

12/1.91. Zu den Akten

E. 46 50/91.

12/1/91

Grünwald

Singapore 15/12/90

My dear Herr Grünwald
I leave for the jungle tomorrow
afternoon via the Mantra tribe and on to
the "Negritos". Accidents excepted, I shall not
have any opportunity of writing you for the
greater part of next year I suppose, but I shall
have something worth writing about when I do
re-appear. I should have been off a fortnight ago but
my Dyaks associated a party of Malays, & cut them
rather severely with their parangs and I was detained
getting my men out of the grip of the police, so that to-
day calling to say good bye to the German Consul, I
received your 2 letters, to my very great pleasure. I am
very gratified that you approve of the collection sent.
But at the same time beg of you, to fully understand
that my notes are very slight as yet, because I
desire, above all, to send you such reliable and
trustworthy information that no later traveller can
correct them. I am endeavouring to give nothing on
hurry or slight knowledge, and to be perfectly sure
that all I say is accurate, so that the great bulk of
my notes will be sent to you later on. It is for
this reason that I have not yet sent you any
sketches or skeletons. These however will, I hope
begin very shortly, as I now know where the
absolutely genuine articles may be obtained.

The fringe or belt of mixed, half wild Sakai
between the Malay and the pure blooded
orang Utans have been the great difficulty
as these half bloods, though in manner
and appearance so much like the real wild
man, are worthless as specimens of a
genuine Sakai of any of the five tribes.

I note your instructions as to the
photographs and thought I cannot possibly
take a camera with me this trip into
country absolutely unknown to European
or Malay. yet I shall obtain them later.
I am starting for this long trip with
only a couple of shirts, a light small sick
tent, soap, matches and a parang. For
the two months after I leave the Mission
(protecting the Maratras), I must go alone
from Sakai to Sakai camps, through rivers
swamps & jungle & over the hills, carrying
my property on my own back & trusting to
food & food in the jungle, till I reach
the Helantan river. There is no other way
of doing it. I cannot depend on Sakais carrying
anything. I dare not take Malays or Quaks
among the savage Lirimeor or Pangghar.
So that till I have made arrangements.

for portage on the return journey. I must
go just as the wild man goes. My large boat
and the Dyaks will meet me at Bangkok
in Linn and the men will go with
me from Patani on the long march
down the peninsula but will be on
a line near Malay territory while I, alone,
take one more West in Siam territory.
They will stop at every river they come to
tell to with my collection, ^{Sakai carried meaningfully} drop down to them
on a raft. They take on my collection to the
next river and I return up stream to the
Sakais on my line of march till I meet
the next river (all rivers run East to the
sea on that side) and repeat the arrangement.
It will be from this how difficult it
is to carry much till this ground is
familiar. Much of what I want to go this
time is new to me & utterly unknown
to either European or Malay. If I took an
armed force I should never see a Sakai
though in the midst of their country.
Hence the difficulty and delay. A solitary
man can get over a little ground in
a week but in overgrown Siam this
at first I was just a little concerned
12. 4. 1891. I shall see one, but

I suppose that they get plenty of pig & deer & are not savagely hungry. It was two or three months before I could sleep soundly when alone in the jungle, & hearing a tiger's call not very far off, (as I cannot carry a gun as it would impede me too much) but I have become more used to it now. Otherwise, (and excepting the elephants) it is pleasant enough if one can keep a dry shirt to put on at night. Leeches and mosquitos one gets, of course, but they are everywhere here. I hope, in the far north, to do some good work, as no white man has gone there before. The Sakais, themselves, I like very much & get on well with them. I anticipated travelling back into Singapore with no more clothing on than a Sakai, in which case I shall get a friend to photograph me & send it you as an illustration of life in the far East. At any time, in the jungle I never wear shirt or coat in the day time so it will only be discarding boots and substituting a waist cloth for trousers. This is just a gossipy letter to your private ear to whom I send all good wishes.

Truly C. Vaughan-Stevens

P.S. Thanks for the prompt £50 in return