

- A.H. Sayce (Oxford) à  
Van Eys

(26 lettres)

- 1. - 10 oct. 1873, Queen's College  
2. - 27<sup>29</sup>(?) mars 1874 " "  
3. - 3 mai 1874 " (echo de menas en Academy  
basque school)  
4. - 12 " 1874 " "  
5. - 25 " 1874 " "  
6. - 23 sept. 1874, Savile Club, London  
7. - 30 oct. 1874, Queen's College  
8. - 9 déc. 1874 " "  
9. - 13 " 1874 " "  
10. - 22 " 1874, Bath  
11. - 9 mars 1875, Queen's College  
12. - 20 avr. 1875, " "  
13. - 26 mai 1875, " "  
14. - 4 août 1875, " "  
- 15. - 3 déc. 1875, " "  
- 16. - 12 jan. 1876, " "  
- 17. - 12 juin 1877, (voyage en Grèce pendant l'hiver  
" "  
- 18. - 4 juin 1878, " "  
19. - 20 août 1878, " "  
- 20. - 18 déc. 1878, Bath  
- 21. - 11 jan. 1879, " "  
22. - 22 mars 1879, Queen's College  
- 23. - 23 nov. 1879, " "  
24. - 10 avr. 1883, " "  
25. - 26 avr. 1883, " "  
26. - 10 juil. 1893, " "

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you will not find any  
new information in it.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Layce.

No 1

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1873.

Dear Sir,

The following is the extract from the  
"Atheneum" of June 14. 1873, wh<sup>ch</sup> I promised  
to send you: -

"Philological Society. June 6. - Prince L. Lucien  
Bonaparte gave a description of his 'Map of  
the Geographical Distribution of the Dialects, Sub-  
Dialects, & Varieties of the Basque Language', the  
result of his own personal enquiries on the spot  
in the years 1856-57-66-67-69. There are 4 Spanish  
& 3 French provinces called Basque, & although  
Basque is not spoken over the whole of them, it  
is not spoken out of them, except in two villages on  
their borders in France, & in some parts of Mexico,

Monte Video & La Plata, by American-born children of Basque parents. There are 660,000 Spanish, & 140,000 French Basques. The majority of those who speak Basque understand more or less of Spanish in Spain, or French in France. There exists a Basque book, printed at Pampeluna in 1621 in the dialect of that town, where no Basque is now heard. It is longer since it was spoken at Vittoria, & there is only a tradition of its having been used at Bayonne. Basque has only lately ceased to be spoken in Alava, & the High Navarrese partidos of Tudela, Tafalla & Estella. The 4 literary dialects are the Guipuscoan, Biscayan, Labourdin, & Souletin; the other 4 spoken dialects, North & South High Navarrese, & West & East Low Navarrese, have scarcely ever been written, & consequently afford more genuine materials for the philologist. The dialects are distinguished in various ways, in pronunciation,

in grammar, & in vocabulary, & the extremes are mutually unintelligible. The h is not pronounced in Spanish, but appears in French Basque. Spanish j is heard in Guipuscoan; in Biscayan it is intermediate to dy & gy, & passes almost into English j; in Labourd it is not sibilant; & in Soule it becomes almost French j; & in Roncal & other places it is sh. The s has a peculiar palatalised sound throughout. French u is heard especially in Soule, & in some varieties there is a sound like the long Swedish u. Both the Italian & the French u-sounds in Soule are occasionally nasalised. The grammatical differences can scarcely be indicated in an analysis. There are differences of suffixes & in the verbal tenses. Thus, eman being the root of the verb to give, "I have given it" is expressed by adding det in Guipuscoan, dot in Biscayan, dut in Labourdin, & diut in Soulekin; & "he has given it to me" by adding dit in G., deust in B., daut in

L. & Deit in S. In the East Low Navarrese the allocutive form of the verb is the only form used in simple assertions, so that no person can make an observation without implying the sex or rank or age of some imaginary person addressed. Allocutive forms occur in all the Dialects, & are always used in addressing people, even when they relate to the 1st or 3rd person. In the vocabulary common notions are often expressed by totally different words in the different Dialects. Thus "sin" is generally eguzki or iguzki, but is ekhi in Soule. "Moon" is generally illargi = 'dead light', in Soule argizagi = 'keeper of light', & in Roncal joiko = 'of high'. Jaungoiko = 'lord of the high' is the name of God; can this be a contraction for Jaungoikoko, 'lord of the <sup>moon</sup> high', according to Shalco's report of the lunar rites of the old Iberians? or did that report arise from this name of the moon? In Guipuzcoan atorra is a woman's shift exclusively, but in Lab. the same word is a man's shirt exclusively. Beatz-a is "finger" in G. & a "be" in B., where atz is a "finger", u<sup>t</sup> means the "itch" in G. The Soulehin is the only dialect u<sup>t</sup> distinguishes "had" & "been". There are 50 names for the butterfly, one of u<sup>t</sup> means 'soul of a donkey': - The report, you see, is meagre, &

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

March 29<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I am very glad that you have found anything worth your notice in the little article that I sent you. I ought to apologise for the numerous misprints in it; they were due to my not having had any proofs forwarded to me. Since the Paper was written the name of another Acadian numeral has been discovered, sitna = "seven". I confess that I am much impressed by

The striking similarity that exists between the Basque numerals, when closely investigated, & those of the Ugric group, in spite of the great interval of space, social relations & time that there is between them, supposing, that is, that they ever proceeded from a common centre.

I sent a review of your very valuable Dictionary to the Academy, & it has been in type ever since Dec: 28<sup>th</sup>; but unfortunately the change that has taken place in the form & character of that periodical has so greatly lessened the space allotted to scientific articles that

I am afraid it will be some time before the turn of the review in question will come. But I am writing to the Editor to hasten him.

Have you ever looked at an inscription said to be found at Castellon & published by Phillipps? If it is genuine, it may contain an early specimen of Basque. At the same time the terminations, so far as they can be read, do not look very much like Basque - (n)if or (n)it for nouns & se or sese for verbs.

Hoping to see you before long at Oxford,

I remain

Yours sincerely

A. H. Sayce.

No 2

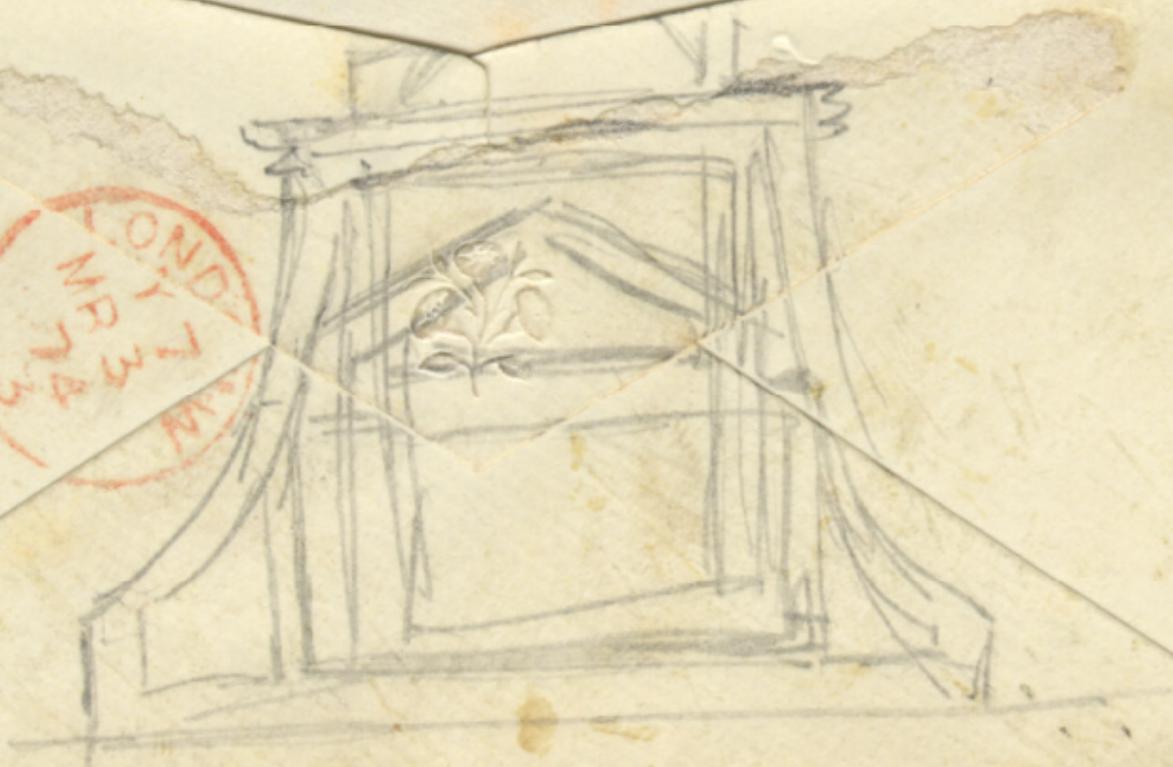
W. Van Eys Esq.



