

M. Evans and Company

230 EAST 50th STREET

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

Plaza 3-6186

May 10, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills Post Office
St. Andrew, Jamaica
West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

As a free lance editorial organization we have for some time been working with The Curtis Publishing Company and HOLIDAY in developing book projects based on the articles and photographs which have been published in HOLIDAY over the years. Several are in various stages of work at the moment.

One handsome prestige book that we have in preparation is tentatively called HOLIDAY'S Portrait of the World which will be published next year by Golden Press. It will be a big book, HOLIDAY size, and we plan to include in it excerpts from the most distinguished articles that HOLIDAY has run on the peoples and places of the world, and, of course, with a generous sampling of photographs illustrating the pieces. We expect that the text will run to about 250,000 words and that the book will be close to 400 pages long, depending in good part on the amount of illustrative material that is used.

Since the scope of the book is the whole world, we cannot use the longer pieces in their entirety. But at the direction of the editors of HOLIDAY we have condensed them not in the usual way -- taking short bits and pieces here and there. Instead, we have taken each piece as it appeared and have selected two or three substantial segments which fairly represent the tone and style of the whole. The segments which we have chosen will be used in their proper sequence and in no case will there be more than two breaks between the beginning and the end of the article. In other words, we have made no word changes. We have, because of the limitations of space, been forced to drop sections from the articles, but what we use will be precisely what appeared in the magazine.

Finding a fair method of payment for the material has posed some problems. After a good deal of discussion with the editors at HOLIDAY and with the people at Curtis, we agreed that the only feasible method was to set a fixed rate per word rather than a fee per article for this reprint use of the material. It seems only right that when we use larger sections of a piece we should pay more than we do for the shorter ones. The maximum rate has been set at five cents per word. Although there may be changes when we come down to final layout, we

Mr. Peter Abrahams

May 10, 1960

tentatively plan to use 4300 words from your article, The Blacks, which appeared in the April 1959 issue. This would, of course, amount to \$215.00. It is understood that this fee is in payment of the right to use the selection in this book in the English language and translation throughout the world. It is also understood that such permission is for non-exclusive use, and all other book rights remain your property.

If this arrangement is agreeable to you, will you please sign the enclosed carbon for our files. We will send you our check for the full amount on or before publication which is scheduled for mid-1961.

Sincerely yours,



Melvin Evans

ME/bk
Encl.

Permission Granted

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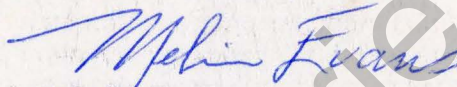
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ATTENTION: *Curtis Brown Publishers (Permissions - Janice Swanson)*

Fax: 0944 171 396 0110

From: Pat Swanepoel (Fax: 027 21 531 7236)

12 November 1999

Ref: AWE12/ks

Copyright Request:

Maskew Miller Longman is currently preparing a new textbook, **Advance with English**, for publication. The book is intended for use by learners in Grade 12 throughout South Africa. On behalf of the authors, we hereby request permission to reproduce the following material in the book:

A short extract from "A WREATH FOR UDOMO", by Peter Abrahams, published by Faber & Faber in 1956. Their permissions department referred us to your firm.

There will be an initial print run of 5000 copies, with an extent of 224 pages. We require English language rights and distribution rights for South Africa only. The estimated selling price of the book will be R54.95. The proposed publication date is December 1999..

Looking forward to hearing from you

Pat Swanepoel

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E-mail: pat@mml.co.za

Reading

This thing called progress (Part 1)

Since the independence of Ghana in 1960, political leaders in post-colonial Africa often face a dilemma: whether or not to retain the use of white expertise for the sake of progress and run the risk of alienating African grassroots support. The novelist Peter Abrahams addresses this tension in his fascinating novel: *A Wreath for Udomo*. Read the extract that follows.

Selina is angry, very angry. So is Adebhoy. Selina was the main political force that overthrew the White colonial regime and put Udomo in the position of Prime Minister of an imaginary country in Africa.

In his new position as leader of a newly independent country, Udomo now has to make some very difficult political choices: risk socio-economic progress by alienating the former white rulers by Africanisation, or risk modernisation by favouring traditional African ways. Udomo is on the horns of a dilemma about 'this thing called progress' in the wake of a revolution.

'You have betrayed us,' Selina said quietly.

Udomo's eyes shifted to Adebhoy's face.

'That your opinion too, Ade?'

'We are agreed,' Selina said. 'That's why we are here together.'

'That so, Ade?'

'Yes. You've betrayed us.' Adebhoy's eyes were cold and sombre.

'I see . . . You say "You have betrayed us" Whom do you mean by "us"? And what is the nature of my betrayal?'

Selina's eyes flickered.

'So you would play the white man's game with us . . .'

'No, Selina. You accuse me. I want to understand the accusation. That's all.'

'All right, Udomo; I will tell you! You ask who we are whom you have betrayed. You have betrayed me.' The hint of passion left her voice: she spoke coldly, impersonally. 'You have betrayed me.' 'I made you Prime Minister and you have betrayed me. You know what you were when you came to me at the market that day eight years and more ago. You are Prime Minister now because I did not turn you away then.'

