

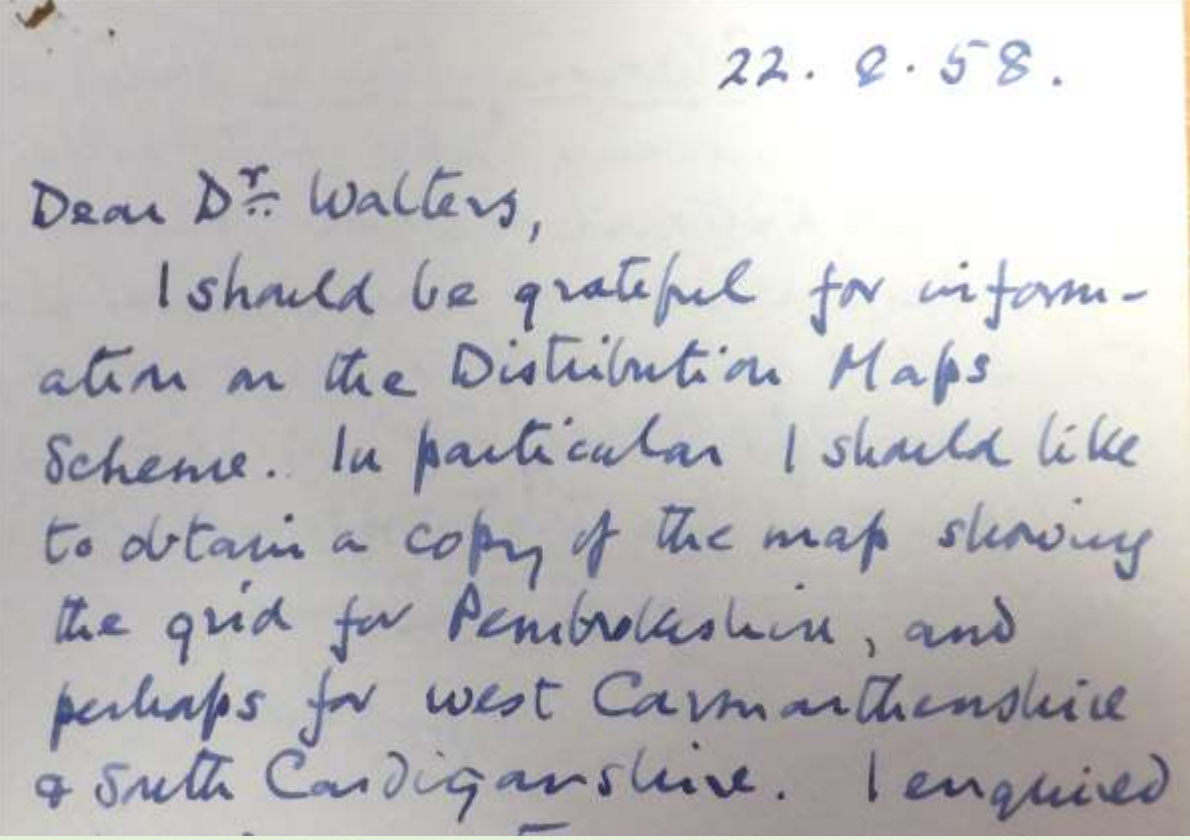
# Dear Dr Perring ... correspondence in the *Atlas of the British Flora* archive

Much of Frank Perring and Max Walter’s correspondence while they were working on the 1962 *Atlas* survives in the CEH archive, thanks to Paul Harding who rescued it from bin bags when Frank decided to throw it away. It provides a fascinating insight into this unique project and deserves detailed study. A few items are illustrated here.