14 Stanley Gardens,

Notting Hill,

London. W.



must belong to some other  
language, must they not?  
I have given a note of introduction  
:- him to you to my friend, the  
Editor of the Academy. That  
Journal greatly wants a  
Basque scholar who lives  
in England; & there  
is no other except yourself.



Yours sincerely

A. H. Sayce.

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

May 3rd 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

Many thanks for your letter.

I have no doubt ~~how~~ that at least  
100 copies of your Dictionary will soon  
be sold & be the means of attracting  
scholars to a study of Basque. But  
I hope that in a second edition you  
will show the way to others in comparing  
Basque roots with those of other languages.



As you know, I have a strong belief  
that Basque will eventually be found to  
have the same parent as the modern  
Finnic idiom — the names of the  
numerals seem to me to point this  
out very clearly — ; & Donner has already  
been comparing the roots of the Finnic  
group with those of the Aryan "Ursprache".

Only onomatopoeic roots, however: like  
myself, & unlike Pich, he believes that  
the root-period of every group of languages  
contains a large number of onomatopoeias.

When we remember the relatively small number of different sounds possessed by savage languages, it seems to me that such roots may accidentally coincide all the world over. You see I have no belief in the ultimate unity of languages: all linguistic facts appear to me to point in the opposite direction, & that the ~~cause~~<sup>effect</sup> of civilisation has been to unify & what was originally infinitely multitudinous. The three "families" of speech - Aryan, Semitic & Ural-Altaic - just as the civilisations w<sup>h</sup> they are purely exceptions; each started, I represent are exceptional<sup>1</sup> think, from a ~~single~~ different centre &

from a different origin.

I had a letter from Mr. Vinson a few days since, in wh<sup>ch</sup> he told me that he was hard at work correcting & revising certain Basque texts Dr. Cazals has been preparing or is going to prepare, & translating an Hungarian article on Basque. His comparative Grammar consequently, will have to wait for the present. His doubts on the genuineness of the Castellon inscription are not to prove as I imagined they were. The paleography of the inscription has made a favorable impression upon me; I much question whether a forger would have been so well acquainted with the minutiae of ancient writing. But surely it is not Basque? Verbs that end in -se & nouns that end in nit or nié

W-3



W. Van Eys Esq.,

14 Stanley Gardens,

Notting Hill,

London. W.

Gayce



No 4



Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I am very glad to hear that you will come to Oxford next week.

All my afternoons & evenings that week will be unoccupied & at your disposal; on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, I have to lecture from 10 to 1 in the morning, & on the alternate days from 11 to 1.

This lecturing, or rather drilling the elements of Latin & Greek into the brains of stupid



undergraduates & who ought to have learnt  
them years before, is great stupidity &  
a sad reflection upon our English University  
system. If you are alone, I should have  
(there being no provision made  
great pleasure in offering you a bed in  
for ladies in our monastic establishments  
College, if you are willing to endure  
the discomforts of College bedrooms; at  
all events, I shall expect you to dine  
with me, &c. I think you will find  
much to interest you here; tho' I am  
afraid that we have nothing Bague.

As you say, the comparison of Bague

& other roots is a difficult task; it  
requires <sup>the combination of</sup> a Basque scholar & a scientific  
philologist, & where are we to look for  
this except in yourself? For my own  
part, as I said in my last letter - holding  
as I do to the original non-unity of languages  
& races - I have little ~~any~~ hope of  
many results from a comparison of  
Basque & Aryan roots. Even one of  
the words wh<sup>ch</sup> you mention (tu "fire")  
has its analogue in the Finnic root tu,  
tu, ti, or to & "to burn", wh<sup>ch</sup> Donner  
gives in his "Vergleichendes Wörterbuch  
d. Finnisch-Ugrischen Sprachen" from  
wh<sup>ch</sup> come Fin. tu-tu-n "to kindle"

(Syr.  $\xi$  so-ta  $\xi$  "to burn") or the Ind. si  
"sun", or even the Mong. Sita "on fire".

~~The~~ Borrowing in languages is a subject wh<sup>ch</sup>  
has received but scanty attention hitherto  
altho' like everything else it must be subject  
to certain laws. It seems to me that the  
matter is an important one; & when we  
consider the vast period of time that has elapsed  
since the different races of men invented <sup>speech</sup>  
& the constant migrations that they have  
experienced, it is difficult not to suppose  
that extensive borrowings of words must have  
taken place at very remote epochs.

Please let me know the day wh<sup>ch</sup> you fix  
for coming, & I will try, if possible, to  
meet you at the Station. If I cannot do so,  
you will ~~find~~ <sup>have</sup> no difficulty in finding your way  
to Queen's.

Yours sincerely  
A. H. Sayce.

W-5



Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

May 25th 1874.

Dear Mr. Van Eys,

I am so sorry to hear of your  
cold; & I conclude that it has been the  
cause of my not having had the pleasure  
of seeing you here. (Can you not come  
some day this week? I shall be  
engaged after June 2nd..

The Paper to w<sup>ch</sup> you refer was the  
Annual Address of the <sup>late</sup> President of the  
Philological <sup>Society</sup> (A. J. Ellis) for 1874. It contains



reports of the Progress of Philology in <sup>its</sup> various  
departments. ~~The~~ What you saw, however,  
was only a rough proof; the Address is  
not yet published, but as soon as it is  
you shall have a copy.

I am afraid that Part 2. of the Trans. of the  
S. of Brit. Arch. is altogether out of print now.  
Some time ago, I wrote to the Secretary in  
behalf of a friend who wanted the book;  
& the Secretary informed me that not a  
single copy was left. I wish it might  
be reprinted; I think there would be a  
sufficient sale.

Your remarks on li &c. are extremely

interesting. One is always obliged to be upon  
one's guard against linguistic coincidences.  
There is one such in connection with the  
very subject of your letter, in addition to  
those pointed out by yourself, which is  
somewhat curious. It is this. In Occidian

bi-da means "a quarter" of the globe, "a  
point of the compass", also "a road"  
Basque bride. But da in bi-da is  
simply an individualising affix, such as we  
get in Aca-da "our highlander" from aca  
"to be high" or aria-da "river" from  
aria "water". I am afraid that the

fact which you point out - that the original  
form of the Basque br was brj - will  
exclude any relationship with the Occidian  
br, as the latter does not show any traces

of a final guttural. Still the coincidences  
between the two classes of words in the two  
languages are striking. I suppose the final  
guttural in the Basque word could not be  
a remnant of an old suffix? The final  
l in lit by the side of li is all that is  
left of the suffix le wh. is not uncommonly  
found in Occidian (thus zi, zille, zila  
& zil all = "life"). (An analysis of suffixes  
wh. Böhltingk has worked out for Yakutian)  
be detected in Basque?

