

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TELEPHONE: 50451

TELEGRAPHIC ADD: UNIVSPORE.

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD

SINGAPORE, 10.

REF:

27 November 1964.

Mr. A.J.N. Richards,
Centre of South Asian Studies,
Laundress Lane,
Cambridge, U.K.

Dear Mr. Richards,

I've read your interesting letter to Mr. Johnson, and would like to suggest that when you have the time you might not consider whether you could ~~write~~ write a monograph or slim book of 60,000 words on the Ibans. There is a world-wide University and Institutional interest, if smallish as yet, in sociological and anthropological and generally cultural works on the people of South-East Asia, and our narrow specialized studies - on the Chinese in Province Wellesley, for example - sell around 1,000 to 1,500 copies. A scholarly study of aspects of Iban history, life, custom and culture I am sure would meet a similar if greater demand.

There would not be much money in it, the normal royalty is 10% of the sold price, but I do not imagine it is this aspect of it that interests you as much as making a contribution to scholarship.

I hope to call on Professor Eric Stokes, and Victor Purcell in Cambridge this February, and perhaps I could drop round to Laundress Lane and see you then to chat about this? Perhaps we could exchange reminiscences of Thom Harrison as well? You might *also* be able to help me with my research into the Straits

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Steamship Co. as you may have some knowledge of its subsidiary, The Sarawak S. Co?

Best of luck with your Centre.

Yours sincerely,

K. Tregonning

K.G. Tregonning,
Raffles Professor of History.

Printed by Liang Bros. Co., Singapore, I.

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Singapore Post Office, Singapore.

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HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE.

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD

SINGAPORE 10.

FORM APPROVED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL MALAYA No. 5-2

BY AIR MAIL

AÉROGRAMME
AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

Mr. A.J.N. Richards,

Centre of South Asian Studies,

Laundress Lane,

Cambridge, U.K.

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To open cut here

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TELEPHONE: 50451

TELEGRAPHIC ADD: UNIVSPORE.

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD

SINGAPORE, 10.

REF:

9th November 1964

Mr. A.J.N. Richards
Parkside, Womersley
Guildford, Surrey
U.K.

Dear Mr. Richards

Mr. Sutter of the Asia Foundation in Jesselton mentioned to me last week that you had been enquiring about publication possibilities for your work. The University of Malaya Press is particularly interested in publishing research material on Malaysia, and as one of the publication committee I write to suggest that you give us an outline of what you are doing. We are assisted by the Asia Foundation; and we have a steady publication program. You may be aware of some books already published by us, printed and distributed by Oxford University Press.

Our Secretary is Mr. F. Johnston, The Library, University of Singapore. I suggest you send him an outline of your research, or if you have a manuscript on Dayak adat, give details and enquire whether it could be considered. I am sure it would be.

Yours sincerely,

K. Tregonning

K.G. Tregonning
Raffles Professor of History

Wrote Johnston.

Ask this

19.11.64

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AEROGRAMME
AIR LETTER

BY AIR MAIL

AÉROGRAMME

AIR LETTER

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25 NOV 1964
-U-

Mr. A.J.N. Rich

Parkside, Womersley

Guildford, Surrey

U.K.

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History

DEPARTMENT

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE.

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD

SINGAPORE 10.

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD
SINGAPORE 10

3th November 1964

Mr. A.J.N. Richards
Parkside, Womersley
Guildford, Surrey
U.K.

Dear Mr. Richards

Mr. Sutter of the Asia Foundation in Jesselton mentioned to me last week that you had been enquiring about publication possibilities for your work. The University of Malaya Press is particularly interested in publishing research material on Malaysia, and as one of the publication committee I write to suggest that you give us an outline of what you are doing. We are grateful if you can send us a foundation; and we have a steady publication program. You may be aware of some books already published by us, printed and distributed by Oxford University Press.

Printed by Liang Bros. Co., Singapore, I.

BORNEO LITERATURE BUREAU

Sponsored by the Governments of Sarawak and North Borneo

KUCHING

SARAWAK

In your reply please quote

Ref:

20th October, 1964.

Your Ref:

Dear Mr. Richards,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th October. I guessed that you must be asking the Asia Foundation for assistance for manuscripts other than those which you are working on for us.

2. I was very glad indeed to hear that you have found a full-time post at Cambridge. I am sure you must be very pleased about this as it appears to offer interesting and rewarding work for you.