Chris Preston & Oli Pescott, CEH

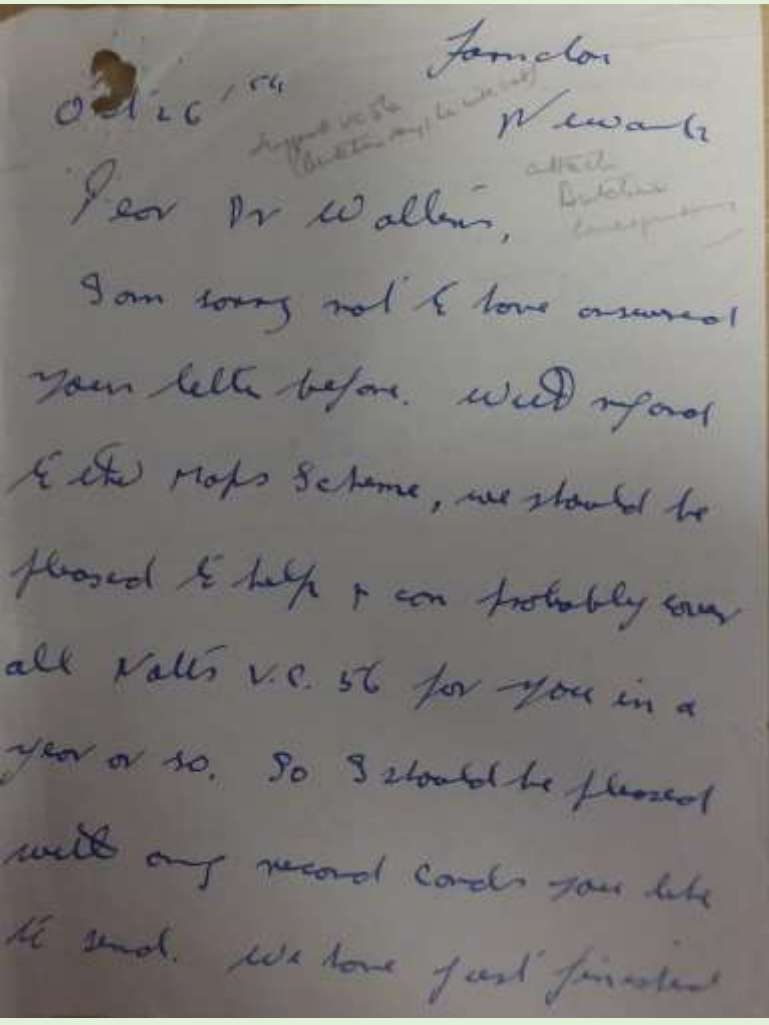
## RECRUITING

Much effort was made to recruit recorders – many fell by the wayside but others became keen botanists. Here Tommy Warren Davis (Pembs.) offers his help