I wish very much that your article would  
be soon printed. Is not the Revue de Linguistique  
read in Germany? I do not know of any  
German periodical wh. interests itself with  
Basque. Is there any?

Believe me to be  
Yours sincerely  
A. H. Sayce.

No. 6

SAVILE CLUB,  
15, SAVILE ROW. W.

Sept. 23<sup>d</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. Van Eys,

Many thanks for your  
letter & your interesting Paper.  
You have, as it seems to me, done  
a great service in exposing Humboldt's  
etymological speculations. His name  
has carried weight with it, & thus  
led to an uncritical reception of  
his theory. In this matter I am

at one with you.

I meant the Address for yourself.  
Please keep it.

Mr. Halévy is by no means a  
serious opponent. What can be said  
of a scholar who claims an  
affluhivatic language for the Semitic  
family of speech? My little  
Paper on the Accadian numerals  
is enough to show you that,  
whatever they may be, they are

certainly not Semitic.

I am staying in London for the  
next 7 or 8 days on account  
of a session of the Old Testament  
Revision Committee. But as  
we meet at Westminster from  
11 to 5 every day, I have little  
time, I am sorry to say, for  
seeing my friends. And I shall  
not be in town next Sunday.

If, however, you do not mind  
a late visit between 5 & 6,

I hope to call upon you before

I leave & have the pleasure  
of a talk with you. I came  
to London last week for the  
Oriental Congress, wh. I much  
enjoyed. It is very pleasant to  
meet scholars whom you have  
hitherto known only by name.

Believe me to be

Yours sincerely

A. H. Sayce.

No. 4

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I should have answered your letter sooner, but I have been trying to hear of a curate for your friend. However, they are scarce just now & will be so until after the examinations next December; & as I cannot find anybody I will delay ~~at~~ writing no longer. If I come across any eligible young clergyman

I will let you know at once. The West  
End & £150 a year ought to attract  
candidates.

I shall be here until about the middle  
of December when I hope to start for  
the Troad & Sardis. But I trust that  
before I go you will give me the  
pleasure of seeing you. We are dining  
now at 6 o'clock, & there is a fast  
train to London at 9; but please  
let me know of your coming a  
day or two beforehand lest you go  
away as badly heated as you were  
last Term.

I certainly do not know of any language  
in wh<sup>ch</sup> "to be" = "to have" tho' of course  
the formula "it is to me" = "I have"  
is common enough. You are doubtless  
right in tracing the confusion in Boagun  
to the same Schoolmaster's error that has  
produced "whole" for "hole" (hale, καλό),  
"could" for "coud" (from can, after the analogy  
of should from shall) or "rhyme" for "rime"  
(as if from ῥίμος) in English.

I am not at all sure that I know  
M. D'Abbadie well enough to ask him  
for his book, as he is ~~rather~~ <sup>somewhat</sup> inclined  
to take offense in these matters. If,  
however, you could give me the name  
of the book, I would try to do what I

can for you.

I should not so much mind Dr. Lennouant's attempt to find ancient history (or rather mythology) agreeing with Genesis, for this would only show that the legends of Genesis & of Babylonia came from the same source; his worst fault seems to me to be his endeavour to force the statements of Assyrian kings like Sennacherib into harmony with what we read in the Jewish records. It is a hopeful sign, however, that he gives up Daniel as a Maccabean romance.

I am going to ask if you will accept a little book I have just published on Philology. I hope to be in London shortly for two or three hours & will leave it at your house.

With kind regards to Mrs. van Eys, believe me  
Yours truly  
A. H. Sayce.

N<sup>o</sup> 8



Queens Coll.

Camd.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I have been so busy that I hope you will excuse my delay in writing & thanking you for my friend's for the "brochures" you were good enough to send them. I hope that Mrs van Eys is quite well again now.

Many thanks for your good opinion



of my book. I shall be very  
glad to have your criticisms upon  
the Basque quoted in it.

As regards your question it has been  
proved by Philippi for Semitic & by  
Jolly for Aryan that the relative pro-  
-noun has been developed out of a  
demonstrative. "The horse that he has"  
was originally "the horse, that (horse)  
he has." Now the conjunction also

is demonstrative. "I think that he  
will come" = "I think this (or that)  
fact 'he will come'":

Can you spend from next Saturday  
(Dec. 12th) to the following Monday  
with me here & see what College  
rooms & College fare are like?

I shall be leaving Oxford next week.  
We dine at 6, & there are two very  
convenient fast trains from Paddington  
w<sup>h</sup> reach Oxford at 4.5. & 5.12  
in the afternoon. Do not trouble

to bring any Dress-clothes with you.  
Would you kindly let me know a  
little beforehand whether you can  
come in order that I may get  
ready a bedroom for you?

With kind regards to Mrs Van Eys,  
in haste, believe me

Yours truly

A. H. Sayce.

No. 9



Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Dear Mrs. van Eys,

I am very sorry that I have been deprived of the pleasure of seeing you, & still more of the cause of it. I had hoped that Mrs. van Eys would have shaken off her cough long before now.

It is only at the end of Term, when some of the undergraduates have gone



away & some of the rooms in College  
are consequently vacant, that I can  
ask my friends to stay with me.

U-bi for cu-bi (i.e. quo-bi), the  
Umbrian pu-fe, is a dative of qui  
just as i-bi is of i-s, tu-bi of  
tu, & mi-bi for mi-bhi of ego. &  
Sanskrit tu-bhyam is the dative "tibi",  
ma-bhyam (for ma-bhyam) the dative "mihî".  
Still, altho' later usage employed these  
two latter as datives, the termination  
-bhyam was, I think, originally rather

an instrumental than a dative. Such  
is still <sup>its</sup> force in Greek, as in

$\rho\alpha\omicron-\varphi\epsilon\upsilon$ ,  $\rho\omicron\sigma-\varphi\epsilon$ ,  $\tilde{\rho}\tilde{\iota}-\varphi\epsilon$ ; & in the

<sup>Sanskrit</sup>  
plural, - bhī marks the instrumental,  
bhīā & marking the dative & ablative.

In the dual, - bhīām marks the dative,  
ablative & instrumental alike, showing  
that there was a time when the difference  
between these three cases had not yet  
been elaborated. If qui were originally  
a demonstrative, its dat. u-li would  
have been demonstrative also.

I shall be flattered by your quoting  
my references. I ought to have said  
that Jolly & Windisch, & not Jolly

alone, have proved the demonstrative  
origin of the relative in Aryan. I have  
quoted their monographs on p. 352 of  
my "Principles".

With kind regards,

Yours truly

A. H. Sayce.

No 10

Apocry House,  
Batheaston,  
Bath.

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1874.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I have none of my books  
with me here, & therefore I cannot say  
whether quo is ever used in old Latin  
in a demonstrative sense, but I think that  
it is not. This, however, would only show  
that qui had lost its original demonstra-  
-tive meaning when the Latin language  
appropriated quo as an adverb of place.

Certainly just as the relative was primarily  
the demonstrative, so "there" would primarily  
have been "there": I think I mention in  
my book that the Chinese so "place" is  
now used for the relative, & in Coogan  
sa "which" (like Heb. asher) is often  
used in the sense of "where" tho' its  
original signification was "that".

I should have sent Mr. Vinson a  
copy of my "Principles", but Mr. Trübner  
cut me so short in the matter of copies  
that I was unable to do so.

Of course I will say nothing about

your discovery until you wish me

to do so.

Hoping that Mrs van Eys is better,

I remain

Yours truly

A. H. Sayce.

I am very glad to be able to be of any  
help to you: I hope you will have  
many more questions w<sup>ch</sup> I can answer.

Can you give me any criticisms of what  
I have written about Baogoe? I see  
I have overlooked some misprints, etche  
for eche for instance.

No 11



Queen's Coll.  
Oxford.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1875.

