## Letter 9a

Mowbray, Cape Town 18 October 1867

To Ernst Haeckel from Wilhelm Bleek

of

Many thanks for both of your letters, dated 19 August, and the other 'sendungen', which are of great interest to me. The parts of your book which you have sent me I will only read when the mail has left. I have only had them (the parts) in my hands for a couple of days. I hope to eventually have the opportunity to read the entire book. The prerequisites of the publisher are not at all what I had expected, as I thought that they will at least cover the .: !! But meaningless' printing costs. But of course I had not remembered, that I am a stranger in Germany after such a long period of absence. Nothing can be said against the kind of offer as the bookshop in Böhlau presents, as if it is a respectable company. Unfortunately my experiences are of the kind, that with the common type of English publishers such an arrangement is hardly ever satisfactory for the author only in rare cases he receives post - and never the total amount of money that should go to him. This happens when the company, and not the author, controls the printing, and can thus agreeably multiply the number of copies. But you surely know the company, and in this I will rely upon you and empower you to come to an agreement with the company. But the prerequisites I have to make, is that the test (probes) pages must be sent to me; as the work is so small, the publisher surely will not mind to put the set aside for about 3 to 4 months, at its most. In this case the set could begin immediately, although I might possibly like to delay the publishing until the English version has been published.

I am very grateful to you for your offer to write more about the descent of man in the foreword. It would be a valuable 'asset' to my attempt. Should you approve, on the publisher's request, to write something about "The occasion of printing this small oeuvre in Germany, the unusual (peculiar) life-situation (condition) of the author etc." you will understand, that I would like to read it before being published, because after a long time of absence one may be minds too much in what light one is seen at home (how one is judged), and as my life-path might in some respect, appear complicated, I know that even many of those who are close to me, do not have a clear idea about it. (my life)

This would be the part that I would like to read before publication; the rest is not necessary. But I must come to an end (finish the letter). I will send you Layard's Birds of S. Africa ....

We hope to meet your wife before long. Also best regards to friend Schleicher.

Wilhelm

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