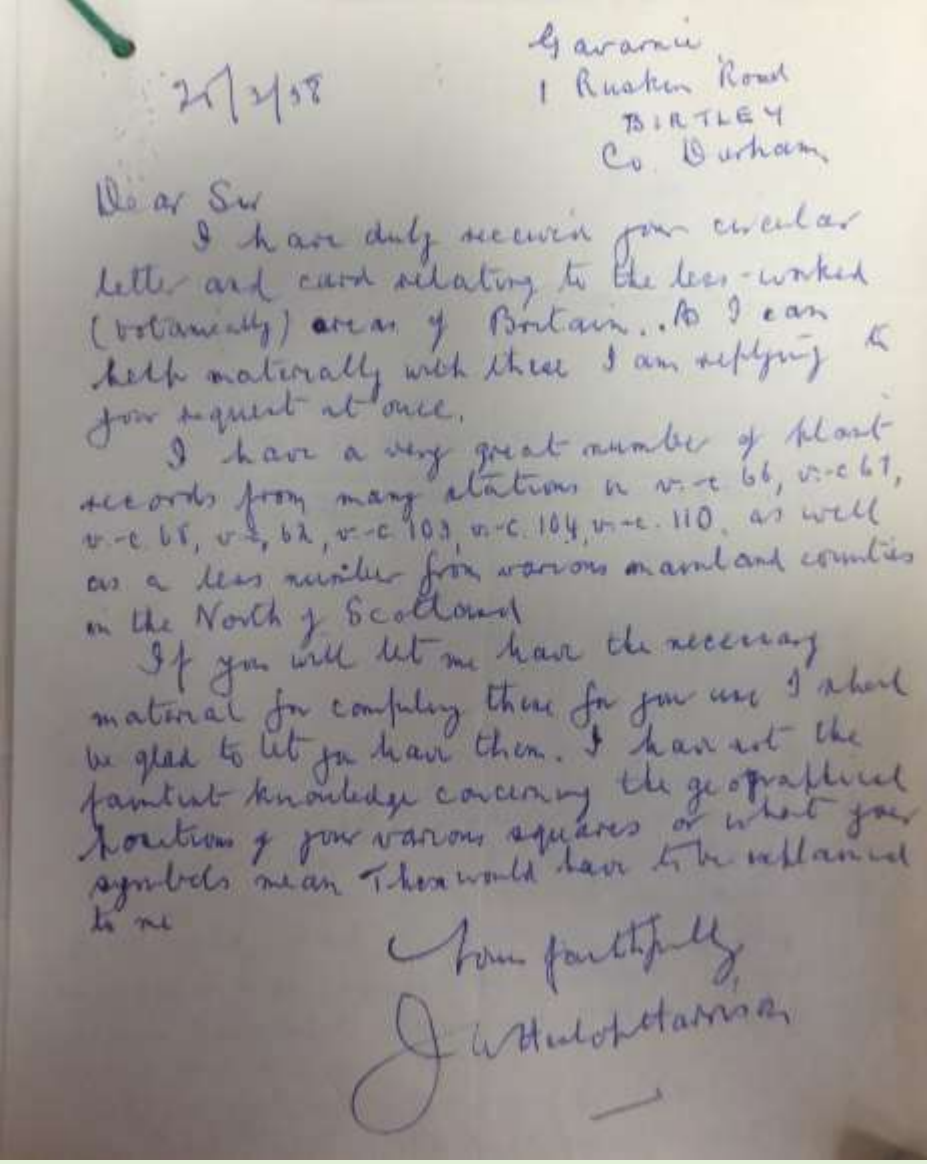
## OPTIMISM

R.C.L. Howitt assures Max that he and his wife Brenda “can probably cover all Notts. v.c. 56 for you in a year or so”