'How have I betrayed you?' asked Udomo.

'You ask that?'

'I do. I want to know.'

'Don't treat me as a child, Udomo!'

'The man who is accused has a right to know.'

'There are more white people in our land now than there were when the British ruled.'

'Because we need them, need their skills.'

'What of your promise that the land would be free of their rule?' interposed Adebhoy.

'They don't rule. We rule. You know that, Ade.'

Unit 12

'I'm not sure of that any more,' Adebhoy said. 'Sure we're the Ministers. The Cabinet's ours. We sign the laws. But white men run all the big industrialisation and construction projects. They control us with their money, and you know it. That's why you have to shut your eyes to their clubs for whites only. Everywhere in the land, in factories, on building and construction projects, where roads are being made, whites give the orders and blacks do the work . . .'

'Like in Mhendi's land,' Selina said.

'And how much money goes out of the country in dividends for whites?' demanded Adebhoy. 'You never talk about that, home-boy; not even to your colleagues in the Cabinet. Why?'

'Ask me that at a Cabinet meeting, Ade, and I'll tell you.'

'So I cannot be trusted,' Selina said.

Udomo fought off a wave of utter weariness.

Questions

- 1 In a sentence, explain what Selina and Adebhoy are accusing Udomo of?
- 2 How does Udomo defend himself against the accusation?
- 3 In what way(s) could Udomo's 'utter weariness' (line 00) influence his attitude towards any further accusations from Selina and Adebhoy?

Now read on:

This thing called progress (Part 2)

'What else have you against me? Asked Udomo.

'You will not answer us?' Selina said.

'You didn't come here to hear me. You came to tell me.'

'You are very confident. Udomo.'

'No, Selina; not confident. I understand you, that's all.'

'And you will not defend yourself?'

'Against what? Against building hospitals; against fighting ignorance and superstition?'

Selina rose. Adebhoy did so too. The years had made her more gaunt and wiry, had made her dark face more masklike.

'You will not get rid of the whites?' she said.

'Not till I'm ready.'

'And you are determined to destroy our ways?'

'Those that interfere with our progress: yes.'

Selina moved about the room.

You're dangerous. Udomo thought; dangerous but late, my friend.

With her back to him, Selina said: 'What is it you're after, Udomo?'

He smiled. Would she understand? Could she understand?

He made a slight move with his shoulders, as though shaking off something unpleasant.

People and progress

'What do you think I'm after? Have I made as much money out of this as you - or Ade? You tell me.'

'You are destroying our ways, Udomo. The old ways are dying at your hands. We were slow to see. We thought: He knows what he does. He's our man. So I said "Let him be. Give him time. He's matching white cunning with black cunning."'

She turned to him then. Her face now blazed with bitter hatred. 'But you fooled me. You fooled Selina.'

He turned to Adebhoy. 'Well, Ade? Are you really a tribalist? You, a doctor? You'll lose if you fight me, you know. You belong to tomorrow, man; not to yesterday.'

But he knew he was wrong. Adebhoy had gone back to the past of blood ritual and ancestor worship. Really, Ade had always been there; always a lying smile, like one of those old grimacing masks from the past. Never a person because the person doesn't matter; just a unit in a group. Someone he'd never known because there had been no personality to know. He sighed. The weight of tiredness was making him slightly dizzy.

'All is said,' Selina said. 'Come.'

She paused in front of Udomo. Her eyes glittered. Then she spat.

God, the price men paid for this thing called progress!

He became aware of a steady, regular throb in the silent night.

Drumbeats, soft and subdued . . .

Questions

- 1 What was the main purpose of the meeting between Udomo, Selina and Adebhoy?
- 2 Which word in Selina's opening sentence in line 1 tells us that the meeting is unlikely to be a happy one?
- 3 In line 00, Selina asks 'What is it you after, Udomo?'
(a) How does Udomo interpret this question?
(b) How does he answer it?
- 4 In line 00, Udomo starts a counter-attack.
(a) What does he accuse Adebhoy of being?
(b) Briefly explain, in one sentence, what you understand by this.
(c) What reason does he suggest why Adebhoy will fail?
- 5 'But he knew he was wrong.' (line 00)
(a) What was he wrong about?
(b) Why did he think he was wrong?
- 6 What does Udomo hope to achieve by appealing to Adebhoy each time Selina asks him a question?
- 7 'God, the price men paid for this thing called progress.' In the text, this line is ambiguous.
(a) What might it mean from Selina's point of view?

A/W: Two men and a woman (Nigerian) in a posh reception room.

Confrontation.

Caption: 'You have betrayed us'

INTRODUCING

M B A R I

The African Writers' and Artists' Club
in Ibadan, Nigeria.

and the

M B A R I

NEWS-LETTER

The Editor is Mrs. Jane Sykes,
University College,
Ibadan, Nigeria.

MBARI is an African writers' and artists' club, which opened in Ibadan in July 1961. It is planning a monthly eight-page publication, the MBARI NEWSLETTER, which will aim to present up-to-date information about developments and trends in African art, literature and music.

