, if this was permissible.

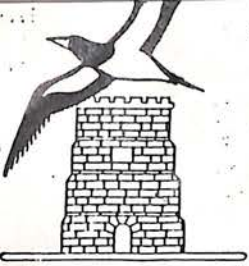
It is not easy to procure such historical material but you will see from the attached copy that we continue to seek relevant data.

I shall keep in touch as we proceed; I hope we shall have the chance to meet some time.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

(Dr Hugh Lavery)  
A/CHAIRMAN



# Raine Island Corporation

Secretary  
Box 190  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

1 August 1988

The Naval Historical Branch  
Naval Staff Duties Division  
Ministry of Defence  
Empress State Building  
Lillie Road  
LONDON SW6 1TR U.K.

Dear Sirs

We are pleased to report that a beacon constructed under the direction of your Admiralty in 1844 on the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef has now been restored as an official Australian Bicentennial Project.

Some items on the beacon and its restoration by a team of master stonemasons are enclosed.

We believe you would be as proud as we are of the extraordinary monument to the fortitude and skills of the men of those times.

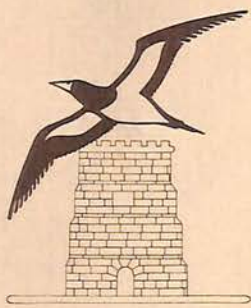
Naturally, we are curious as to the origins of the building's design. Clearly it is not what was originally intended and this is all the more reason that the substantial end-result was copied from a well established plan.

We wonder, then, if you may be able to direct us to an authoritative answer about the place in the tradition of the British Admiralty of such a design. Any assistance you can give us to secure this history would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

(Dr Hugh Lavery)  
ACTING CHAIRMAN





# Raine Island Corporation

Secretary  
Box 190  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

19 January 1989

Professor Harry Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive  
WESTON, ACT 2611

Dear Professor Maude

Further to my letter of 22 August 1988, we are anxious to keep you to the suggestion that you might reproduce some of the more interesting parts of Arundel's diaries for inclusion in the forthcoming Annual Report of the Corporation. We would very much like to include this; there is no immediate hurry, however.

I am pleased to report that all aspects of the beacon's restoration were completed satisfactorily on 8 December 1988. We took the opportunity at that time, with the presence also of the turtle research team, to invite National Geographic's top wildlife cameraman (Mitsuaki Iwago) to complete a contemporary photographic essay of the island. He has since written in glowing terms of his results. I am most hopeful of some splendid publications, and will let you know when these eventuate.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

(Dr Hugh Lavery)  
ACTING CHAIRMAN

10.2.89

Dear Dr Conway.

I am correspond with Joan Milne, Annie Flynn's grand daughter & she is a friend. She has a photo of the baby & will send me a copy. I am hoping that she will also give me something of Annie & Opa's life in the islands.

Mrs Milne is of course very pleased that Raine Island is being looked after & I wondered if it would be possible to send her the Annual Reports for 1981-82 + 1986-87. I would be happy to defray any costs involved.

My husband asks me to thank you for your letter of 19 January - says he will certainly write an article for you when the index of his present book is completed; we expect the page proofs to arrive soon. Perhaps you could give us the deadline date for inclusion in the forthcoming Annual Report?

By a surprising co-incidence, we came across the enclosed card <sup>a few days ago</sup> & thought that it might be suitable for the cover of the Report. As you will see

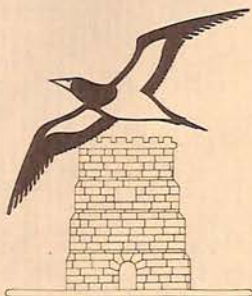
The remembrance of father's picture of the house that he's not forget what became of it.



The original picture is in the National  
Library. N.L. 98013.

Should you need any further copies of the picture I can  
certainly get them for you as they are being sold off for 20 cents  
each at the moment

Aus. 24.3.89



# Raine Island Corporation

Secretary  
Box 190  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

5 March 1989

Mrs H.E. Maude  
Unit 42  
Mirinjani Village  
WESTON A.C.T. 2611

Dear Mrs Maude

How kind of you to send us the very interesting card from the National Library showing the Raine Island beacon in the making! Ken Butler telephoned me in great excitement when he received their copy of the card; certainly we must use it in our next Raine Island Corporation Annual Report. Incidentally, the manuscript for this report is not due until the end of August.