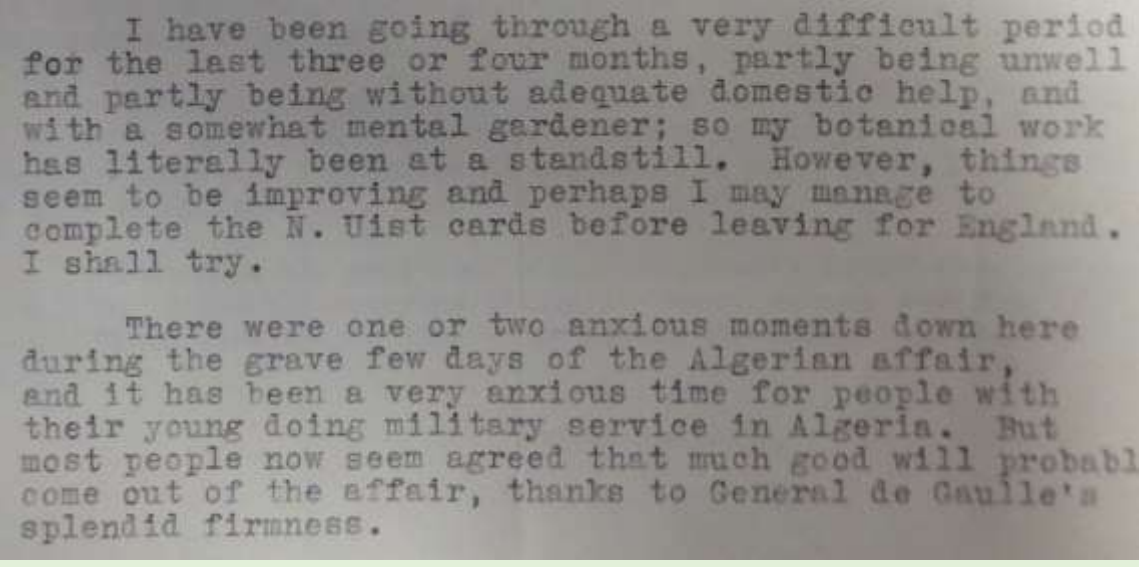
## EXPLAINING THE GRID

The national grid was new to many – in this letter Prof. J.W. Heslop Harrison says that he “has not the faintest knowledge concerning the geographical positions of your various squares”



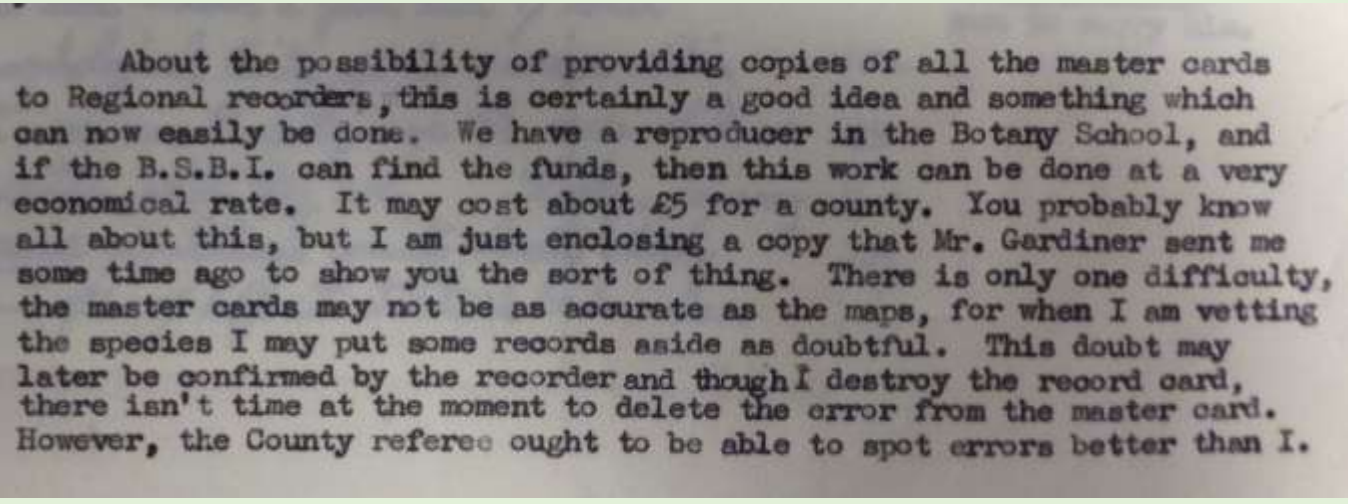
## EXCUSES

Some did less than they had hoped. Maybud Campbell, writing from Menton, blames illness, inadequate domestic help and “a somewhat mental gardener”



