

Southampton

18th January 1965

Dear Tom,

The meeting on Friday was interesting. It remains to be seen what will come of it. It originated in a suggestion from the EFSS development committee - specifically from Richard Wood. Douglas opened with lots about academic respectability, and <sup>the</sup> need to counterbalance over-intellectualisation. (No, I don't understand it either.)

Mr Gristie (?), of the Anthropological Society, spoke of a scheme to bring a number of 'human science' societies into one building with joint library and joint admin. to form a unit which might attract government support, and suggested that a "folk <sup>study</sup> centre" might find a home there. Mrs Lake Barnett said that the Fh. Soc has a centre in University College which will be extended shortly when the new library building with a room for the Fh Soc is finished. The other contributions showed a delightfully mixed set of views about what the centre would do. DMK called on me before I was ready, so I just said that I thought the libraries needed to be pulled ~~together~~ housed together so that they formed a large enough unit.

Frank's news  
AETDSS

for it to be possible to pay University scale ~~wages~~<sup>salaries</sup>, and attract research students to work there. Ruth Hayes asked me afterwards if she would be allowed to sweep the floor for the £3000 a year Librarian. Geoff Rye and DMK, on the other hand, were glad that it had been said. We set up a subcommittee of representatives of the FLS, EFDSS & the Fife Studies.

On thinking it over afterwards I came to the conclusion that there is a 50/50 chance of either nothing happening or a development of the FLS centre. I don't see either library being moved. This like Barrett's index will be extended from 4 full filing drawers to goodness knows what.

I saw a proposal being put to the EFDSS development committee ~~by~~ for a scheme for the introduction of the study of folk song, dance etc into a university. It was pretty naive, but set me thinking. If one can use an analogy, folk lore is at present like 18c. ornithology, and it will not become academically respectable until it frees itself from its static outlook and becomes interested in movement and interrelations i.e. one wants ecological folk-lore and genetic folk-lore. But there are just social history with an emphasis on oral tradition as the carrier of information, for the aspects of life in which one is interested are

is common as to be ~~more~~ largely unrecorded.  
I have not had time to develop the idea or talk  
with anyone except Rollo Woods about it yet. What  
do you think?

My paper on the fundamental semi-group of  
a discrete dynamical system has been accepted by  
Proc London Math Soc. One on the fundamental  
group of a dynamical system is almost ready for  
the typist. Much of the work for one on the mapping  
cylinder of a dynamical system is done. There  
is in hand work on higher homotopy groups,  
relations to torsion homotopy groups, corresponding  
analytic ideas etc. Prof Davies today said  
that he would ask the VC for a years sabbatical for  
me, and I am about to write off to America to  
try to raise some money. Keep your fingers  
crossed for me.

Yours  
Frank.