

NOTES ON SIR WALTER BALDWIN SPENCER, AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST

1. Travelled on the Continent, 1885. Became Assistant to Professor H.W. Moseley. Helped to move the anthropological collections of General Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers from South Kensington to Oxford.
2. Joined the scientific expedition organized by Mr. W.A. Horns of Adelaide, to explore the Central region in May 1894. Specially concerned with zoological and photographic work over a three month period. Met F.J. Gillen at Alice Springs in July and formed an alliance with him.
3. November 1896 - returned to Alice Springs and went with Gillen deep into the Arunta territory. Gillen, a telegraphist, knew language and represented Spencer as his younger brother. Spencer and Gillen continued to be friends and partners until the latter's death in 1912.
4. "The Arunta" published by Spencer, with Gillen as co-author, in 1927 and dedicated to Sir James Frazer.
5. 1896 - 1898, Spencer and Gillen worked amongst the Arunta at Alice Springs together with the Urburna tribe of the adjoining Lake Eyre district. "The Native Tribes of Central Australia" was published by Macmillan in 1899.
6. From 1897 onwards Spencer and Sir James Frazer, the anthropologist of the field and the anthropologist of the study were in constant communication. Mention in second edition of "The Golden Bough" (1900).
7. In 1901 Spencer and Gillen embarked on a twelve months expedition traversing from Oodnadatta to Powell Creek, then east to Booraloola on the Gulf of Carpentaria. £1,000 contributed towards expedition by Mr. David Syme of Melbourne. Spencer on leave from University.
8. "The Northern Tribes of Central Australia" was published by Macmillan in 1904 and dedicated to David Syme.
9. In December 1911, Spencer was requested to return to the N.T. for a year as Special Commissioner and Chief Protector of Aborigines. Subsequently "Native Tribes of the Northern Territory of Australia" was published by Macmillan in 1914.
10. In 1923 Spencer accompanied Dr. L. Keith Ward, the Government geologist of South Australia, to the Macdonnell Ranges. In 1926 again visited Alice Springs. "The Arunta", a Study of a Stone Age People" was published by Macmillan in 1927.

11. "Across Australia" published by Macmillan in 1912 and "Wanderings in Wild Australia" in 1928 - supplementary works. Spencer owes permanent fame chiefly to his anthropology.

12. Spencer became Honorary Director of the National Museum in 1899, and recommended its transfer to a new building. Added to anthropological and zoological collections. Furnished Spencer Hall.