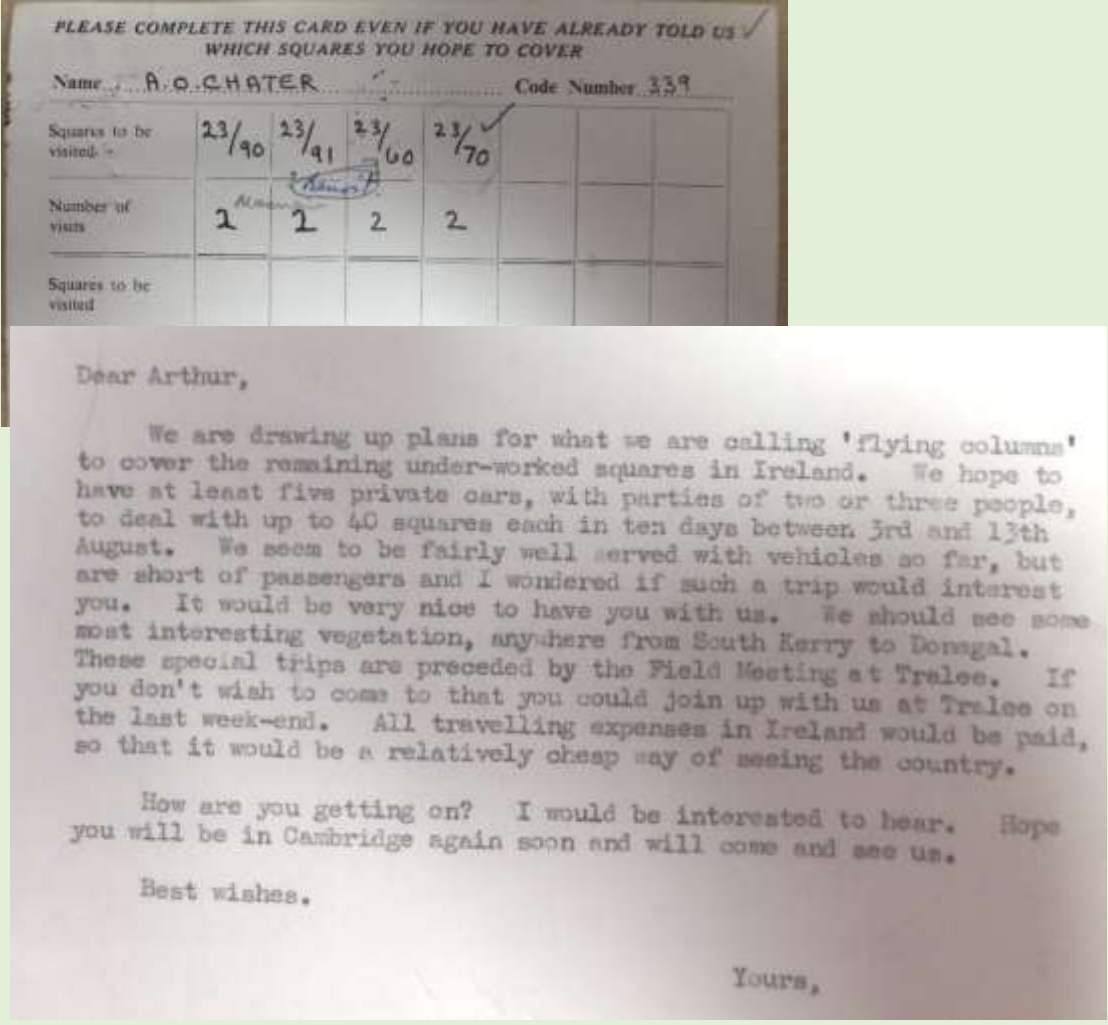
## NEW TECHNOLOGY

When David Allen asked for copies of cards, Frank says that “we have a reproducer in the Botany School” and the work can be done at a cost of £5 a county