It really is a small world when we are able to make such close connections with the Ellis family. What a great thing it would be if we could publish Annie Eliza's photograph along with extracts about her no doubt fascinating life. I am so pleased that her gravesite is now fully restored, in the shadow of the romantic Raine Island beacon. We are very proud of the restorations.

I have enclosed a set of publications on Raine Island; I wonder if you might like to give these to Joan Milne, for her family records?

There is, of course, much more that we plan to do at Raine Island. The beacon foundations need constant attention; the history of the design of the beacon is now being investigated by the Naval Office in London; the long-term research programme is being comprehensively reviewed by some of the best scientists from around the world; and so on. During the course of the beacon restoration, we were able to take the authority on the Great Barrier Reef (Isobel Bennett) to Raine Island for the first time, and she has written a beautiful piece about its value. We have also had National Geographic's leading wildlife photographer (Mitsuaki Iwago) on the island; he is delighted with his first essay into there and has asked to return. I am much encouraged by this because the island is, in fact, difficult to capture properly on film.

I look forward to our further correspondence. The Members of the Board much enjoy receiving these historic items of news.

With kind regards  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Lavery', with a large, circular flourish at the end.

(Dr Hugh Lavery)



42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
10 May, 1989.

Dr Hugh Lavery,  
Raine Island Corporation,  
Box 190, Brisbane North Quay,  
Queensland 4000.

Dear Dr Lavery,

I enclose the promised photograph of Annie Eliza which I received from Joan Milne about two weeks ago. The lady had a lovely, serene face and it is sad to think how she must have suffered.

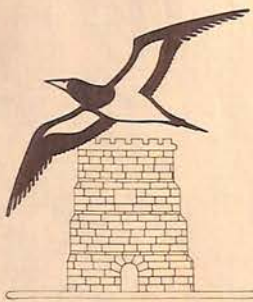
Another letter received yesterday from Joan expresses her thanks for the books which you kindly sent and tells of the tremendous thrill that she got from reading them: it has revived the great interest which she used to have as a girl on everything connected with the island.

We were in the National Library today browsing through J.T. Arundel's Diaries and unearthed some important facts about Raine Island history. We also saw the original picture of the convicts constructing the building; it is much brighter than the reproduction on the card so I took the opportunity to pick up some information on obtaining a copy which I attach.

Yours sincerely,

*Honor Maude.*





# Raine Island Corporation

Secretary  
Box 490 155  
Brisbane North Quay  
Queensland Australia 4000

7th Floor MLC Centre  
239 George Street  
Brisbane  
Telephone (07) 221 3021

16 May 1989

Mrs H. Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive  
WESTON A.C.T. 2611

Dear Mrs Maude

Thank you for the loan of Annie Eliza's photograph; we have now had this suitably copied. I look forward to placing this in due course in the annual report of the Raine Island Corporation, especially if there are some details about her own life (rather than those of Captain Ellis) that Mrs Milne may have.

I am pleased to have the details of photographic services at the National Library and will write to them about the construction photo.

It was intriguing to learn that you had unearthed some important facts about Raine Island history from the J.T. Arundel diaries. Certainly the more that can be found the better; it seems to be endless! I look forward to an interpretation being done of all of the listed graffiti on the beacon walls. We have also written to the Naval Archives in Britain to trace the style of architecture of the beacon; there must be some interesting connections through this.

We enjoy your continuing interest in this fascinating place.

With best wishes  
Yours sincerely

(Dr Hugh Lavery)  
ACTING CHAIRMAN



43/11 Hamatjira Drive,  
Weston 2611

9th July, 1989

Dear Dr Lavery,

I think I have some good news for you. Joan Melne wrote to me recently to let me know that she really is writing something about Annie Eliya's life & that she would send it direct to you. She will also send us a copy.

Thank you very much for returning the photograph.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Honor Maude.