The publication will consist mainly of news items, photographs and short reviews in any field relevant to the arts, whether on the African continent or about Africans abroad, such as:-

- Cultural conferences and courses
- Art exhibitions
- New commissions
- New writers and books
- Music and composers
- Drama
- Films

The publication will be sent free of charge to creative artists, art galleries, universities, cultural institutions, publishers and any other interested persons and institutions in Africa and throughout the world.

The Editor is Mrs. Diana Speed,
University College,
Ibadan, Nigeria.

*Information sent
08/1/62
mth.*

September 27, 1996

Mr. Sid Simpson
Permissions Editor
McDougal Littel Inc/Houghton Mifflin
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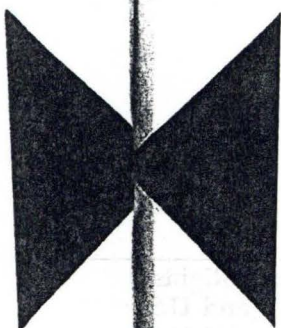
Dear Mr. Simpson

Faber & Faber are both my publishers
and my business managers so will you
please refer your request re TELL FREEDOM
TO THEM. I am sure you know they have
offices in both London and Boston.

I note your rush deadline but your
request only reached me on Monday
of this week.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams



Tell Freedom,

Memories of Africa

by
Peter Abrahams

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Alfred A. Knopf
New York
1969

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L. C. catalog card
number: 54-5266

Published
August 9, 1954
Reprinted three
times
Fifth printing
November, 1969

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visit to the river. On Sundays there would be a small piece of meat to vary the diet. Often there was a piece of bread at midday to take the edge off my hunger. Each day Aunt Liza washed; each night I fell asleep while she ironed. In time I lost my fear of Uncle Sam's silence. There was, of course, variety; but the basic pattern of my days was as this first day had been.

(4)

Wednesday was crackling day. On that day the children of the location made the long trek to Elsburg siding for the squares of pig's rind that passed for our daily meat. We collected a double lot of cow dung the day before; a double lot of moeroga.

I finished my breakfast and washed up. Aunt Liza was at her washtub in the yard. A misty, sickly sun was just showing. And on the open veld the frost lay thick and white on the grass.

"Ready?" Aunt Liza called.

I went out to her. She shook the soapsuds off her swollen hands and wiped them on her apron. She lifted the apron and put her hand through the slits of the many thin cotton dresses she wore. The dress nearest the skin was the one with the pocket. From this she pulled a sixpenny piece. She tied it in a knot in the corner of a bit of coloured cloth and handed it to me.

"Take care of that. . . . Take the smaller piece of bread in the bin, but don't eat it till you start back. You can have a small piece of crackling with it. Only a small piece, understand?"

"Yes, Aunt Liza."

"All right."

I got the bread and tucked it into the little canvas bag in which I would carry the crackling.

"Bye, Aunt Liza." I trotted off, one hand in my pocket, feeling the cloth where the money was. I paused at Andries's home.

"Andries!" I danced up and down while I waited. The cold was not so terrible on bare feet if one did not keep still.

Andries came trotting out of his yard. His mother's voice followed; desperate and plaintive:

"I'll skin you if you lose the money!"

"Women!" Andries said bitterly.

I glimpsed the dark, skinny, woman at her washtub as we trotted across the veld. Behind and in front of us, other children trotted in twos and threes.

There was a sharp bite to the morning air I sucked in; it stung my nose so that tears came to my eyes; it went down my throat like an icy draught; my nose ran. I tried breathing through my mouth, but this was worse. The cold went through my shirt and shorts; my skin went pimply and chilled; my fingers went numb and began to ache; my feet felt like frozen lumps that did not belong to me, yet jarred and hurt each time I put them down. I began to feel sick and desperate.

"Jesus God in heaven!" Andries cried suddenly.

I looked at him. His eyes were rimmed in red. Tears ran down his cheeks. His face was drawn and purple, a sick look on it.

September 4, 1996

Peter Abrahams
P. O. Box 20
Red Mills, St. Andrews
BW1 Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

McDougal Littell would like to acquire the non-exclusive rights to reprint:

Excerpt from *Tell Freedom: Memories of Africa* (pp. 30-42) by Peter Abrahams (photocopy enclosed).

in a school edition to complement our *The Language of Literature* Program.

We would reprint your work in a mini-anthology for tenth graders, entitled *Literature Connections*, which will include 7 selections thematically related to a novel. The related selections will connect to the main selection through theme, topic, historical context, and/or author and will support the language arts and multidisciplinary objectives set by present-day school curricula.

Publication Date:	summer 1996	Territory:	North American Rights/
Estimated Print Run:	7,500		U.S. territories and U.S.
Approximate selling price:	\$9.00		International expatriate schools

For sales of the school edition, adoption contracts also require that we be permitted to sublicense on a nonprofit basis, publication in whole or in part, in forms and special formats, for individuals with disabilities who are unable to read print in a conventional manner.