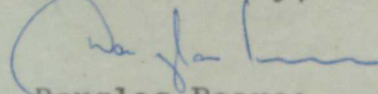
3. I was also glad to hear that your new appointment is unlikely to affect your ability to get on with the other things that you are undertaking for us.

4. We had a postcard from Fatimah Hasbie the other day, and her address is 27, Hillcrest Road, South Woodford, London, E.18. She mentioned she hoped to find a job soon.

5. We shall look forward to hearing from you again later on.

Kindest regards to yourself and Daphne.

Yours sincerely,


Douglas Pearce

Mr. Anthony Richards,
Parkside,
Womersley,
Guildford,
Surrey.

DEP/LYS

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AIR LETTER

AEROCORRANGE

ON GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Stamp
here

20th October, 1964.

Mr. Anthony Richards,
Parkside,
Wonerah,
Guildford,
Surrey, England.



BORNEO LITERATURE BUREAU

Sponsored by the Government of Sarawak and Borneo

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IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Your Ref.

Dear Mr. Richards,

Thank you for your letter of 10th October. I guessed that you must be working the Asia Foundation for assistance in transcribing other than those which you are working on for us.

I was very glad indeed to hear that you have found a full-time post in Cambridge. I am sure you must be very busy at this as it appears to offer interesting and rewarding work for you.

Sender's name and address:—

I was also glad to hear that your new appointment is unlikely to affect your ability to get on with the other things that you are undertaking for us.

We had a postcard from Fatimah Hasbi the other day, and her address is 27, Hillcrest Road, South Woodford, London, E.18. She mentioned she hoped to find a job soon.

We shall look forward to hearing from you again later on.

Kindest regards to yourself and Daphne.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Pearce

Mr. Anthony Richards,
Parkside,
Wonerah,
Guildford,
Surrey.

DEP/LYS

To open cut here

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

LIBRARY

TELEPHONE: 2815

TEL. ADD: UNIVSPORE.

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD,
SINGAPORE, 10.

REF: 64/PC.4306

16 December, 1964.

Mr. A.J.N. Richards,
Centre of South Asian Studies,
University of Cambridge,
Laundress Lane,
CAMBRIDGE,
UNITED KINGDOM.

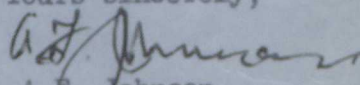
Dear Mr. Richards,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 November, 1964. I am glad that Professor Tregonning was able to contact you, with a view to getting some of the results of your research in Sarawak published by the University of Malaya Press.

I would suggest that you prepare a script of say 60,000 words on the Ibans. From your account of material already collected, you should be able to make a book-length study of Iban customs, traditions and culture. There is a worldwide scholarly interest in the peoples of South-east Asia, and a monograph directed towards University readers, either under-graduate or research, should arouse considerable interest.

It is too early to make an approach to the Publications Committee. If you are able to provide an outline of the proposed script and some indication of progress, I will be glad to submit your proposals with a view to acceptance when the script is completed.

Yours sincerely,


A.F. Johnson,
Secretary,

Publications Committee.

BY AIR MAIL

AÉROGRAMME
AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

M 3

Mr. A.J.N. Richards,

Centre of South Asian Studies,
University of Cambridge,

Laundress Lane, CAMBRIDGE,

UNITED KINGDOM.

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Printed by Liang Bros. Co.,
Singapore, 1.

Sender's name and address:-

UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

LIBRARY

BUKIT TIMAH ROAD,

SINGAPORE, 10.

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THE ASIA FOUNDATION
Room 408 Wing On Life Building
Jesselton, Sabah
Malaysia

30 September 1964

Mr. A.J.N. Richards
Parkside, Womersley
Guildford, Surrey
ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Richards:

Further to my letter of 7 September, I have to inform you that since your letter of 27 July referred to the Sarawak Government's request to you to construct an Iban/English dictionary, the Sarawak Government was consulted in this matter. They have informed me that "all arrangements for publication, etc. of the dictionary will be made through the Borneo Literature Bureau." Since The Asia Foundation has provided the Literature Bureau with its Publishing Fund, the Sarawak Government suggests that you might submit any requests through the Director of the Borneo Literature Bureau so that they might be properly considered.

