Bowdler Sharpe Collection

Heligoland
1st February 1899.

Dear W. Sharp –

I sent you a letter, under the same adress as this card, some ten days ago, did you get that letter? if not please enquire at dead letter office "Post office" I should be very pleased to have an answer from you – especially regarding the price of the skins of T. paradoxa – and the adress of Mr. Cordeaux.

very truely Yours.

Ludwig Gätke

Deutschland

Postkarte — Weltpostverein.

Carte postale — Union postale universelle.

Nur für die Adresse

— Sharp Esq.^re

to be enquired "Ornithological Department"

British Museum

London

Bowdler Sharpe Collection

I have 11 female and 5 male Rmis - and suppose as the birds have not turned up for ten years - the Rmis must have become valuable - I have no objection to bringing them into the market now and that is what I would ask you to find out for me, whether, and where there would be the best markets for selling the whole badge - as I dont intend to dispose of the Rmis single - Can you give me a good reference, or are you enclined to transact the business for me — as you may well imagine that I dont feel enclined to trust the Rmis to any stranger without security - What is you idea about this matter, and what about is the price by Catalogue?- I wonder whether this letter will reach you — if it does - I would feel delighted to hear from you — you see I have not quite forgotten my English - Yours truly Ludwig Gätke

If you happen to know the adress of Mr Cordeaux let me know the same

L. Gätke

Helgoland

19th January 1899.

My dear Mr Sharp -

I chance these lines in the first place to ascertain whether you still exist and your whereabouts - and secondly to ask a favor of you — If these lines reach you I hope they will find you sound and well, somewhat the same I can say from myself and my family - It is a long long time ago since we met, I guess somewhat about 21 years - and a great many things have altered, especially since the island has been ceded to Germany - and more particularly since my dear fathers death — I have given up shooting and ornithology altogether - for, after the sale of my fathers collection to

the German Government although it still exists on the island in the so called Northern Museum my whole interest for collecting ceased although formerly heart and soul in for shooting rare species for my dear old father, I had no longer a mind to obtain birds for others, especially for such, that are hardly worth to have them, and as for starting a new collection for myself there are many drawbacks - in the first instance as I have entered the German Post Office service, my duty prevents me from making use of my leasure time as free and easy and with joy as under our old English carrier which will never turn up again - secondly I had a severe accident 3 years ago - I slipped and fell down on my left shoulder dislocating the left arm in the shoulder and smashing the top of the upper arm bone as well as the shoulder blade, so that I had to undergo a heavy operation in a Continental Hospital where I stayed for 3 months, the splittered bones were extracted and my arm is that much healed so that I can do all work with it required in my official functions - but I am incapable of bringing up my gun to the shoulder - it's hard, but still better than being cripples altogether - now as regards the favor I wish to ask of you - As you must remember I used to skin birds formerly and made a little business with the skins - I am still in possession of 16 skins of T. paradoxa (sandgrouse) which I shot on Sandy Island during the last great migration in May 1888