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Letter from Raymond F. Dewey Enterprises to the Southern Enthropological Society (21 April 1911)

Wally Balloo

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[Editor's note: the following letter was found by investigative reporter Wally Balloo when he was researching some archival material dealing with the history of the SAS.]

Raymond F Dewey Enterprises
Expedition Outfitters and Guides
New York, New York

21st April 1911

President
Southern Entthropological Society
Atlanta, Georgia USA

Dear Honored Sir,

It is with greatest anticipation that I write you with hopes that your wisdom and generosity , and the support of your Society, will enable me to pursue a lifelong dream.

I am an accomplished outdoorsman and fearless naturalist, and have been lately taken with the desire to further knowledge about exotic and unknown peoples for the advancement of science as it applied to members of our own Species.

Hence I am proposing an expedition to explore a little known area and bring back information and photographs about the manners and customs of some peoples who are at present almost unknown to western science.

The peoples I have in mind are the inhabitants of one of the Pacific Islands, only recently brought under contact with the civilizing influences of the West. The island I have in mind is, I believe, called "Samoah" or something such and I propose to visit it early next year.

I am led to believe that members of your Society are experts in the scientific Study and description of human peoples, and will rely upon them for methods and approaches to gathering the requisite knowledge from those peoples I find on the island.

I understand that there will be a voyage of the new liner, RMS Titanic, early next year, and I would, given your consent to this enterprise, book passage on it for the first leg of my expedition.

The final details of the expedition, and the costs, can be easily discussed once I have your assent for the sponsorship and the backing of your magnificent scientific society, about which I have heard nothing but the most wondrous reports.

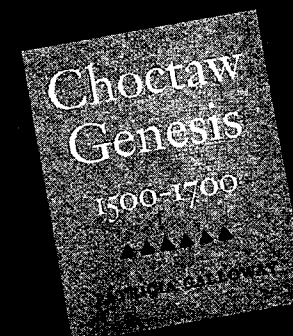
I look forward to a prompt reply.

Yours in Science,


Raymond F Dewey, Esq

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