We would appreciate your signing and returning this letter contract as soon as possible (**this is a rush request**). If any of the rights are controlled by other parties, would you please let us know who we should contact. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Sid Simpson
Permissions Editor / phone (847) 570-3297 fax (847) 869-0841

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for McDougal Littell Inc.

1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201

"Coyaba",
Red Hills Post Office,
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

West Indies.

October 28, 1964

Mr. V. Ostrovsky,
Moscow Literary Gazette.

Dear Mr. Ostrovsky,

Your letter of September 29, addressed to me care of
Faber & Faber, London, has just been forwarded to me here.

In February of this year I wrote to Mr. S. Dangoulev,
deputy Editor-in-Chief of your 'Foreign Literature Magazine'
who had written putting the same two questions to me that
you have now done. In any event, here again are the answers
to your two questions.

1) What am I writing now? I have just completed a novel
entitled A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN which deals with the resistance
movement to the South African racist government, and also
with some of the problems faced by minorities both inside
the country and inside the resistance itself. This book will
be published by Faber & Faber in London and Alfred A. Knopf in
New York. Both publishers plan to bring out the book in April
of next year.

2) What are my plans for the future? I am now working on
the first draft of a new novel set in the Caribbean. This
deals with some of the problems of power, of race and colour,
and of poverty, as well as the crucial problem of leadership,
in an island republic whose benevolent but autocratic 'father-
figure' President has just died.

I hope to finish the first draft of this new book about
March of next year and then to go travelling and observing in
East Africa before returning to my final revision of it.

I am very sorry but I do not have review copies of my own
books to send you. In any case most have them have been
published in Moscow and the people at 'Foreign Literature'
should be able to let you have them. The American publishers
have photographs and I will ask them to send you one.

Now for a personal matter. When I wrote Mr. Dangoulev,
I told him I was very disappointed that although my books

had been published in a number of Soviet editions, and although one had been turned into a film and another into a ballet, no one in the Soviet Union had bothered to inform me of this and I had to get the information second-hand from press and radio reports and visiting friends who had either seen and bought the books and attended the performances. Being sent copies of your books and being informed what use is being made of them, is the sort of courtesy every self-respecting writer expects and I told Mr. Dangoulev I was very disappointed with Soviet publishers and editors in this respect.

I also raised the question of being paid for my work. About ten years ago when I was still living in England I received one sum of money from Soviet publishers. This amount was about as much as I would get as an advance for a book from my American publishers. To the best of my recollection this was before my novel THE PATH OF THUNDER was turned into a film or, later, into a ballet. Naturally, I should like to be paid for this work. If you can talk to your literary authorities about this for me, you would be doing me a great service. And I could certainly use the money for my travels.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

Москва, 51
Цветной бульвар, 30
Тел. К 4-04-62, К 4-11-68.

. 29 . IX 1964 г.

№ _____

Адрес для телеграмм: МОСКВА, ЛИТГАЗЕТА

Dear Mr Abrahams,

On behalf of my paper, The Moscow Literary Gazette, I have been trying to reach you by phone in order to ask you for a very short interview. As your telephone number is not listed anywhere, this is no easy task.

May I ask ^(to let me know) you whether you find it convenient to give the interview by phone. If, on the other hand, you prefer to answer our questions in writing, here they are:

1. What are you writing now?
2. What are your plans for the future?

May I also ask you to send us review copies of your books ("Wild Conquest", "Mine Boy" & "Tell Freedom").

Looking forward to your reply

I thank you very much in advance.

With best wishes.

V. Ostrovsky
The Literary Gazette
Zvetnoi Bulvar 30
Moscow, USSR

P.S. Please send us one of your recent photographs for publication in The Literary Gazette.

Prof. Dr. Ernst Hermann Meyer
Berlin-Hessenwinkel
Bogenstr. 12

30th April, 1967

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I understand that the Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin (German State Opera, Berlin, German Democratic Republic) has written to you asking whether you would agree to my using the story of your book "The Path of Thunder" as a libretto to an opera. As they have not yet heard from you I am writing to you directly.

Several years ago I read your novel which made a deep impression on me. I think it is a most moving and, at the same time, important book with a humanist message to the whole of mankind. When the State Opera approached me with the request that I should write an opera for them I immediately suggested "The Path of Thunder" as the subject, on condition that you, as author of this book, agree. The libretto would be prepared by an experienced librettist here.

The Deutsche Staatsoper has been a centre of musical-operatic activities for several centuries; it is world-famous and of the highest artistic standard. As a composer I consider it a great honour to have been commissioned by the Staatsoper to write an opera to be produced there.

My question to you is:- would you permit me to use the content of your book or of part of it for my opera? What would your conditions be?

About myself:- I am 61 years old, author of many vocal and instrumental works, symphonic as well as chamber music, oratorios as well as songs. Recently David Oistrakh, famous Soviet violinist, played a violin concerto of mine on a stereo record issued by V.E.B. Deutsche Schallplatten, our record company.

I should be very grateful to hear from you in this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. Meyer

P.s.:-

I am sending this letter simultaneously to your home address and to your business address at the Radio.