My dear Mr. van Eys,

Very many thanks for your  
book wh<sup>ch</sup> you have been so good as to  
send me. I see that there is a rich  
feast for me in it. I had hitherto  
regarded the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of your grammar  
as the standard work on the subject, but  
I now see that your second edition  
has proved that there is a stage beyond



even the food.

I hope you had a comfortable journey  
on Saturday & had not to wait long  
for the train.

With kind regards to Mrs. van Es &  
many thanks, believe me

Yours very truly

A. H. Sayce.

no 11

J. W. van Eys Esq;

14 Stanley Gardens,

Notting Hill,

London. W.

A.H.S.



GRAY & RIPP  
64-NEW BOND S



No 12



Ducaris (oll.

Oxford.

Apr. 20th 1875.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

After you had been with me here, I ~~explained~~ inserted <sup>your</sup> explanation of didak in the proofs of the new edition of my book & referred <sup>first</sup> to your <sup>Pamphlet</sup> ~~Paper~~ upon the Baague verb. You had been good enough to write down the stages thro' which the auxiliary verb passed in being reduced into its present form, & nothing could be



clearer than your explanation. I wish  
I had known it before my first edition  
was printed.

You are always making fresh discoveries,  
& you will leave Basque philology in  
a very different state from that in which it  
was when it first attracted your notice.

Your last discovery of the origin of the Basque  
imperpet is most interesting & adds another  
confirmation to the fact that in language

the category of space preceded the category  
of time.

I have been greatly enjoying the 2nd  
edition of your Basque Grammar & you  
were so kind as to send me. I cannot

find any exact parallels to the Acadian

in-fin = "he-made" } in-fine = "he-makes"  
in-nin-fin = "he-it-made" } in-nin-fine = "he-it-makes"  
in-nin-tan-fin = "he-it-caused to make".

Have you seen Heiss yet?

I hope this fine weather has made

Ino van Eys quite well again.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours truly

A. H. Layce.

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No 12

W. J. van Eys Esq.

14 Stanley Gardens,

Notting Hill,

London. W.

A.H.S.

YARD  
DE NEW. 40





I leave England on the 4th.



No. 13

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

May 26th 1875.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I send back by this post with many thanks the books you so kindly lent me. The work on phallic worship is very curious & contains much that is interesting & doubtless true; though it also contains much that is wild & questionable. The Semitic etymologies, for instance, belong to the guessing of the last century.



I have also been much interested by  
Genl. Paidherbe's articles. The letter-change  
in the Poul language is extremely remarkable  
& demands study.

So far as I can see, you have quite  
overthrown Mr. Visson's arguments. Of  
course I do not feel myself qualified  
to judge about the point, but to an  
outsider like myself your position seems  
by far the most tenable. You explain  
& analyse in accordance with the methods  
of modern comparative philology; Mr.

Vinson does not. Such is the general  
impression left upon my mind.

By the way, I should be very glad if  
you would look into Mordvinian Grammar.  
The best Grammar is T. J. Wiedemann's  
"Grammatik der Ersa-mordvinischen Sprache"  
(S. Petersburg 1865). The machinery of the verb,  
& the phonetic decay it has undergone, are  
strikingly analogous to what we find in  
Basque. Mordvinian, again, has a negative  
ez, which is not found in the other "Turanian"  
dialects. Along with Mordvinian, Tcheremissian  
ought to be examined: Wiedemann has also  
published a "Versuch einer Grammatik der

Cheremissian Sprache" (Reval 1847).

Please remember me to Mrs van Eys. I hope she is quite well now.

Mr. Alexander J. Ellis's address is 25 Argyll Road, Kensington, W.

I am very glad you found the meeting of the Anthropological Institute interesting. I wish I could have been there.

Dr. ~~Des~~ Lenormant has just published a new & extremely valuable work: "La Langue primitive de la Chaldée et les Idioms touraniens", w<sup>h</sup> not only adds to our knowledge

of Accadian but also settles for ever its philological position, & lays the foundation of a comparative Turanian philology. It has been called forth by Dr. Halevy's ignorant charlatanism.

Believe me  
Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

No 13



J. W. van Eys Esq.,

14 Stanley Gardens,

Gayce

Notting Hill,

London. W.

A.H.S.

GRAY & RIPPIN,  
64. NEW BOND STREET.



No 14



Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I have come back from Italy  
& have found a rich feast awaiting me  
in the shape of your book, for wh<sup>ch</sup> I  
thank you very much. I have not  
yet had time to read it all; but it  
seems to me one of the most valuable  
works that have yet appeared upon  
Braque. It lays the foundation of



a sound Basque philology, & makes  
it possible for the glottologist to compare  
this mysterious language, with a chance of  
success.

My Etruscan expedition has convinced me  
that the Etruscans - at ~~at~~ all events on  
the side of physiology, ~~ethnology~~ <sup>my philology</sup> & art -  
were not Aryan, whatever else they  
may have been. Perhaps you may have  
seen a letter of mine on the subject  
in the last Academy written from the

Engadine Samaden. I was obliged to  
ascend into the Engadine in great haste  
as I stopped at Ancona on my way  
home for the sake of paying a visit  
to the "Holy House" of Loreto, & being  
an unbelieving heretic I was punished  
by being poisoned with some typhoidal  
water I was so stupid as to drink. It  
made me very ill; but I am now  
getting all right again.

I hope that the summer has restored  
Mrs van Eyo's health & that it will  
not be necessary for you to leave England  
this winter.

Have you been looking at the "Iberian"  
inscriptions?

I have been again comparing the Basque  
& Finnic numerals; & also has Mr. Blyth,  
& he agrees with me in thinking that the  
resemblances between them are too striking  
& regular to be accidental. The great Turin  
Philologist Schott, also, follows Judas in stating  
that the Basque hamar & Finnish kämmen  
are the same. In Zortzi (8 2-8) we have a  
new numeral for 2 wh may be connected with  
the Finnic kats. I see you admit an interchange  
of 2 & 3 in Basque. Zortzi & bederatsi,  
therefore, may stand for zo-dtsi & bed-edtsi  
& we should thus have a name for 10 wh. appears  
in Magyar tíz, Luvianian das, & Chremiskian  
käkä-dece 8 (2-10) & en-dece 9 (1-10).

With kind regards & thanks, Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

No 14

W. J. van Eys Eog

13 Stanley Gardens,

Notting Hill,

London. W.

A. H. S.





LONDON  
AUG 15  
9

No 15

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Dec. 30. 1875.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I was very glad to get a letter from you & to hear that Mrs van Eys has at last lost her cough; tho' I was sorry to find that you found yourself so dull at San Remo. However you do not know what you have escaped in the way of weather. I have never known so miserable a Michaelmas Term as this has been. First of all we had a deluge of rain; Oxford was like a half-submerged island, the railway-station was surrounded with water twelve feet deep & could only be approached in a punt, & our communications with London were broken off owing to the line being washed away so that we got no newspapers & no post. Now the deluge has been succeeded by an intensely bitter north-east wind & quantities of snow. I have been ill all the Term, with cold, cough & neuralgia, & have been quite unfit for doing anything. This, added to the great amount of college work that has fallen upon my shoulders,

is the cause of my not having answered your letter before.

I saw Mr. Percival last week. He is now quite well, having been completely restored by the waters of Spa, & he wishes me to remember him to you.

Shall you write again to the Academy? I think all the world sees how the matter lies between Prince Bonaparte & yourself, tho' it is hard to understand why he should write in so embittered a tone.

Mr. Visson has just sent me a Paper of his in wh<sup>ch</sup> he compares Basque with the American languages & comes to the sensible conclusion that there is no connection whatsoever between them. Both his method & his conclusion seem to me to be sound. Mr. Webster has also sent me an article he contributed to the Revue de Linguistique on Basque folk-lore, wh<sup>ch</sup> you have doubtless seen long ago. Basque folk-lore & mythology is an important & wholly unworked subject, & may throw great light on several obscure Basque questions. I have long felt convinced that the

Greek legend of the Cyclops was borrowed from  
the Basques. Mr. Webster & Mr. Union are  
bringing out a book together on Basque folklore.