## National Library of Australia

---

ref: 402/14/1022  
date: 14 July 1989  
contact:

Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone (062) 62 1111  
Telegraphic Code Address: Natlibaust Canberra  
Telex Code No. 62100, Facsimile No. (062) 571703  
Telephone Typewriter No. (008) 026372  
Inter-Library Loan Facsimile No. (062) 732719

---

Mrs H. Maude,  
Unit 42,  
Miringani Retirement Village,  
11 Namatjira Drive,  
WESTON A.C.T. 2611

Dear Mrs Maude,

Following our telephone conversation, I am attaching a list of a few references to the erection of a beacon at Raine's Islet in 1844 in the archives of the Hydrographic Department at Taunton. These records have not yet been filmed. You may, however, wish to ask the former archivist of the Hydrographic Department to locate these and any other references and perhaps send you copies. He would, of course, charge a fee. His name and address is:

Lt. Cdr. Andrew David,  
Oak End,  
West Monckton,  
Taunton TA2 8QZ  
Somerset

I am enclosing a copy of the despatch from Sir George Gipps to Lord Stanley, dated 30 April 1844, referring to the erection of the beacon at Raine's Islet.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Powell  
Manuscript Librarian  
Australian Collections and Services



HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

Taunton, Somerset

Surveyors' letters

SL 29      Letters of Capt. F. Blackwood, 1841-46  
Includes letter referring to erection of Beacon at  
Raine's Island.

Letterbooks

1844-45 Letterbook

pp. 69-70      Sir Francis Beaufort to F. Blackwood,  
31 May 1844: Beacon on Raine Island.

pp. 100-1      Sir Francis Beaufort to F. Blackwood,  
1 July 1844: erection of Beacon.

pp. 126-27      Sir Francis Beaufort to F. Blackwood,  
31 July 1844: erection of Beacon.

pp. 374-75      Sir Francis Beaufort to F. Blackwood,  
31 March 1845: survey of environs of  
Raine Island.

1844.  
30 April.

SIR GEORGE GIPPS TO LORD STANLEY.  
(Despatch No. 93, per ship Caledonia.)

My Lord, Government House, 30th April, 1844.

I beg to report to Your Lordship that, on the application of Captn. Blackwood, R.N., Commanding Her Majesty's Ship "Fly," now engaged on the North Eastern Coast of this Colony in making a Survey of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Straits, I caused in the month of March last twenty Convicts to be placed at his disposal, and embarked on board the "Fly," for the purpose of assisting in the erection of a Beacon on Raine's Islet to point out the best passage through the Reef.

Convicts sent  
in H.M. ship  
*Fly* to erect  
beacon on  
Raine's islet.

I at the same time placed also at his disposal a small Cutter of about 70 tons, belonging to the Local Government, which Captn. Blackwood has engaged to return in the same condition as that in which he received her.

The Convicts all volunteered for the service, and no expense will, on account of their employment in erecting the Beacon, be chargeable either on Convict funds or to the Local Government.

Notice issued  
*re* passage  
through  
Torres strait.

I enclose a copy of a Notice\* respecting the passage through Torres Straits, which I recently issued by the advice of Captn. Blackwood; and I have only to add that I conclude Captain Blackwood will have made a full report to the Lords of the Admiralty of his intention in respect to the erection of a Beacon.

I have, &c.,

GEO. GIPPS.

LORD STANLEY TO SIR GEORGE GIPPS.  
(Despatch No. 61, per ship Garland Grove.)

1 May.

Sir,

Downing Street, 1st May, 1844.

Inability  
to give  
employment  
to C. Lewis.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Despatch No. 186 of the 15th November, 1843, reporting on an application made to me by Captain Lewis of the 80th Regiment for employment under Your Government.

I have to request that you will express to Captain Lewis my regret that I can see no prospect of being able to comply with his wishes.

I have, &c.,

STANLEY.

SIR GEORGE GIPPS TO LORD STANLEY.  
(Despatch No. 94, per ship Caledonia; acknowledged by  
lord Stanley, 30th November, 1844.)

My Lord, Government House, 1st May, 1844.

I have the honor herewith to transmit copies of some further papers, which have been laid before the Executive Council on the subject of the occupation of Crown Lands or Squatting in this Colony.

\* Note 61.



42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
5 August, 1989.

Mr Graeme Powell,  
Manuscript Librarian,  
Australian Collections and Services,  
National Library of Australia,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.2600.

Dear Mr Powell,

Many thanks for your very helpful letter 402/14/1022 of the 14th July, on the subject of the erection of a beacon on Raine Island in 1844. My husband and I are most grateful for your list of references to the beacon in the Hydrographic Department's archives at Taunton, and also for the name and address of a local professional searcher.