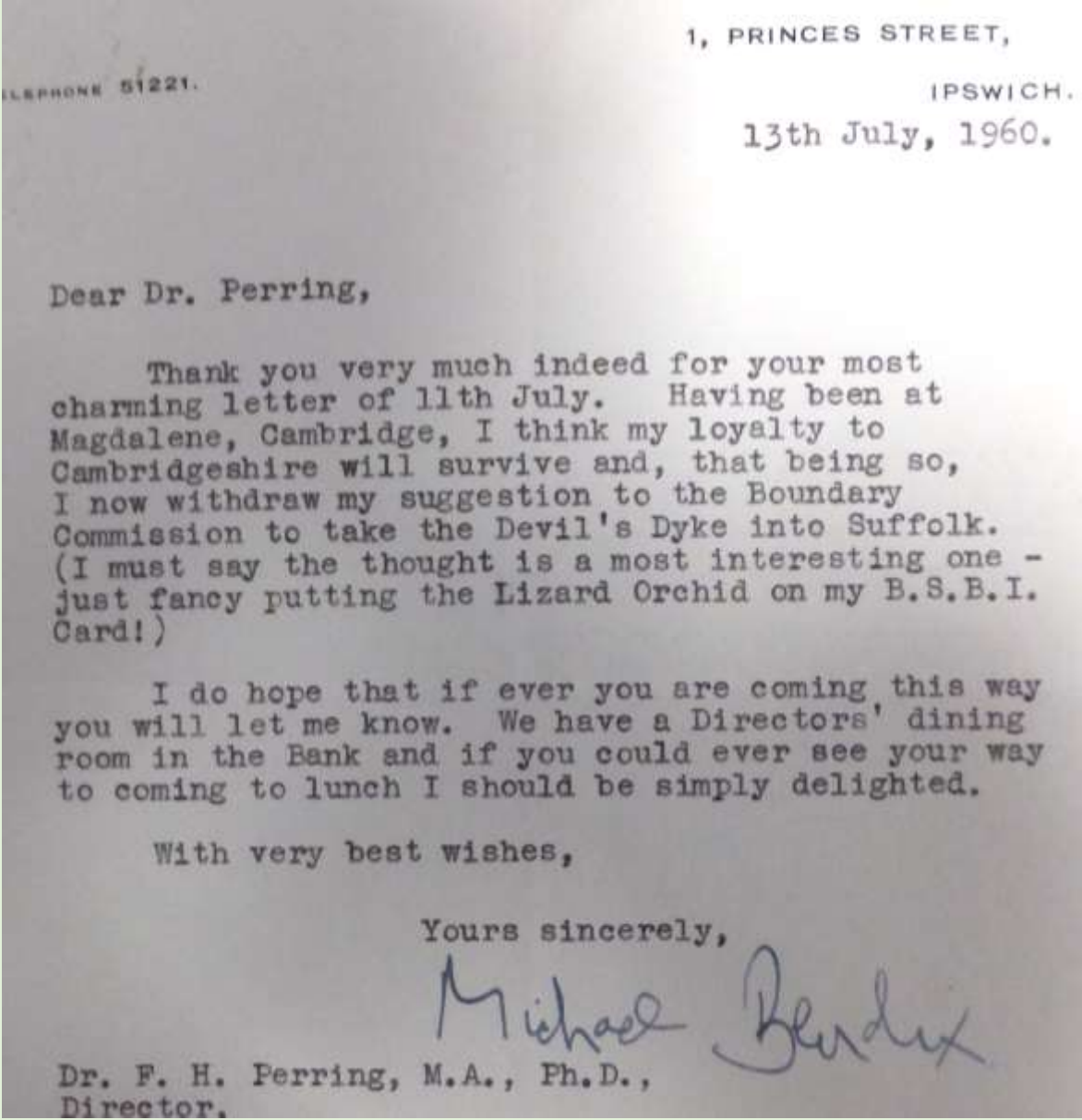
## PLANNING

Slips were sent so people could name the squares they could record – Arthur Chater’s is one of the few to survive. In Frank’s reply, Arthur is invited to join a ‘flying column’ planned to cover ground in Ireland