You have a brother philologist living not  
very far from you, Mr. Andrews, an American,  
who has written on the Mentonese dialect & is  
spending the winter at Mentone (Villa Pignatié),  
where he is working at a glossary of the same  
dialect. I mentioned to him that you were at  
San Remo, & he says: "I think Mr. van Eys  
would find the Hôtel de Londres pleasanter than  
where he is. At the former (one of the best hotels  
on the coast) the visitors are mostly English & it  
is very quiet. At the Victoria last year & doubtless  
this they are mostly Germans". I suggested to  
him that you might possibly meet; I do  
not know whether you have yet done so.

I am engaged just now upon a review of Mr.  
Smith's new book "The Chaldean Account of Genesis",  
in which he translates the newly-discovered fragments  
of the tablets which narrate the legends of the Creation,  
The Fall, The Deluge, The Tower of Babel, &c. It is  
a great pity they are so fragmentary, as the contents

of the tablets are of the greatest importance so far  
as the interpretation of the Bible is concerned &  
ought to force people to open their eyes. The "orthodox"  
have already become alarmed, & Dr. Kay in his  
commentary on Isaiah in the new volume of  
the Speakers Commentary boldly denies the truth  
of Assyrian decipherment altogether, for w<sup>h</sup>ch he is  
rightly scolded by Prof. Kuenen. I am going to  
give a lecture upon the subject at the London Soci-  
ety next January.

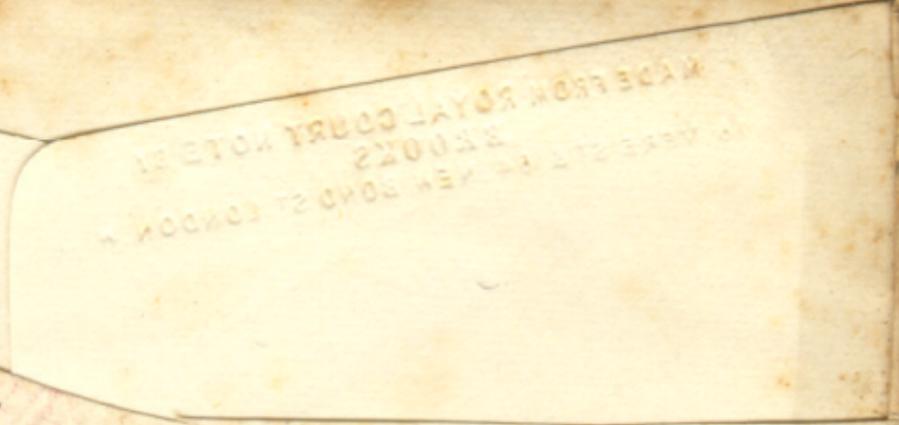
With kind regards to Mrs. van Eys

Believe me

Yours truly

A. H. Sayce.

No 15



M. van Gys,



Hôtel Victoria,  
San Remo,  
Italy.

A.H.S.



Have you seen  
Mr. Andrews yet?

No 16

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1876.

My dear Mr. van Eys,

I was very sorry indeed to learn that you had been confined to your bed while in the act of writing your last letter to me; but I hope that long before this time you have become quite strong & well again. So far as climate is concerned, you have escaped a great deal by being absent from England this winter. First of all we had deluges of rain, then intense cold; then rain & damp again, & now snow & raw east winds.

At the same time I fully sympathise with  
you in your difficulty about getting books.  
It is, indeed, very trying.

Did I ever tell you how much struck  
I have been by the similarity in the termina-  
: tions (so far as they can be made out) of the  
Castellon inscription to those of the Etruscan  
language? The language of the Castellon inscription  
does not seem to be related in any way to  
Basque: is it possible that it belonged to  
a family of speech of which Etruscan is the  
only other member left? I fancy that just  
as in Central America before the arrival of  
the Spaniards there was more than one

civilisation in western Europe before the  
appearance of the Kelts.

Prince Bonaparte's letter was so intemperate  
that those readers of the Academy who knew nothing  
of Basque would naturally conclude that he was  
in the wrong & therefore had fallen into a rage.

The notice of Mr. Webster's Paper on Basque  
folk-lore in the last Academy came originally  
from my hands; but the Editor altered it a  
little, & no proof of it was sent to me.  
Hence the mispellings "Orthos" for Orthros  
& "Janico" for Jainco.

I feel a little restless & anxious about  
Max Müller's resignation of the Chair of Compa-  
=rative Philology, as I should much like to be

his predecessor; but unfortunately I have a formidable rival, who, tho' not exactly a glottologist, is a good Greek scholar, & who has much greater influence in the University than I have. And that has more weight at Oxford than anything else. I am very sorry that the Max Müller<sup>s</sup> are going: they will be a great loss to me.

I am more & more beginning to believe that Basque, like Etruscan, is sui generis, & has no affinities with any other existing language. At the same time some of the numerals seem to me to have Finnic analogues; do you think they could have been borrowed like the English ace, deuce & tray? - I hope that Mrs. Hankey is now quite strong & has entirely lost her cough; & with kind regards, believe me  
Yours very truly A. H. Sayce.

Yours very truly  
A. H. Layce,

M

W 14 Lucien (M.)  
(Oxford).

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1877.

My dear Mr. Van Eys,

I was very glad to see your handwriting again, as I had begun to think that you had quite forgotten me. I am also very glad to hear that Mrs. van Eys is quite well again & that you are still working at the Baogé. Mr. Vinson is the last sufferer from Prince Lucien's treachery. Perhaps you have seen Prince Lucien's brochure on Mr. Vinson's translation of Ribary's Baogé grammar. It seems to me much too severe.

Very many thanks for your kind invitation. There is nothing I should like more than to see you once more, & to renew my acquaintance with San Remo. I remember San Remo when it was a picturesque (& somewhat <sup>what</sup> dirty) Italian town on a hill, when the railway was many miles away, & a visitor was rarely seen. I shall be going to the Oriental Congress at Flo-

ence next year, & if you are at San Remo  
& it would be convenient to you to receive me,  
I should very much like to take advantage  
of your kind invitation, & enjoy the room  
Percival has been occupying.

It is very pleasant to learn that you are  
engaged upon a Comparative Grammar of the Basque  
Dialects. This is a most important work, &  
there is no one so well qualified to under-  
take it as yourself. No doubt you have  
noticed the flattering terms in Dr. Pott, the  
veteran of comparative philology, speaks of your  
Basque grammar in his latest publication.

Tubris is doing a good work in publishing  
in the Academia the various Keltiberian  
inscriptions known to exist in the country. I  
saw a few at Madrid of wh<sup>ch</sup> I had known  
nothing before. At Tarragona I came across  
a large number of terracottas, on many of  
wh<sup>ch</sup> were inscribed in Keltiberian<sup>or</sup> characters  
the name of the maker<sup>or</sup> of the country from  
wh<sup>ch</sup> they came. I copied all these legends  
as being important for Spanish epigraphy.

Would you like to have copies of them?  
As for my article on the Castellon inscription,  
you will have seen that it merely repeats  
what I told you a long time ago. I have  
simply given a conjectural alphabet & trans-  
literation, with a few remarks. If my reading  
is correct, the language of the inscription can  
have nothing to do with Basque. You once  
told me that you were thinking of taking  
up the study of the inscriptions; have you  
done so yet? The legends on the terracottas  
of Tarragona convinced me that the alphabet  
of Heiss must be amended.

