

Anatomy Dept.,
Medical College,
Colombo,
26th April 1933

Dr Casey Wood,
Hotel Suisse
Kandy

Dear Dr Wood.,

I have to acknowledge the receipt from the Oxford University Press of one copy of your book on the 'Literature of Vertebrate Zoology'. Allow me to thank you very much indeed for this. The work will be of very great value as a reference work to me,

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

W. B. Roman Hill

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Anatomy Dept.,
Medical College,
Colombo,
23rd March 1933

Dear Dr Casey Wood,

I am in receipt of your two letters of the 20th and 21st insts. respectively and beg to thank you for same. I was sorry that you decided to turn down the idea of having a pet for Mrs Wood, but I fully appreciate the reason for doing so. I must thank you very much indeed for sending the cheque for me to add a Tanygnathus to my collection. I did so last evening, and I also collected three very nice little Canary-winged Parrakeets (Brotogerys chiriri) which I had been intending to get for some time. I think they will probably breed here.

I am much interested in Dr Mann's visit to Colombo, and will do all I can to help him. I am writing him as you suggest, and am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter I am sending. You do not say when he is expected. I should like to know this as I would, with one or two friends, very much like to go on board and see what Dr Mann is taking back from Sumatra.

Hoping to see you shortly,

Yours very sincerely

W.B. Osmer Kerr

Keep

Anatomy Dept:

M.C.

Colombo,

Ceylon, 23/3/33.

Dr. W. M. Mann,
Director
National Zoological Park
Washington, D. C.
U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

I have been informed by Dr. Casey Wood that you will shortly be calling in Colombo on your way back from a collecting trip in Sumatra, and that you would like to get a few Ceylonese animals whilst here.

I should be very glad to help you in this project, though some of the animals you suggest are, I am afraid, too difficult to get to America alive. This applies to the Slender Loris and the Chamaeleon especially. The former is obtainable, but not at short notice. I have a number of live specimens in my private collection, and have just sent one to the London Zoological Gardens, though I doubt whether it will survive the journey. I only know of one case in which this happened. Usually they die in 2-3 months even in their own country, though I think I have now succeeded in getting mine on to the right diet.

The chamaeleon is rare. It is confined to the drier parts of Ceylon and rarely lives more than two months even in Colombo. I feel sure you would not get one to America even if one was obtained.

The Hanging Parrakeets should be easily got. I shall start collecting some right away. They will need, as you know, a diet containing honey, or some saccharine solution.

Let me know what other things you would like me to try and get.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. O. Hill

Professor of Anatomy.

DR. CASEY WOOD
SUISSE HOTEL,
KANDY, CEYLON.

The Hotel Suisse

TELEGRAMS & CABLES
"SUISOTEL"
CODES - A.B.C. 5TH EDITION
TELEPHONE
KANDY, 24.

Kandy, Mar 18 1933

CEYLON.

Dear Professor Hill

As a mild surprise for my wife I wd like to acquire a bird, preferably a ^{tame} speaking Nymph, Grackle, Paroquet or some songster like the Shamah, that wd. return to his cage if ^I when liberated. I wonder if ~~you~~ might take the liberty of asking whether you wd. assist in finding one for me in Colombo?

Mr. Wood, after the loss of her last parrot, said she wd. never have another pet as she ^{wd.} greatly ^{dislike} to leave it behind and she wd. not take it with her when we leave. However, ^{now that} ~~as~~ we have decided to stay here six months, I think we ^{might} ~~can~~ go through the form of renting a bird for that

period, to return the bird to its present
(or give it to some responsible person) to leave —
owner, when the time comes, or at any
other ^{time} The price of the bird (i.e. the cost)
doesn't matter; I wd. be quite satisfied
with ~~whatever~~ ^{any} arrangement you ~~will~~ ^{might} make.

On my first visit to
Colombo I shall give myself the
pleasure of calling to see you.

"300".

Sincerely yours

Prof. W.C. Osman Hill, ~~Medical~~
~~School~~, Colombo.

Anatomy Dept.,
Medical College,
Colombo,
17th March

Dear Dr Casey Wood,

In reply to your letter regarding a suitable pet for your wife, I have now made some enquiries and have a number of things to report. As regards local stuff, the Mynas or Grackles seem to be as good as anything, but they do not seem to be in 'season' at the moment. Ring-neck Parrakeets are frequently obtainable for as low as cts/50 each, but as a rule they are in poor condition, very wild and with their primaries all cut.

As for foreign stuff, that which is recently imported is risky for several reasons. It may be sick, untamed or in poor plumage, so that it would only be just coming into its best condition when you are due to leave Ceylon.

There is another method, and that is to get something that has been in the country for some time. I know of a number of foreign parrots of this category that I have not been able to afford myself up to the moment. They are, I consider, too expensive for their kind, but I submit the following for your information:-

I pair Ornate Lorikeets-----Rs 30
1 " Forsten's do. -----Rs 30
1 Eclectus pectoralis either sex--Rs 25
1 Tanygnathus mulleri-----Rs. 12/50
3 Brotogerys sp. -----Rs 30

These are the prices as quoted to me. I know all the birds and they are in good condition. I should recommend I think the Tanygnathus. I was going to have one of these myself, but had not had time to collect same yet. I have a T. everetti at present, and find it a most charming bird, very intelligent, and talking well.

Let me know which of these you would like, if any, and I will make all arrangements and have it sent on to you,

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

W. B. Osman Hill

Ans. Mar 19/33. I decline pet so I
drop the matter. Pls. accept ch for Rs. 20
for a T. mulleri cage for yr. lab-
300. which I hope to see some day