"Bowerwood House"
St Botolph's Raod,
SEVENOAKS, Kent.

December II. 51.

Dear Mr Racey,

But how exceedingly kind of you to have sent us such a very delightful and acceptable gift - it is really too good of you, and I can assure you it will help us out tremendously over the Xmas season and beyond. Hunting the rations in order to acheive value and variety is for the British house-wife, much like a hard and often disappointing chase after some especially desired rara avis for the keen bird-man! I need say no more, as I know you will understand the similie!

I am glad to say that all goes well with us; my elder son, now Home from his Naval Service (spent in Germany on the Elbe) is in practice with me, a very aggreable arrangement as we have everything in common. His time abroad was spent in ideal surroundings for an ornithologist and wild-fowler such as he is, and I can tell you that he wasted no time atall, getting together a very fine series of German birds, and also creating some quite remarkable shooting records. His experiences on the Elbe will be published in book form before too long.

David has just gone up to Cambridge University to sit for the last part of his Medical Finals; he pulled off the last exam very well, and we are hoping that his efforts this time will also result in an equal success.

Have had a few days out after the duck, and by and large we have had very fair success, but nothing out of the way, although one or two plumages in such species as the Wigeon and Shellduck which were lacking from the exhibits in the Bird Gallery. We are hoping to get out again next Saturday as there is a very suitable tide, and if the weather keeps fine and cold there should be some fowl about.

By the way have you good specimens of the European Goshawk? I have a pretty good series here from Switzerland, from my old friend and colleague Flükiger. He makes excellent skins, and I could almost certainly pick you out one or two. Let me know sometime.

Once agin with our most grateful appreciations for your very kind and practical gesture,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,