

May 14 1890

My dear Sir,

Accept my best thanks for your kind & friendly letter and for the invitation therein contained. I am quite prepared to entertain the idea of writing a book for your 'Contemporary Science Series' –

I would much like to hear what suggestions you have to offer on the matter. Personally I rather incline to a general work on Anthropology written from a biological point of view and not as is usually done. from the 'anthropological' standpoint

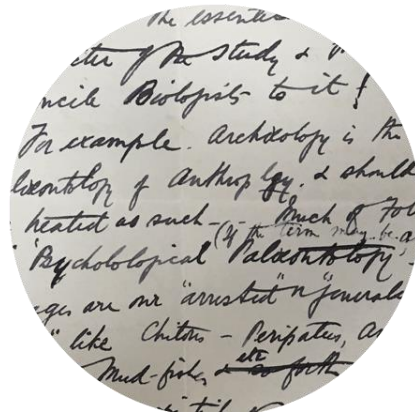
Haddon to Ellis, May 14, 1890,
Haddon Papers, Folder 3, Cambridge University Library.
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I think it should be possible to bring out the essentially geological character of the study & thus help to reconcile Biologists to it!

For example. Archaeology is the Palaeontology of Anthropology, & shall only be treated as such. Much of Folk-lore (If the term may be allowed)

is 'psychological Palaeontology'. ^ Savages are an "arrested" or "generalised type," like Chitons – Peripatus, Amphioxus, ~~xxx~~ the Mud-Fish & so forth etc. The Geographical distrib. of man has many correspondences ~~analogies~~ with that of animals waves of migration. Insular ~~types~~ ^ forms persistence of low types in the fag ends of continents. Pygmies in



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the Andaman & in Central African forests. Australians comparable with their own Kangaroos – The geographical distribution of manufactures & especially that of art is now interesting me - & I am making a special study of Papuan art, & its local developments, its evolution & devolution.

The development of customs, & beliefs, ceremonials & so forth of handicrafts & fabrication are embryological features.

If you think this line of thought worth following out I will ~~draw up~~ ^ articulate a skeleton for you. (, should you desire it,

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In writing a general anthropology one would be putting oneself in direct comparison with Tylor & his little ^{imagine} ~~fancy~~ ^ and most excellent book; but I ^{imagine} ^ that ^{^ such a} as I have sketched out ~~my~~ book ^ should have ~~xx~~ so sufficiently an xxxx as causing distinct ~~scheme~~, to avoid ~~xxxx~~ any unpleasantness.

I know the books already published in your series. I am much pleased with them. In Geddes & T.- Taylor & Gomme's there is a distinct influence of the Zeitgeist. The first and the last certainly appreciate the practical value of their ^{ion} ~~ing institution~~ . I am increasingly seeing the importance of anthropological work and heartily echo your wish "to cooperate in any movement for putting anthropology in England in its proper position.

Believe this to be - yours vly faithfully
A. C. Haddon