

Friday.

[Late October 1948] 1880

My dear Ron,

I am indeed sorry to hear that my letter from Tsau, giving an account of our work, never reached you. The system is a little precarious and I have known failures before, but it generally works. The letter was handed to a young fisherman, who was supposed to hand it to someone on St. Martin's who would take it across the island to the jetty. There it is given to anyone who, calling with a boat, undertakes (though that is no doubt too strong a word) to post it on arrival at St. Mary's. It cannot be denied therefore that there are opportunities for loss and error!

This time I think we have really got rather an extensive comparison between a large and a small population: allowing size of population and length of life to be calculated for the two sexes in each. It seems to me that it provides much fuller information of the same kind as that got in 1947 (using the same species, *Polysommatus icarus*). The results for the two years could, I feel, usefully be combined into a single account.

Perhaps the best thing will be for me to

make analysis of the data as fully as I can and then send the results to you for your consideration, if you would be so good. Then perhaps we could meet and discuss the whole thing. (It would be grand if you could find the time to come here). And there is so much else I want to talk over with you and to show you. Also, as I think I mentioned, I have what I believe a highly important list for the Isles next year, all told; and I do so want to discuss it with you.

How good of you to have found out about the Maniola paper. I shall be awfully glad to have that out, and it is a real encouragement to know it is on the way. I am writing to tell Jordestad this. I am sure he will be delighted.

Michie is getting on excellently with his mice. It was just like you, my dear Ron, to give him that splendid help and encouragement at that time in the development of his work and ideas when he needed it most. An experience like coming to work with you just then may well make the whole difference to the development of a man's scientific outlook.

Yours truly,  
H. W. H.