Sincerely yours,

John O. Sutter
John O. Sutter
Representative (Eastern Malaysia)

*See Dic.
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heale rule.*

SS.

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Mr. A.J.N. Richards

Parkside, Womersley

Guildford, Surrey

ENGLAND

Sender's name and address:

The Representative
The Asia Foundation
Room 408 Wing On Life Building
Jesselton, Sabah
Malaysia

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OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Form approved by the Postmaster General, No. 91.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION
Room 408 Wing On Life Building
Jesselton, Sabah
Malaysia

7 September 1964

Mr. A.J.N. Richards
Parkside, Womersley
Guildford, Surrey
ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Richards:

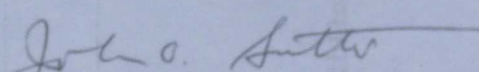
Thank you for your interesting letter of 27 July referring to an intention to continue publishing ethnological work on Sarawak and enquiring into the possibility of Asia Foundation assistance. I regret that at this stage I am not able to give you a positive answer. As a general rule, the Foundation seldom is able to support scholarly publications on Asian subjects by persons abroad. However, there may be extenuating circumstances.

Could you be a bit more specific as to what you have in mind as to (1) the format of the publications (independent books; articles in scholarly journals--if so, which ones; contributions to the Sarawak Museum Journal; reports or monographs published by the Sarawak Government Printing Office; etc.); and (2) the type of assistance sought? If you seek our good offices in finding potential publishers in Asia or the United States, I'm afraid that we can hardly suggest any more institutions than yourself may already be aware of (including some with which you may already be in contact, such as Cornell University). You might however, wish to write The Asia Society, Inc., 112 E. 64th St., New York 21, New York, which serves as a clearing house in the United States for persons and organizations interested in Asia.

If financial assistance is sought, we would appreciate receiving some indication of the expense items envisioned and the approximate amounts therefor.

Once we have a clearer picture of what you have in mind, we should be able to give you a definite reply.

Sincerely yours,


John O. Sutter
Representative (Eastern Malaysia)

Sender's name and address:

The representative
The Asia Foundation
Room 408 Wing On Life Building
Seselton, Sabah

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Mr. A. J. N. Richards

Patricia, Womersley c/o Summer Camp
Guildford, Surrey King's College,
ENGLAND CANTERBURY

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE.
IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Form approved by the Postmaster General, No. 91

BY AIR
PAR A
AIR LE
AEROGRA

PEACE CORPS

Washington, D. C. 20525

August 5, 1964

Rec'd Aug. 10.

Mr. A. J. N. Richards
Parkside
Wonersh
Guildford,
Surrey, England

Dear Mr. Richards:

Your letter of July 28 addressed to Northern Illinois University has been forwarded to me here in Washington.

Your work in Sarawak, particularly in respect to customary land tenure, is a subject which interests me greatly and I personally would be most interested in getting acquainted with you and reading some of your work as it becomes available. I am also quite certain that Peace Corps Volunteers could be better prepared with respect to the mores and values of the Iban people. Unfortunately, we have too few persons in this country who are possessed of any degree of expertise on the people of Borneo.

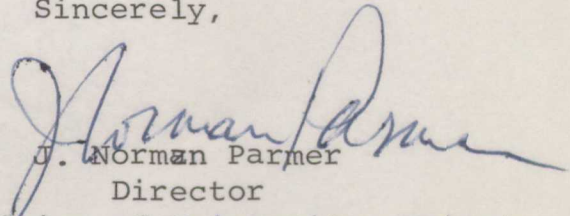
I do not see how it would be possible for you to share your knowledge and experience with our Volunteers. All of our Peace Corps training programs are held in this country and with the exception of a handful of Malayan language instructors brought from Malaya, funds are not available for visiting lecturers from abroad. If you were to visit this country for other purposes, I am certain that the persons in charge of the Peace Corps training program at Northern Illinois University would be keenly interested in asking you to participate.

I have for the past year been on leave from Northern Illinois University to work for the Peace Corps here in Washington. I anticipate returning to the University within the next four or five weeks and intend to resume my teaching and administrative responsibilities there. Perhaps you know that we have a small

Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The Center likes to engage persons, particularly from abroad, to teach and lecture to the extent that funds are available. Although I cannot be very optimistic at this time, perhaps at some future date it would be possible to invite you to the United States to lecture in the geography or history departments.

