

no copy

Brisbane,
Queensland,
Australia.

2.6.51.

My dear Ron,

I am getting a fair idea of the state of genetics out here: wonderful problems, no one to study them. There are, however, two good men in New Zealand. Frankel who has done such splendid work with wheat, and a younger man who used to visit you at Cambridge - Godley. He has an excellent problem in relation to a wild Fuchsia. Three types of flowers that are heterostylous. He is doing both the genetics and ecology in the way we should work.

The best zoologist in Australia seems to me to be Murray at Perth. A physiologist working on endocrine reactions of Mammals, and applying this to classification in a new and intelligent way.

Dobzhansky and I had a happy time together in Brisbane, and went out collecting Drosophila together. I have seen the haunt of the Platypus. I did not see a specimen, but found an occupied hole. I have also lived in a place high up in the tropical rain forest and been able to study some of the best of the Australian birds. I saw there (in addition to many and wonderful parrots), bill-birds, bower birds and found the bower. Experimented with colored discs. It took to play with all the blue and rejected all others. Also great Bush Turkeys: these are mound-builders, my first Megapodidae. But the chief triumph was to see Albert's Lyre Bird, after hearing its incredible mimic performance many times.

On the way out here, I had a

If anything is enclosed, letter will be sent by ordinary mail.

Third fold here

England
Cambridge

44, Stoury Way,

Professor R. A. Fisher F.R.S.

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE AIR LETTER
1951
7

BY AIR MAIL
10
TO OPEN USE
DANE

First fold here

Had an interesting time at Cairo, and crossed
the Sahara to Alexandria. I also spent the
afternoon with the director of Excavations at
Sakkarah and saw the wonderful new
finds there. I also visited, and lectured
in, Delhi and Calcutta. Had some
time in Singapore and Darwin (in
tropical north Australia), and then
went to Perth. In New Zealand
was the guest of the government, attended
the Congress in Christchurch, and saw a
good deal of both Islands. At the
end of June I shall attend the meetings
of the Society for the Study of Evolution
at Berkeley (San Francisco). Later
I shall go to Cold Spring Harbor.

Now I am off to the remote
and interior of Queensland, before
trips to Sydney, Melbourne, and
Canberra. There will be so much to
tell you.

Yours truly,
H. S. Gentry