

Southampton  
21st June 1961

Dear Tom,

Sorry for the long silence - the term has more  
gone too well.

First let me congratulate you on your D.Sc. I  
was delighted to hear about it.

I hope that you got Dunn back safely. I  
posted it the morning before you telephoned me. I re-read  
it after getting your letter and also read some other books  
on emigration to Nova Scotia which made me sure  
that my previous impression of the main trends of  
immigrations into Cape Breton Island were correct. Dunn  
selects good quotations whose dates fall later than the  
main stream of immigrants to Inverness county.

My notes on Cape Breton Island are not yet written  
up, but here is a draft of the chapter. I am not happy  
about it yet, particularly about the section on steps  
and the four handed reel. But I should like to ~~work~~  
see it worked into the form of the rest of the book so I  
won't do anything to it until I've seen that again.  
It looks to me to be about the right length.

I enclose a note on Wyresdale Greensleeves dance.

I am going to Greece in July and should be  
delighted to join you in a trip to Shetlands in September  
after the colloquium. Considering the shortness of time flying all the way  
will be best so long as we can get transport there.

I think that Roger Maniott is doing the society a good service though not perhaps in the way that he thinks, he is. I know that many of his signatories do not agree with his proposals, but merely wish to give the executive a jolt. So long as the old guard can be persuaded not to go into a great huff and the younger can ~~can~~ be taught the background to the dance which shows just how stupid most of the Playford / ethnic / traditional / American arguments are there is a hope that a new director might put the society on its feet again. ~~By~~ Contrary to R.M., I believe that the new director will create the new executive and not the other way round. I hope to be in London for the meeting, though it is just before I go off to Greece. I saw Douglas three weeks ago, and he is not despondent about it, though I was told that he is extremely sad that the society should have got itself into a position where such a meeting was possible.

My course at Whit went well, but all the wrong people were there, so all the lectures had to be rewritten. I reviewed dance from 1250 to 1900. There is no such thing as folk-dance! I think that it is time that a popular history of dance in England concentrating on survivals of once fashionable dances ~~was~~ was produced. The society needs it badly. It would do a lot more good than an extraordinary general meeting. When you see RM don't forget to quote the sordid facts of the Siolbury book.

No new material has come up. I have not been able to get away at all, though there are lots of things that I should love to do. I am now spending to the end of term cleaning up papers which have accumulated over the term. We are all heavily involved in Prof Thwaiter's discussions on the lack of mathematicians - and I am preparing to take over as external examiner for our training colleges from next year. Fortunately the work on the new building is progressing quietly at present. We have enough departmental meetings about the reorganisation of the courses to keep us busy.

Yours

Frank