I should like to make your acquaintance. Perhaps we will have a chance to meet sometime. I should like to keep in touch with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Norman Parmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Norman Parmer

Director

Division of University, Private
and International Cooperation

28th. July, 1964.

Parkside,
Wonersh,
Guildford,
Surrey,
England.

Pelzer

Professor Wolters of Cornell University, whom I knew at Oxford, has suggested that I make myself known to you.

I am retiring next month from H.M. Overseas Civil Service after twenty-six years' service in Sarawak. My children are asking for a home where we can be together and they have a right to expect this.

For the last three years I have been assigned tasks with the land legislation. After reporting upon customary land tenure, I was a member of a committee set up to advise as to the combination of the customary tenure with the existing imported land law. Finally, I assisted in the drafting made necessary, and explained the proposals to local government bodies in various languages all over the country.

Throughout my service I have been interested in the Ibans and, to a lesser extent, in the Malays. The Ibans now happen to be among those in the forefront of resistance to troublemakers in the area. Now I find myself possessed of a quantity of notes and material on folklore custom and customary law, and little prospect of having the time or the means to work upon them.

I have been asked by the Government of Sarawak to construct a new Iban dictionary, but it is to be complete within the year and I cannot therefore make such a good job of it as I could wish. Too great a striving after perfection, however, can prevent production altogether.

Besides material on legends and tales, custom, ritual and religion of the Ibans, I have a long rhymed family history of the Malay migration to the Saribas which I must yet translate and annotate.

This sort of material is fast becoming irreplaceable because ways of life change so much: without it, people are left without tradition and helpless. Further, people who wish to help them adapt to the present have the more difficulty in understanding them and their problems.

There are, of course, gaps in my knowledge which has been gained incidentally to the regular work of a District Officer, Resident and Magistrate, and in spare time out of private interest in the subjects involved. I am interested in using it by making it available to others who may need it, and I shall be glad to hear of any way in which this could be accomplished.

Y.S.

(A.J.N.Richards)

Professor Karl J. Pelzer,
Director of Southeast Asia Studies,
Yale University,
New Haven,
Connecticut,
United States of America.

(Enclosed Dayak Adat Law in the
Second Division)

Wolters

Parkside,
Womersley,
Guildford,
Surrey, England.

27th, July, 1964.

Dear W.

I apologise for delaying so long in acknowledging your letter of the 26th. June and in thanking you for taking so much trouble on my behalf. You will see that we have moved house in the interval. After a fortnight's hard work there is now more space and our quarters are generally more civilised. I also spent a few days sailing up the East coast with an old friend: both of us needed the fresh air and hard work, particularly my companion who has been heavily involved with the troublesome affairs of East Africa since the New Year.

I have written to the people to whom you suggested I should write, and now the postmen's dispute has been settled the mails will begin to move at normal speeds again.

Fortunately we are able to enjoy real summer weather and have no necessity to be out on the crowded roads. With the children home for the holidays there is, however, little incentive to stay indoors with books.

Y.S.

A.R.

Prof. O.W. Wolters
Prof. of S.E. Asian History
Cornell Univ.
Ithaca
New York
U.S.A.

PARVEL

28th. July, 1964.

Parkside,
Wonersh,
Guildford,
Surrey,
England.

I have been in touch with Professor Walters of Cornell University, who suggested that I should write to you about myself and my experience.

I obtained a degree in the Honour School of Modern History at Oxford in 1937 and, since 1938, I have served as an Administrative Officer in Sarawak. Until 1955, when I was appointed Resident of a Division, my service has been in small stations where I began to take a particular interest in the Ibans. I am now retiring from H.M. Overseas Civil Service at the age of forty-nine in order to set up a home for my children for the first time.

During the last three years I was assigned to work on the land legislation. After reporting on customary land tenure, I was made a member of a three-man committee set up to advise the Government. For the last year I have been Chairman of a Working Party to solve practical problems arising out of the proposals: this included helping with the drafting and explaining the proposals to the public. They were intended to facilitate economic development which is now, most unfortunately, being frustrated by the present trouble in the area.

My interest centres in the Ibans but extends to the area generally. The Borneo Literature Bureau has published a few small efforts of mine in addition to the official reports published by the Government. I have now been asked to attempt a new dictionary of the Iban language in the short time of nine months.