I am very much interested in what you tell  
me of the dialect of San Remo. I hope you  
will turn your attention to it, & draw up  
a grammar & vocabulary of so unknown a  
form of speech. This is what Mr. Andrews,  
an American, has done for Mentonese. He  
lives at Mentone, tho' he goes to Switzerland  
during the summer. Will you allow me to  
give you a note of introduction to him?

D? Appleton was in your neighbourhood

this spring, first of all at ~~Cannes~~, then at  
Menton. He was laid up with a sudden attack  
of bronchitis & was ordered to Menton. It hap-  
-pened just at the time that I was starting  
for Spain, otherwise I should have told him  
to go to San Remo & call upon you.

I enjoyed my visit to Spain very much,  
& managed to cross to Morocco & see some-  
-thing of Moorish life. I returned to England  
feeling what an enormous disaster for humani-  
-ty was the Christian conquest of southern  
Spain. The weather there, was most beautiful,  
if anything a little too hot. At Madrid  
I met many of the ex-Professors & Professors  
of the University who have founded the  
Institucion libre. Elsewhere ignorance & superstition  
reign supreme. I paid visits to some dolmens  
in Andalusia, & what I saw convinced me that  
excavation & exploration would bring to light  
a vast number of prehistoric remains, including  
inscriptions. — I shall be here in Oxford  
almost all the summer. — I am so glad to  
hear that Mrs van Egmond is quite well again; &  
with kind regards to her & yourself, believe me

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

June 4th 1878.

Dear Mr. Van Eys,

I was so very glad to receive a letter from you once more, & to find that you were well, & pursuing your Baccalauree studies. "~~Good~~<sup>So</sup> news is good news"; so I conclude that San Remo has done all that it ought to have done for Mrs. Van Eys, & that she is now well & strong.

Let me thank you very much for your kind invitation, w<sup>ch</sup> I shall be very glad to avail myself of. I should so much like to see you again, & enjoy a talk over the subjects in w<sup>ch</sup> we are both interested. The Congress, as you know, meets on the 12th of September. Will you not join it yourself? I think its comprehension is wide enough to include Baccalauree.

I have heard of you from Dr. Percival who accompanied me in my wanderings in Greece

last writer. I much wish you could have been with me: you would greatly have enjoyed the results of the excavations at Olympia, Mykenae & elsewhere.

You must remember that what I wrote about Prince Bonaparte's *Baoghe Verb* had nothing to do with his theory of it, but with his collection of facts & forms. As for the theory of the verb, you know I have long been a convert to your views. Your comparative grammar will be most valuable: I did not know that you were at work upon it; since when you last wrote to me you had it only in contemplation. Please don't burn your letters to me another time: all that you write is most welcome, especially when the subject is that interesting *Baoghe* speech.

I have at length shired up our new Professor of Keltic, Prof. Rhys, to examine those words & grammatical forms of the Keltic languages, & do not suggest any Aryan analogies & may, therefore, be relied of the language or languages of the pre-Aryan population of these islands. The

results he has obtained so far are most important,  
to some of the words, in their earliest forms,  
as restored by the help of <sup>the</sup> phonological laws of the  
Keltic tongues, are remarkably like Basque  
words with similar meanings given in your  
dictionary. But there are other words for  
which he can find no Basque analogies.  
Such a word is sob (now hob) "surie".  
Cornwall's Glossary, again (8th century) gives  
ana as "mother" & art <sup>as</sup> "a god" in the  
language of the pre-Aryan Irish. Art, by  
the way, is very interesting, as it seems to  
form the first part of the name of Arthur,  
the second part of the name reminding us  
of that of the Silures, whose Spanish  
affinities were noticed even by Tacitus. Now  
the ~~old~~ Welsh myths point to the fact that  
Arthur was originally a non-Aryan hero.  
The non-Aryan race <sup>of Ireland</sup> is called Kiabolgs  
or "pot-bellied men" <sup>in</sup> by the old Irish annals.  
This points to their insufficient nutrition.  
A large number of Irish names belong  
to this non-Aryan race; such are Bê-nêth  
"Woman" or "Servant of (the goddess) Kêth",  
names compounded with kuaban "race", &

many curious names in B. The name of  
a deity or a human personage is preceded  
by the word "Dog", translated, of course, into  
Ewe. Do you know of any Basque names  
B. that take the form: "The dog of so-&-so"?  
I pointed out to Prof. Rhys, that Herodotus  
describes the Κύνες, or Κύνιοι as living  
in the extreme west, beyond the Kelts. He  
thinks, by the way, that the formation of the  
Irish verb, B. is thoroughly non-Bryan, has  
been affected by Basque influence, since it  
closely resembles the formation of the Basque  
verb. He is greatly checked in his researches,  
however, by his ignorance of Basque phonology,  
that is, of knowing what are the ancient  
sounds represented by modern sounds. What,  
for instance, does ty in the modern dialects  
represent? An earlier kt? For this I we  
must wait for your Comparative Grammar.

Many thanks for telling me of Martini's  
pamphlet B. I have ordered: I am sure you will  
like Sweet's little book. I am glad that you  
have made Mr. Andrews's acquaintance: I urged  
him to call upon you. - With kind regards,  
Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

No 19

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 1878.

My dear Mr. van Eys,

I am not going to trouble you with a long letter: in fact, I am only writing, in consequence of your kind invitation that I should visit you on my way to Florence next month, to ask if it would be convenient to you to receive me for a day or two, beginning with the 8th? I cannot leave Oxford before Sept. 6th, & find that that would enable me to be at San Remo on the evening of the 8th. If, therefore, it would be quite convenient to you to have me <sup>then</sup>, I need not say how much I should enjoy seeing you & Mrs. van Eys once more, & having a talk with you about Basque.

I do not know where Percival is at present. When I last saw him

he was uncertain as to his movements,  
~~but~~ but I hear that he has now left  
London.

I have a good deal to ask you about  
in reference to the researches made by  
Prof. Rhys into the pre-Keltic language  
or languages of the British Isles. As I  
think I told you, he believes he has  
found some coincidences between pre-  
Keltic roots & roots given in your  
Bacon's Dictionary.

How is your grammaire comparée  
progressing?

With kind regards, believe me

Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

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Notes  
20

I hope you will always  
write in English. I  
could find no "errors"  
at all in your letter.  
I have not seen our  
friend Percival for  
some time, but I hear  
that he is quite well.

Avondale,

Henrietta Park,

Bath.

Dec. 15th 1878.

Dear Mr. van Eyck,

I am very sorry indeed to hear  
such bad news from you. Typhoid fever  
is a very ugly ~~and~~ malady to have; it takes  
to long a time to recover from it. Some years  
ago I caught the fever at Ancona, & lay  
for several weeks in the hands of the doctor at  
Sanader in the Engadine; but I did not wholly  
recover from the attack for a year. Still when  
I did at last get well again, I was better  
than I had ever been before. So here is some  
comfort for you. But it is a fortunate thing  
that the malady has relieved itself externally in  
the form of an abscess. You will the sooner  
recover from the effects of this poisoning of the  
blood. I trust your wife will not suffer  
from this very severe winter. The S. Gothard

Pass was deep in snow when I crossed it on my return from Italy last October, & it has been bitterly cold in England ever since. I was laid up two or three weeks ago by an attack of my old enemy, inflammation of the lungs; but I am quite well again now.

I much grieve over the enforced delay in the appearance of your Grammaire. The Introduction you were so kind as to send me shows me that we have to expect a rich feast. What is your new phonetic system? Prof. Rhys is very curious about Basque phonology as he fancies he has discovered some <sup>more</sup> non-Bryan words in Keltic it may be Basque. But I can see, myself, nothing Basque in them. However, he has been diligently studying your Dictionary & Grammar. His three children are all ill at present, like yourself, with typhoid fever, due to bad drainage.