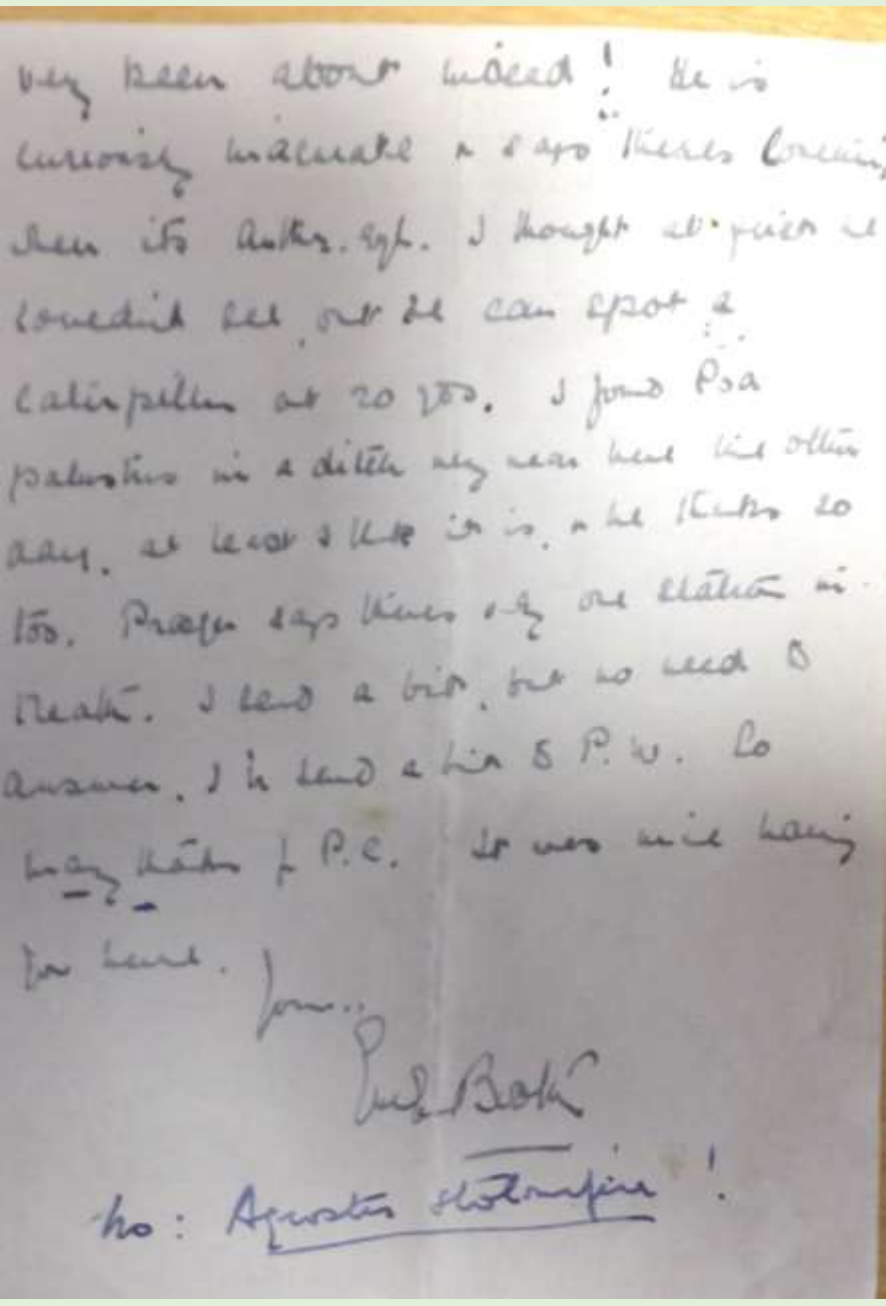
## IDENTIFICATION AND CHECKING

Innumerable specimens were sent in and identified. Potentially new v.c. records were queried. Michael Bendix, initially slightly put out by such a query, is so charmed by Frank’s emollient reply that he invites him to lunch in the Directors’ Dining Room, Barclays Bank (Ipswich)



## GOSSIP

Evelyn Booth reports that Prof. J.W. Heslop Harrison is “curiously inaccurate” in the field and “a nice old man but my goodness how he talks and how slowly he eats, intolerable to a gobbler like me”



## PUBLICATION

Asked for his opinion on the title page, Dick David ended his letter “Haven’t Nelsons got any views on this? (Sorry, but I still feel terribly sore on this point)”. He must have hoped to secure publication for C.U.P.