I have a collection of legend and stories, with material for further work on law and custom, and also a family history of the first Malay settlers in the Saribas. I hope to find time to work up this material but the immediate necessity of educating four children may well delay the work.

I have only had casual contact with members of the Peace Corps serving in Sarawak, but I found that some, particularly those

providing technical services in remote places, could have used far more information on the Ibans and local people generally than was available to them.

(A.J.N.Richards)

Professor J. Norman Parmer,
The Department of History,
Northern Illinois University,
DeKalb,
Illinois,
United States of America.

Sutter

Parkside,

Wonersh,

Guildford,

Surrey, ENGLAND.

27th. July, 1964.

Dear Doctor Sutter,

After nearly twenty-six years' service as an Administrative Officer in the Government of Sarawak, I am retiring next month in order to set up a more permanent home for my family. I shall have to obtain employment, having four children to educate, but do not wish the knowledge I have acquired of Sarawak and of the Ibans to go to waste. Also I believe it is important, especially now, that any information leading to an awareness of tradition and inter-racial understanding be made available.

Some few of my efforts have been published by the Borneo Literature Bureau and as official reports by the Government Printer. The Sarawak Government have now asked me to construct a new Iban Dictionary with an English/Iban vocabulary by next April.

I have a collection of Iban legends and stories, besides material for further work on custom and law. I have also a long family history of the Saribas Malays which is of interest. All these things require a great deal of time and work to get them into a form fit for publication and I am keen to go on with the work if I can.

Professor Wolters of Cornell University has suggested I write to you to enquire whether the Asia Foundation would be interested in assisting me in any way.

Yours sincerely,

A.J.N.
(A.J.N. Richards)

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

26 June 1964



DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES
SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM

Mr. A.J.N. Richards
Chestnut Cottage
Chelwood Gate, Sussex, England

Dear Richards:

You may have gathered by now that I am no longer at SOAS. I was delighted to hear from you again and remember very vividly the year we spent together at Oxford.

I have taken the liberty of mentioning your interests at Cornell and three suggestions have been made. Your name is, of course, well known here. Moreover, we have heard about you from the Morrises and also from Tom Harrisson.

One, that you should write to Professor J. Norman Parmer about yourself and your interests. He is a high ranking official in the Peace Corps and is interested in Peace Corps training. His address is Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Two, you should write to Dr. John O. Sutter c/o The Asia Foundation, Post Run, Jesselton, Sabah, Malaysia, and inquire whether the Asia Foundation is interested in making a subvention towards the publication of some of your work.

Third, write to Professor Karl J. Pelzer, Director, Southeast Asia Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

O. W. Wolters

O. W. Wolters
Professor of Southeast
Asian History

W.
Wolters

OWW:he

All three drafted.

Back 27.7.

ember, 1964.

Centre of South Asian Studies,
(University of Cambridge),
Landress Lane,
Cambridge, England.

Dear Mr Johnston,

I have recently retired after 26 years in the Sarawak service, and have collected material of various kinds, mostly about the Ibans. I have had several things published in Sarawak and have just submitted a selection of Iban poetry to the Borneo Literature Bureau to be published for secondary schools.

I have also undertaken for them a new Iban dictionary.

Professor Tregonning heard my name from Dr Sutter in Jesselton and has been good enough to suggest that I write direct to you to say what I am doing. The answer for the moment is "very little". I have been appointed Secretary-Librarian to this new Centre, which is still being built up from nothing, and I have not yet solved problems of house-hunting in winter and generally settling in a strange land behind the North Wind.

However, I have material which will have been a great waste of time if I fail to work it into readable form:-

- (a) notes on Iban customary law, customs, etc., which would easily make a series of short articles, but might be used to expand what I have already done briefly on adat;
- (b) Iban tales and legends, riddles, etc., in note form;
- (c) a sha'er of a family history of the Saribas Malays, needing translation and annotation, and
- (d) some longish Iban texts.

I have recently met Mr J.G.N. Brown, publisher to the O.U.P., who said what I imagine you will say: that I should submit at least the first few chapters of some work for consideration before anything definite can be said or done at all. If, however, you could find the time to suggest which particular line of country I should follow to accord with the policy of the Press, what form it should be in and to what sort of readers it could most usefully be directed, I shall be most grateful.

Y.S.
4 July