I fully agree with you in thinking that Just's style is pleasanter than that of Dümicke. I have begun to take in the

Geschichte, in spite of the 40 volumes with  
which we are threatened. But as you say, the  
work is most formidable. Schaefer on Babelonia  
& Assyria will be good, & the illustrations seem  
to me very useful. Have you seen the  
new edition of Diez's Wörterbuch edited by  
Scheler? It contains much that is new.

I am hard at work at present on my book  
"Introduction to the Science of Language",  
I hope will be published before next summer.  
It will fill two volumes.

What a pity it is that scholars cannot agree  
to differ without descending to personalities!  
Prince Bonaparte ought to have known better.  
You know well what reception your book  
will meet with from him. It is the old  
story of the hostility of the "Philologen" to the  
Comparative Philologists. I wish <sup>your Grammar</sup> it could have  
appeared in time for my book on the Science  
of Language. What you say about the loss of  
the final n in the two sub-dialects is very  
much to the point.

The Florentines were most kind & hospitable.

I made many pleasant friends at the Congress, including Renan. But <sup>a</sup> gloom was cast over the close of it by the sudden death of my poor old friend, Prof. Seeger, who died in the same hotel as that in <sup>to be</sup> which I was staying. His friend wished his body sent to England, so I had to accompany it to Leghorn where it was placed on board a steamer. After that, I spent three quiet days among the mosaics of Ravenna, & learned how beautiful Byzantine art could be. On my way to Florence I met with two misfortunes. I was very nearly smashed in a railway accident, & my portmanteau, which contained Prof. Max Müller's Sanskrit text, was stolen. I met several Aryan scholars at Florence; notably M. Oppert & Lenormant. Dr. Hommel, too, a young German who is studying Accadian, was there.

Please give my kind regards to Mrs van Eyck, & with the hope that Christmas & the New Year may bring you renewed health & strength, I remain  
Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

No 21

Bath.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1879.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

You see I am still at Bath.

We have been snowed up - like you at Rem-  
& the weather is horribly cold. I have wished  
many times that I had been wise enough to  
go to Egypt. But I leave Bath next Tuesday  
for London. & shall be again at Oxford  
in about a week. - I was very glad to

learn from your last letter that you were  
well enough to be thinking of returning home.

I hope much that since you wrote you  
have become quite well & that the bad  
weather will not interfere with your journey  
to San Remo. But even on the Riviera there

has been much snow, & the vines & oranges  
are said to be considerably injured.

Unluckily my Introduction is already nearly  
half way thro' the press, but I shall refer  
to your Grammaire Comparée under the head  
of Basque It will be treated in a later  
chapter. What will be the exact title of  
your work? The printers go on very slowly,  
so I expect it will be several weeks before  
I reach the Basque. The change of st into  
st <sup>as you have discovered</sup> is most interesting & important. What is the  
relation between st & stj in Basque (as  
in lost & lostj). Is st or stj the original  
sound? Analogy & the usual rule of phonetic  
change would make st the primary sound.  
Prince Bonaparte has just published the following

analysis of the names of the week-days in  
Baogwe :- Igande "Sunday" = "ascending".

Aoselen "Monday" = "first beginning" or "first  
of the week".

Askarte "Tuesday" = "middle of week".

Askarken "Wednesday" = "last of the week".

Astegeun "Thursday" = "Day of Thunder" (ozgi).

Asthal "Friday" for Astjenerale = "passer  
by of Thursday".

Larumbat "Saturday" = "one (lunar) quarter".

According to this, the primitive division of the  
month among the Baogwes would have been  
into periods of 3 days. The names of the other  
4 days could only have been given when the  
Baogwes had come into contact with people  
who possessed the 7-day week, & who counted  
by lunar months. The last fact comes out  
in the name Larumbat. Asthal of course

throws no light on the matter, but it seems to me that the name of Thursday does. It was only among the Teutonic peoples that Thursday was called Thors-day or Donners-day, & I do not see, therefore, how we can avoid the conclusion that the Basques borrowed the 7-day week from the Goths. I have often feared that there must be a Teutonic element in the Basque vocabulary from the occurrence of the word Silhar. Do you know of any other instances of words which may have been borrowed from a Teutonic source? As for San Juan, if the Prince's explanation is right, the name might refer either to the beginning of the 7-day week, or to the rising of the Sun.

With kind regards to Mrs van Eys & the hope that you are now quite restored to health,  
Yours very truly  
A. H. Sayce.

No. 22

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

March 22nd 1899.

My Dear Mr. van Eys,

I must not delay any longer to return you my heartiest thanks for your valuable book. I have waited thus long in the hope of having a letter <sup>or post-card</sup> from you telling me whether you have yet left Berne, or not.

But I trust that you <sup>are</sup> now sufficiently recovered to be able to be at home again, & accordingly I address my present letter to San Remo.

Your book has come just in time for my own, over which the printers are lingering after their usual fashion. As you may suppose, therefore, I have been greedily devouring all that you have written.

I am very glad to find you indicating cases of false analogy in Bagoer. The more our knowledge of language increases, the more clear

Does it become that the influence of false analogy upon the forms of grammar has been enormous. Consequently the comparative philologist would expect to meet with many cases like that mentioned on p. 134 where the 2nd pers. du has been introduced into all the persons.

Is there any trace of the numeral "two" preserved in zo-ubi when compared with bed-e-ratai (1-10)? The change of vowel in the last word is interesting, as being based on the same principle as that which lies at the bottom of the Ugro-Altaiic law of vocalic harmony.

Your discovery of the equivalence of k & t is important. Arguing from analogy k would be the older sound, & its change into t would indicate an intermediate mouillated form ky. Perhaps the occurrence of i after k in certain cases might be thus accounted for, y before a vowel passing into i.

Another important discovery is that k & g disappear between vowels like t & d or sopt r. They must first become h, & this leads me to the one point on ub with much hesitation

I venture to question the certainty of your opinion. That is the hardening of h into k. It is no doubt true that there are a few cases in Ab we find the easier sound passing into the harder; but these cases are very rare, & can generally be explained by the influence of accent or analogy. Throughout those languages with Ab I am acquainted we find the k becoming h, but not the converse. Is it not possible, then, that the same was the case in early Basque, that is in the Basque of some thousand years ago? I gather that you do not deny the passage of g into h, especially between vowels or after a consonant.

The general impression left upon <sup>me</sup> by your grammaire is that the differences between the present Basque dialects are of comparatively late origin, & presuppose a common parent-Basque spoken at least as late as the Roman period. The historical conclusion to be derived from this fact is important. Roman civilisation & the Latin language must have extirpated the languages & dialects allied to Basque,

with the single exception of one small dialect spoken in a part of the mountains not accessible to Roman influence, & therefore spoken by a small body of persons all living compactly together in the same limited area. When the Roman presence was removed, this small body was able to scatter & to originate the present dialects. It would be interesting to determine what of the Latin words borrowed by Basque belong to the period when Latin was still a spoken language.

We have had a very long & cold winter, & today the thermometer is again below freezing-point with a high north-east wind blowing, & snow threatening.

I hope you are feeling fairly well again now; & with kind regards to Mrs van Eys & yourself, believe me

Yours very truly  
A. H. Layce.

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1799.

My Dear Mr. van Eys,

I have put off writing to you until my review of your admirable grammaire comparée should have appeared in the Academy; but as I am starting in a few days for Egypt, I can wait no longer, but must write at once.

I was very sorry to ~~hear~~ learn from your letter, wh<sup>ch</sup> arrived when I was at Constantinople, of the return of your illness wh<sup>ch</sup> I hoped had left you for ever. But I trust that by this time you are again at home strong & well, with your leg at last healed, & that Mr. van Eys is also well. What a terrible affair the typhoid fever has been for you!

For myself, I returned home from Asia Minor four weeks ago, sunburnt & healthy: but my native climate at once received me with a bad cold, as a greeting. That has ended in the cough with wh<sup>ch</sup> I was laid up last Spring,

& I am therefore running away to the land  
of the Pharaohs in the hope of burying it  
in the mud of the Nile.