Copy + letter from

State Opera House sent

to James Rose for action

16/8/67. Also the copy of my letter in answer to this
EA

Dr. George Mutebi
P.O. Box 125
Half Way Tree P.O.
Kingston 10
Jamaica W.I.

April 20, 1990.

Mr Peter Abrahams
Commenter
R.J.R.

Dear Mr Peter Abrahams,

Greetings.

A few weeks ago - I told you about a book I am writing. As the book is taking longer than I thought - I have written a summary in point form and sent it to ANC Headquarters in Lusaka and to others.

I enclose a copy for your information. Please comment.

I remain,

G. Mutebi
.....

Dr. George Mutebi

DR. GEORGE MUTEBI
B.Sc. (Hons.), M.B. ChB. (Liv. England)
Physician and Surgeon

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LONDON W.1

2nd April, 1963.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, West Indies.

Dear Peter,

CARIBBEAN WRITERS SERIES

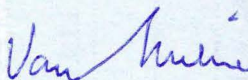
I wonder whether you have thought about our proposal for such a series. Since I last wrote, the notion of a World Writers Series has intervened.

Under such a title, it would be possible to gather works of fiction and non-fiction of significant writers in any country. They need not be published for the first time in this series; the essential thing is that the books would be sold through educational bookshops only, as in the case of the African Writers Series. In this way they could be produced more cheaply, because the discount given to booksellers is so much less on educational books than on general books.

I should like to interest you in this venture from your position as a writer of international standing, living in the Caribbean. You would be of great assistance to us if we could persuade you to come in on the idea.

I hope to visit your part of the world later in the year. Perhaps we may meet then.

Yours sincerely,



Van Milne

PEAKE'S

RY ON

Y REGISTERED

ED BY N



PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME



Peter Abrahams, Esq.,

Coyaba,

Red Hills P.O.,

St. Andrew,

JAMAICA, West Indies.

← Second fold here →

THOMAS NELSON & SONS LTD.

Sender's name and address:

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LONDON, W.1.

**AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
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OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.**

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER



Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/IV

23rd January, 1963

Van Milne, Esq.,
Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd.,
36 Park Street,
London W.1.,
England.

Dear Van Milne,

It was very nice to receive your letter just before last Christmas. I think it is indeed all of ten years or more since last we met and I am rather glad I did not do the Nkrumah biography at the time: but all that is old history.

I am certainly very interested in your idea of a paperback series by West Indian writers and should very much like to see samples of the African Writers series, so please let me have what you can and give me the details of your idea.

Life in Jamaica is extremely interesting though very busy. I have been so busy since we came here that I have not had the time to do any sizeable piece of writing. I have been involved in the establishment and editing of the "West Indian Economist", in radio, and very deeply in the ill-fated attempt to get the West Indies Federation off the ground. On top of all this we have built our own home and established the beginnings of a small farm.

I am now ready to withdraw from this all too active life and go back to my business as a novelist. I should have a book under way between now and March.

Yours sincerely,

PA/ul.

Peter Abrahams.

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Chairman P. H. D. RYDER, MBE

Deputy Chairman & Managing Director ALAN HILL

27th November, 1962.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
c/o The West Indian Economist,
164 Harbour Street,
Kingston,
Jamaica, West Indies.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

It must be nearly ten years since we last met. I think I was trying to get you to do a biography of Nkrumah at the time.

I should like to get in touch with you over the question of publishing fiction in a series suitable for wider sales in Africa, the West Indies and S.E. Asia. I wondered, for example, whether you might be interested in acting as general editor for a West Indian writers series, aimed at schools and colleges and published in paperback form. I could give you fuller details about this if you are interested, as it is just an idea in my mind at the moment.

I have been concerned in starting up a series, which has now been very successful - the African Writers Series, and we have been able to get reprint rights from Faber of MINE BOY for this purpose, which has given me great pleasure. We should try to do the same sort of thing with established West Indian writers and, at the same time, contract new books, as we have been able to do with the African writers.

I have been with Heinemann's for three years, but now rejoin my old firm, Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., whose London office is at 36 Park Street, London, W.1. I hope you will write to me there.

I have tried to get in touch with you once or twice over the years, and I am indebted to Jackson Marshall of William Collins for your present address. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Van Milne

2, Lancaster Road,
Didsbury,
MANCHESTER, 20.

August 18, 1959.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I am rather surprised to have received no reply to my letter of July 3 and the enclosed note Jamaica's Land Taxation Relief Board. Also I have received no copy of the West Indian Economist since the issue for June. As I mentioned in my letter, I wish to continue receiving it and will send my subscription when invoiced. I believe I have 3/- to my credit from the first subscription.

I trust that the lack of a reply is not due to illness on your part. I remember you said you were not well when I last called on you in April. My best wishes for your recovery if you are still unwell.

When you can I should like to hear from you. The above is now my address.

Yours sincerely,


D. J. Morgan.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
Editor,
The West Indian Economist,
164-66, Harbour Street,
Kingston, JAMAICA, W. I.