We shall now importune Commander David to locate, copy and send this correspondence and any other material on Raine Island, together with his account.

We have heard that the correspondence of the British Embassy in Guatemala is also now located in Taunton and, if this rumour should prove correct, Commander David may be willing to search through the years 1892 to 1896 for material relating to the recruiting of Gilbertese labour to work in that country, and thus enable us to finish another paper which has been lying in the 'too difficult' basket.

Yours sincerely,



Honor Maude.



42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
Australia,  
5 August, 1989.

Lt. Cdr. Andrew David,  
Oak End, West Monckton,  
TAUNTON, TA2 8QZ,  
Somerset, England.

Dear Commander David,

Your name has been given to me by Graeme Powell, the Manuscript Librarian of the National Library, when I was enquiring for material relating to the erection of a beacon at Raine Island (Raine's Islet) on the Great Barrier Reef in 1844. Mr Powell thought that you might be willing to search for, have copied and send anything on this subject in the archives of the Hydrographic Department at Taunton.

In the hope that you are willing to further this particular quest I enclose a list of relevant items known to Mr Powell, which however are probably not exhaustive. Your search fee and other charges would be met by cheque on my London bank (the Midland, Poultry and Princes Street); and I attach a copy of the blurb from a recent book, 'Slavers in Paradise: the Peruvian labour trade in Polynesia, 1862-1863', to establish my bona fides.

I am now retired, being 83, and engaged in mopping up the bits and pieces I had no time to complete before. My wife and I leave on the first of September for Adelaide, where there is to be a gathering of the clans to celebrate our Diamond Wedding; apart from that 10 days break we should, D.V., be here in the Canberra Retirement Village where we have a garden flat.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



A.C.F. David,  
Oak End, West Monkton,  
Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8QZ,  
United Kingdom  
Tel: West Monkton (0823) 412547

17 August 1989

To:

Professor H.E. Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston,  
ACT 2611,  
AUSTRALIA

**ACCOUNT**

For research on Raine Island Beacon	
4 hours at £5 an hour	£20.00
Photocopies at cost (56 pages at 28p)	£15.68
Postage	3.91
Total	<u>£39.59</u>

42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston, A.C.T.2611,  
Australia,  
15 September, 1989.

Lt. Cdr. A.C.F. David.  
Oak End, West Monkton,  
Taunton, Somerset TA2 8QZ,  
United Kingdom.

Dear Commander David,

We have now recovered from our Diamond Wedding celebrations and started work again on Monday. I had not realized what a fuss would be made about the event, with telegrams from the Queen, the Governor-General, Prime Minister, his wife and the local Member of Parliament.

Many thanks indeed for all the fine material on the Raine Island beacon. It was much better and more detailed than I could have hoped for and will enable me to write a well illustrated account for the Raine Island Corporation. The lonely beacon on the edge of the Barrier Reef fascinates me and I was glad to read in the last Annual Report that it had been carefully restored.

They have not, however, put back that extraordinary roof which the diagrams you sent show so clearly and I doubt if anyone in Australia knows anything about it. They soon will now, thanks to you.

When this wretched pilot's strike is over we hope to spend a few days in Sydney hunting through the New South Wales archives just in case they have any material on the beacon which might serve to complement your H.O. records. There could even be something on the convicts who did the job and whether they got a remission of sentence in the end. I shall also follow up the other leads which you mention in your letter by visiting the Mitchell Library, which now has the whole of the former Public Library building and is next door to the archives.

We found several of those cards of Porcher's watercolour which you mention in a sale at the National Library for 20 cents each so we bought them for distribution to anyone interested. My wife's cousin Betty Butler of Cairns in North Queensland inherited a swag of money from her uncle Ben Meaker, who owned over a hundred men's clothing stores in England, so she gave a million dollars to found the Meaker's Trust for the perpetual preservation of Raine Island for the birds, turtles and the like who live on or use it: hence our interest in the place.



No need to send excerpts from Denham's Journal for I look forward to reading your book on the voyage of the Herald: I get the MUP publications on the Pacific for passing on to my Pacific Islands Library, which is now housed in a spacious room of its own in the University of Adelaide. The first items are dated 1927 when I began to haunt the Charing Cross Road for anything on the islands; but on reaching the 10,000th item some years ago I could house them no longer but I still go on buying new publications from force of habit.