Percival, who sends his kindest regards to  
you, was my travelling-companion in Asia  
Minor, as no doubt you will have gathered  
from my letters in the Academy. The Academy  
will also have told you how successful I was  
in my explorations, & how many interesting  
discoveries of antiquities, both historic & pre-  
historic, I made. Asia Minor, in fact, is  
full of ancient remains, few of which have been  
hitherto seen by European travellers. Percival &  
myself enjoyed ourselves immensely, & came  
back quite enamoured of the poor,  
much-abused Turk. He is, we found, hospi-  
table, courteous, good-natured, & industrious,  
& the only honest & truth-speaking animal  
in the Levant. Travelling in the Levant, in  
fact, does not give one a high opinion of  
the Christians.

I expected to have found my book out  
before my return. But the binders have been  
very slow in accomplishing their work, & it

is not yet published. I suppose it will appear  
this Christmas. The last proof left my hands  
early in August.

Prof. Rhys is still pursuing his researches  
into the pre-Brythonic roots & idioms discoverable in  
the Keltic languages. When last I saw him, he  
told me that he was about to write to you to  
thank you for your kindness in sending him  
your book, & also to state the conclusions  
he has been able to derive from the study of  
it in regard to his own special line of  
research. He is strongly inclined to regard the  
pre-Keltic dialects of these islands as be-  
longing to the same family as Basque.  
What a pity it is that we do not know  
what Basque was eighteen centuries ago.

I see that Prince Bonaparte has a letter  
about the root ill in Basque in yesterday's  
Academy, but I have not yet had time to  
read it.

Please excuse my bad writing, but my fingers  
are so cold that I can hardly hold my pen. The  
ground is covered deep with snow, & there was  
a hard frost last night.

With kind regards, & the hope that this letter  
will find both you & Mrs van Eyck quite well,  
believe me

Yours very truly

A. H. Sayce.

No 24

Queen's Coll.

Oxford.

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1843.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

I am but just returned to England, & here find your welcome letter awaiting my arrival. I was very nearly having the pleasure of seeing you at San Remo, as I had intended to return to England by the Riviera. ~~But~~ Some work I was doing in the Vatican library, however, detained me in Rome longer than I had anticipated, & I was therefore obliged to return to my native country as quickly as I could, thro' the St. Gotthard tunnel.

I have not followed the attempts that have been made during the last six years to decipher the Iberian

inscriptions, & only know that they  
have been classified not only geographically,  
but also chronologically by Zobel. The  
last publication on the matter, I think,  
is Kitta's article on the "Lámina cel-  
=tiberica de bronce, hallada en el tér-  
=mino de Luzaga" in the Boletín de  
la real Academia de la Historia II. 1.  
(1882) pp. 44-58.

I know nothing of the inscriptions found  
at Verona, Vicenza, &c. Where can I  
see copies of them?

Ballhorn's alphabets are imperfect &  
untrustworthy. But I do not know  
how the Iberian alphabet can be de-  
ciphered, except thro' bilingual texts.  
It is certainly not derived from the  
Punic, but from the Greek, form of  
the Phœnician alphabet. The most  
curious thing about it is its general

resemblance to the (still undeciphered) Ka-  
-rian alphabet, which has a considerable  
number of characters closely resembling  
the Iberian <sup>ones</sup>, over & above the ordinary  
Greek letters. I can only explain the  
similarity by supposing that the Iberian  
alphabet was introduced <sup>into Spain</sup> by the Samians,  
who according to Herodotus first discovered  
Tartessos.

For the Greek alphabet Kirchoff's book  
is the only trustworthy one.

As you say nothing about your health,  
I hope & trust that you are now  
quite well & strong again. I should have  
called myself so a week ago, but already  
the English climate has given me a cough.  
I may yet have to follow your  
example & live permanently in the  
south. The doctors, however, are kinder to

me than they are to you, since the  
place of exile they have fixed on  
for me is Upper Egypt where I should  
be surrounded by the materials of  
my own studies.

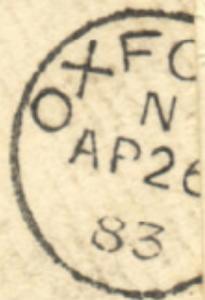
With kind regards,

Yours truly

A. H. Sayce.

N<sup>o</sup> 24

Monsieur



W. van Eys,

Villa Van Eys,  
San Remo.  
Italy.



No 25

Queen's Coll.

Oxford

Ap. 26/15.

Dear Mr. van Eys,

Many thanks for your information about the "Ligurian" inscriptions. Professor Rhys who has been working hard at Basque during the winter tells me that he has found many words <sup>in your Dictionary</sup> that must have been borrowed from Keltic (Gaulish), & also other words wh. the Kelts must have borrowed from the Basques. He further tells me that your works are the only ones on Basque wh. have given him a scientific idea of the subject.

Non-Keltic ~~and~~ & non-Keltic words in the dialects of the southern coast of

France ought, I suppose, to be derived  
from the old Ligurian; but has any  
competent scholar determined what these  
words are?

I know Dr. Hyde Clarke & his  
books. If you can understand them  
you will be more clever than I am.

His philological system is not that  
of Comparative Philology, at any rate.

I hope to be present at the Oriental  
Congress at Leyden next September.

The chance of seeing you there is  
an additional reason for my going.

I should be very glad to have  
your report of the value\* of Zobel's  
attempt at "Celtiberian" decipherment.

Some letters have certainly been deter-

=mined in the old "Celtiberian" alphabet,  
but I am anxious to know what

opinion a scholar like yourself would  
pronounce upon the attempts to read  
those letters or ~~characters~~ characters the forms  
of which are not Greek.

Mr. Trübner has kindly sent me  
your new Baughe Grammar, which I  
have been studying with much pleasure  
& profit.

With kind regards,

Yours truly  
A. H. Sayce.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

July 10/93.

Dear Mr. Van Eys,

I was rejoiced to see your handwriting again. I saw Percival last week, & he gave a very good report of you & Mrs Van Eys, & of your charming Villa. I was very nearly surprising you last October by a few minutes' visit, as I had to wait at Genoa for some days for my steamer for Alexandria, & thought of running to San Remo one day.

QUEENS COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

But the railway line had been broken in  
one place, & I found that the journey  
would consequently take too much time.

It was in the Fortnightly Review of  
last February that I gave an account of  
Krallo's discovery of one of the old Egyptian  
linen books - not bilingual, I am sorry  
to say. The linen had been used to wrap  
round a mummy, now in the Museum  
at Ajaccio. When I am again in  
London I will get a copy of the  
Review & send it to you.

Tho' I retain one set of rooms in

College, I have a house now in London  
not far from where you used to live  
(23 Chesrow Villas, Baywater.) So  
my poor library is divided into 3  
parts; one part here in Oxford, a  
second in London, & the third in Egypt.

Have you seen G. von der Habelentz's  
Paper "Baskisch und Berberisch" lately  
published in the Sitzungsberichte of the Royal  
Prussian Academy? He tries to show  
that Basque & Berber are sister-lan-  
guages, connected in phonology, grammar  
& vocabulary. The Paper is very interesting,  
& the phonology is based on your re-

= searches. He even connects the name  
of Basque with the name of Imasag,  
Amasay, given to ~~the~~ themselves by the  
Berbers, the equation being:

(a)-bask : ibusk-(usk-) :: amasay :  
imusag (the plural)

He certainly shows that there is curious resem-  
-blance between the Basque & the Berber  
pronouns & noun-supplies. As Berber is  
related to Old Egyptian, it may be that  
Giacomini is right after all.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly

A. H. Sayce.

---

Sayce

Monsieur



W. Van Eys,  
10 juil. 93

no 26 ~~60~~

San Remo,

(Krall,  
v. d. Gableutz  
Giacomino)

Italy.

PARKINS & GOTT  
THE COURTS