Vaughan



Peter Abrahams, Esq.,

Editor, THE WEST INDIAN ECONOMIST

164-166, Harbour Street,

Kingston,

JAMAICA, W. I.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:

D. J. Morgan,

2, Lancaster Road,

Didsbury,

MANCHESTER, 20, U. K.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

October 22,
1985

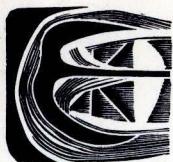
Mr. G.V. Green,
N.E.L.M.
Private Bag 1019
Grahamstown 6140
South Africa

Dear Mr. Green

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 20 and to inform you that I will not co-operate in any way with South African organisations or institutions which by their very nature are part and parcel of the system of Apartheid. To do so would make me an accomplice of a manifest evil.

I have advised Faber & Faber not to grant permission for Ad Donker to reprint the piece they requested as I have no wish to be associated in any way with their publication.

Yours sincerely



THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LITERARY MUSEUM
AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Enquiries/Navrae:

Ref./Verwysing:

Your Ref./U Verw.:

Date/Datum:

Mr G V Green

4/4/14

20 September 1985

Private Bag / Privaatsak 1019

Grahamstown 6140

South Africa

Tel (0461)

7095/7042

Peter Abrahams
Red Hills
St Andrews
JAMAICA

Dear Mr Abrahams

My name is Garth Green and I am writing to you on behalf of NELM. First let me explain the function of the Museum. It is an institution with the specialist function of collecting, conserving, researching and exhibiting material related to English literature from Southern Africa. Our brief is to preserve the country's literary heritage and to make our research facilities available to all who seek to use them. This leads me to the point of the letter. Ad. Donker Publishers have invited NELM to select and supply photographs of authors for reproduction in their forthcoming publication *A Companion to South African English Literature*.

A search through our photographic collection at NELM has revealed that we do not hold any photographs of you which can be used for quality reproduction. We would appreciate it if you could let us have a selection of photographs of yourself for copying and adding to our literary collection. From these we could then select a photograph to feature in *Companion* unless you would like to suggest a particular one for inclusion. The photographs will be returned to you and if you wish NELM will reimburse you for the cost of postage.

- i) Would you please include permission for the photographs selected to be used in *Companion*.
- ii) Permission for the selected photographs to be copied in future at the discretion of the Director of NELM.
- iii) Unless otherwise stated the photograph will be credited to you.

In anticipation, thank you for your assistance. We look forward to receiving the photographs at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

DIRECTOR

GVG/dw



NATIONAL ENGLISH LITERARY MUSEUM

Private Bag 1019 Grahamstown 6140 South Africa

Telephone: (0461) 27042/27095
Fax: (0461) 22582

Enquiries Andrew Martin
 Bibliographer
 4/4/12/8
Reference
Your Reference
Date 6 May 1996

Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills Post Office
Jamaica

Dear Mr Abrahams

I am writing to you on behalf of the National English Literary Museum, under whose direction I am compiling a detailed Bibliography of published creative works by Black South Africans from the earliest times *up until* 1990, with a view to bringing to light previously 'marginalised' writing. The Bibliography will include:

- * poems
- * short stories
- * novels
- * collections and anthologies (edited by Black writers)
- * published plays
- * autobiographical writing
- * essays and journalistic writing by established Black writers
- * literary criticism
- * interviews conducted by or with Black writers

The intention is to add one copy of each item to our already extensive collection of imaginative and critical southern African writings. Clearly we would prefer our specimen copy to be the first published version of the item. If an item has been expanded upon, revised or renamed in a later publication, these changes will be noted. I am not including *extracts* from previously published works. The Museum would like to be able to provide scholars with immediate access to as much of this invaluable material as possible.

May I ask you for your help in compiling the entries on your own writings? Your assistance and support would greatly enhance this project.

I enclose a list of all of your works which the Museum already has in the archives, listed alphabetically by title. Those marked with an asterisk are items that we know of but do not yet possess.

BOOKS

A Blackman Speaks of Freedom. [Durban: Universal Printing Works], 1940].
Dark Testament. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1942.
* Here Friend. (No details).
Jamaica: An Island Mosaic. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office (Corona Library Services), 1957.
Mine Boy. London: Dorothy Crisp and Co., 1946.
A Night of Their Own. London: Faber and Faber, 1965.
The Path of Thunder. New York, Harper, 1948.
* Poems. c.1961 (No details).
* The Quiet Voice. Philadelphia, Dorrance, 1966.
Return to Goli. London: Faber and Faber, 1953.
Song of the City. London: Dorothy Crisp and Co., 1945.
Tell Freedom. London: Faber and Faber, 1954.
This Island Now. London: Faber and Faber, 1966.
Wild Conquest. New York: Harper, 1950.
A Wreath for Udomo. London: Faber and Faber, 1956.

* (As editor) Souvenir Pictorial Review of the West Indies Federation, 1947-57. Kingston: Edna Manley, c.1958.

* (as co-author) History of the Pan-African Congress. [n.p.]: Hammersmith Bookshop, 1963.
* The World of Mankind. [n.p.]: Golden Press, 1962.