The Melbourne University Press are also publishing an Australasian edition of my latest book, Tungaru Traditions, this month. It is a collection of the hitherto unpublished field notes and papers of Arthur Francis Grimble on the Gilbert Islands. Grimble was my boss and guru when we first came to live in the Central Pacific atolls in 1929 and would have no doubt prepared them for publication himself; but he got side-tracked into broadcasting for the BBC and writing A Pattern of Islands and its sequel.

Again many thanks - I enclose a cheque to cover your very modest account,

Yours sincerely,

*Harry Myrland*



A.C.F. David,  
Oak End, West Monkton,  
Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8QZ,  
United Kingdom  
Tel: West Monkton (0823) 412547

17 August 1989

Professor H.E. Maude  
42/11 Namatjira Drive,  
Weston,  
ACT 2611,  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Professor Maude,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August and the blurb from your recent book Slavers in Paradise. The latter was quite unnecessary as I know you well from your writing and we have also corresponded in the past when I worked in the Hydrographic Department. One of your early requests to me was the authority for the name of Flint Island. So far I have been unsuccessful, but one of these days I might come across it and if I do I will let you know.

To turn to your request, of course I am delighted to carry out the research you want in the Hydrographic Department and as I had to go in there yesterday I have done just that. I now have a sheaf of photocopies, which I will post tomorrow separate to this letter as 'printed paper' as it be cheaper to post that way. I attach an invoice for the time I have spent on the research (3 hours), the cost of copying, which I regret is very expensive at 28p a sheet and of course postage. As some of Blackwood's letters are rather long I have sometimes only copied the first page and the relevant pages thereafter. There were one or two references of no significance and several letters in duplicate, which I have not copied. I note that in Minute Book No 4 a reference to a letter from Blackwood dated 30 December '1843| (see below), which is not in the Hydrographic Department archives. This may refer to a letter sent to the Secretary of the Admiralty, which, if it survives, will be in the Public Record Office.

In addition to the references that Graeme Powell turned up I found a number of references in our Minute Book No 4. These books contain copies of minutes from Beaufort to other departments of the Admiralty. The corresponding minutes/letters referred to in the Minute Books will be found in the Admiralty or Colonial Office papers in the Public Record Office. I would imagine though that the material I have turned out should be sufficient for your purposes.

Another source which I have copied is the original entry in the Australia Directory, Vol II and one in a pamphlet originally published privately by P.P. King and later by the Hydrographic Department with additions by Blackwood. In this connection I would imagine that something was also published in the New South Wales Government Gazette and in the Nautical Magazine for 1844 or 1845. I would expect that



copies of both of these are held in the National Library or the Mitchell Library. In addition I would expect correspondence between Blackwood and the NSW Government, referred to in his letters, to be held in the Colonial Secretary's correspondence in the NSW Archives, The Rocks, Sydney, where I did some research last year.

We also hold a number of sketches of Raine Island Beacon in our archives drawn by W. Mackay and as they are in pen and ink I have had these photocopied too. It is possible that they might be another sketch on Blackwood's original survey (L4474 on Xq) and also on the Admiralty chart engraved from it, but since I expect that what I have already gathered should be sufficient I have not attempted to follow these two possible leads.

You are no doubt aware that there is a watercolour by Edwin Augustus Porcher of the Fly titled 'Settlement at Raines Islet during the time the Beacon was being built, August 1844' in the National Library, NL28014. The library published it as a card a few years ago and a friend from Canberra sent me it for Christmas 1982 and I have lodged it in my copy of Jukes's Voyage.

Finally you only asked for material relating to the erection of Raine Island Beacon and I have confined my research to that. At the moment I am working on a book, accepted for publication by Melbourne University Press, on the voyage of the Herald, Captain H.M. Denham, which includes comments on Raine Island Beacon in 1859. I enclose copies of the two relevant pages from my MS; I could also send you relevant extracts from Denham's journal if that would be of interest.

I hope that the photocopying and this letter reaches you before you go to Adelaide for your Diamond Wedding celebrations. Congratulations on reaching such a memorable anniversary.

Yours sincerely

*Andrew David*

A.C.F. DAVID