POEMS (Other than those contained in A Blackman Speaks of Freedom)

"The Brown Road." *Cape Standard*, 17 January 1939: 3.
"The Call of the Sea." *The Bantu World*, 7 September 1936: 16
"Freedom." *Cape Standard*, 28 June 1938: 3.
"Henry Peters." *The Bantu World*, October 24 1936: 16.
"Heritage." *Cape Standard*, 7 March 1939: 4.
"Little Grease-Men." *Cape Standard*, 4 April 1939: 7.
"Higher! Ever Higher!" *The Bantu World*, 5 September 1936: 16.
* "The Lonely Road."
"Merit." *The Bantu World*, 5 September 1936: 16.
"The Negro Youth." *The Bantu World*, 5 December 1936: 16.
"Old and New." *Cape Standard*, 17 January 1939: 3.
"Out of the Past." *The Bantu World*, 24 October 1936: 16.
"The River." *Cape Standard*, 17 January 1939: 3.
"To a Brown Girl." *Cape Standard*, 17 January 1939: 3.
"To My Mother." *The Bantu World*, 14 November 1936: 16.

SHORT STORIES (Other than those contained in Dark Testament)

* "Slops Boy - Office Boy." *Presence Africaine* (5), 1948; (6); 1949

ARTICLES

[Letter to the editor re Father Huddleston]. *The Times*, 10 May, 1956: 10.
"Can We Unite." *African Drum* 2(7), July 1952: 10-11.
"Challenge to African Writers." *West African Review*, April 1952: 387.

"Colonialism on Trial: The Kenyatta Case." *The Nation* (177), 1953: 31-32.
 "The Conflict of Culture in Africa." *International Affairs*, July 1954: 304-312.
 "A Letter to My Mother." *Drum*, October 1951: 24.
 "A Letter to You." *Drum*, March 1952: 36.
 "The Long View: African Writers' Part in the Battle Against Racial Prejudice." *African World*, June 1952: 11-12.
 "Manifesto from Johannesburg." *Saturday Review* (42), August 1959: 22-23.
 * "The Meaning of Harlem." *Holiday* (27), 1960: 74-81, 136-142.
 "New Faces from Africa." *Holiday* (31), 1962: 92-93, 95-96, 98, 100, 102.
 "The Puerto Ricans." *Holiday* (29), 1961: 33-47, 132-141.
 "The Real Jamaica." *Holiday* (33), 1963: 96-99, 102-104, 178-179, 183-185, 189.
 "South Africa: Ordeal and Hope." *Dissent* 3(3), 1956: 298-308.
 "We Can Learn to Be Colour-Blind." *The New York Times Magazine*, 11 April 1965: 38, 102, 104-107.
 "Wild Conquest: Reviews." *Drum*, July/August, 1951: 26.
 * [A series on Kenya and South Africa for the *London Observer* in 1952-53]

Areas where I suspect our collections may be seriously incomplete are :

- Your political articles/contributions to books, etc
- Your radio scripts for the BBC. Have these ever been published?
- Short stories: Are there any others not listed above?
- Anything you may have published in Jamaican newspapers and journals, such as the *West Indian Economist*. These journals are not easily obtainable here.

I would also like to know if the poems in A Blackman Speaks of Freedom and the short stories in Dark Testament were all published for the first time in these books?

Would you be able to help us fill in these gaps? Perhaps you have some personal lists of publications/bibliographies which you could make available to us. I should be able to obtain copies of articles from any South African journals or newspapers as well as from prominent international journals. For example, full runs of *Drum*, the *Cape Standard* and *Bantu World* are accessible in South Africa, so I would not expect you to list your work published there, but if you could let us have others, I would be most grateful.

If you can provide us with any material - such as spare copies you may have or photocopies of poems, articles etc. - we would be happy to pay all costs incurred. All copies would be used for study purposes only. It would assist us in budgeting if you could give us an indication of the likely costs before sending material.

I do realise this exercise may be time-consuming, but it would be of real benefit, not only to the Bibliography but also to the Museum as a whole. NELM is the national repository of imaginative writing in English for all South Africans and serves an important international function in popularising and making accessible information about our indigenous literature. There is of course a real benefit in having a full and accurate printed list of your publications.

Any information (including photographs) which you could provide us with would be greatly appreciated.

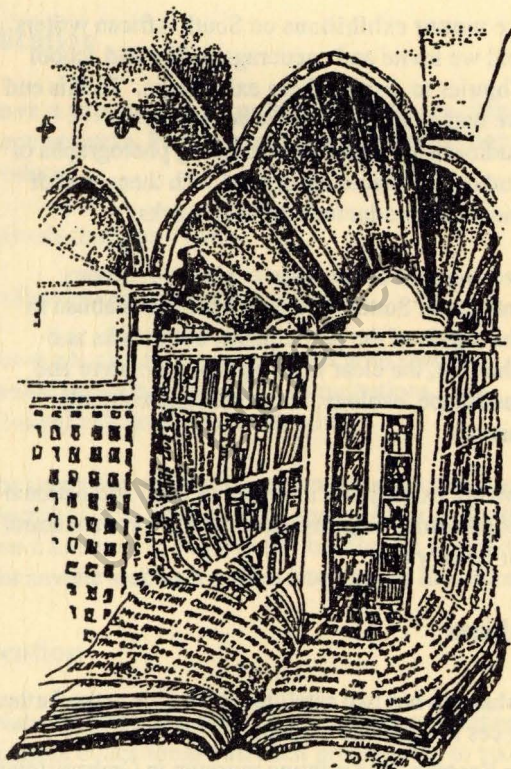
Yours sincerely

A Martin

p.p. Director

UWI Libraries

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LITERARY MUSEUM



✉ Private Bag 1019
GRAHAMSTOWN
6140
South Africa

☎ (0461) 27042
Fax: (0461) 22582
E-Mail: nelm@ru.ac.za

or visit us at 87 Beaufort Street, Grahamstown

MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

The mission of the National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown is to promote the reading and appreciation of all forms of imaginative South African literature written in English. Its principal functions are to collect and conserve material evidence pertaining to this literature, to publicise and popularise it, and to provide all sections of the reading public, both locally and abroad, with the means of access to it.

From the time of its inception in 1974 this Museum has striven to make all South Africans aware of the richness of our literary heritage, without regard to the gender, home-language, political affiliation, racial origin or religious conviction of the creators of that heritage. For us it is sufficient that the writers have chosen the English language as the medium in which to express their understanding and perceptions of the human condition as manifested in our uniquely South African situation.

WRITERS AND CULTURE

A **museum** devoted to the English writings of South Africans is a major cultural asset, since English is one aspect of our multi-faceted national culture which is truly accessible to all who wish to use it. For generations, many hundreds of authors - novelists, playwrights, poets, short-story writers, travellers and biographers - have freely elected to write in English, knowing that by so doing they would be able to reach the widest possible cross-section of South African society.

Our **writers** include men and women; old and young; academics, housewives, school-children and workers; the poor, the middle classes, the rich; atheists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and pagans; centrists, leftists and rightists. No section of the social spectrum is unrepresented.

Their **works** span the full range of imaginative literature from the entertaining to the serious, from escapist to satirical, from adult to juvenile. They write for all possible tastes, and from every conceivable angle.

Their **mother tongues** range from Afrikaans to Zulu. What unifies them and gives their work a common accessibility is their shared South Africanness and the fact that they write in English.

The works they create have found a ready **readership**, not only locally but also in the rest of Africa and overseas. Every year NELM responds to hundreds of detailed requests for information about South African English literature from countries all over the world. To several other African states, the Middle East and the Gulf, India and Japan, Australasia, North America, Scandinavia, the former East bloc and every country in Western Europe, we are the representative of an important aspect of South African culture.

The South African experience, mirrored in our diverse literature, is an experience of humanity in the raw, with all its grief and horror and pain, but also with all its glory and humour and tenderness. Our writers speak with the voice of an authenticity that quite transcends mere fashions of political correctness.

Collection

Without its collections, no Museum can truly fulfil its functions. At NELM we do this, firstly, by **collecting** the works - the novels, short stories, poems and plays - of all South African authors who write in English. Where possible we keep unpublished manuscripts and drafts as well as the final printed versions, which enable scholars to trace the fascinating development of the literary work through all its various stages.

We try to make our rich literary heritage available, in all its depth and diversity, in one place. To do this properly, we maintain comprehensive collections of

scholarly books and articles, press-clippings, photographs, interviews and biographical works on our writers.

Conservation

We **conserve** these collections in the best way our physical and financial resources permit. We take seriously our task of ensuring the permanence of our holdings, which are of great national and international importance.

Preservation

Apart from the physical conservation of these materials, we have the duty, thirdly, of preserving them in **South Africa**, and so protecting them from being shipped across the seas. Too much of this has already happened and is still happening, and in this way national treasures of great value are lost to us.

It is one of NELM's tasks to try to **contain** this process of attrition, and where possible to reverse it, for the benefit of all South African readers - including those not yet born. Our responsibility is not only to the past and the present, but most importantly of all to the future.

Research

The Museum undertakes extensive **research** on our collections, in order to assist the reading public to become familiar with our literature. We help readers in South Africa as well as abroad, in person and by post.

All these collections are extensively used by growing numbers of readers, from



school-children wanting help with their projects and set works, to

 members of **reading circles** who need assistance with their presentations, to

 **students and scholars** engaged in high-level academic research.

Details of the collections already captured on **data-base** have become an invaluable resource for scholars.

Publication

We have a programme of **publishing** both specialist and popular works. For the **general reader** and student, we produce

 introductions to writers,

 collections of press-clippings, and

 set-work packages to help pupils with specific works prescribed for public examinations. We also publish interviews with writers.

For the **specialist**, we compile reference works such as bibliographies and indexes. Our annual *Index to South African Literature in English* has become an essential tool for anyone making a serious study of our literature.

Education

The National English Literary Museum has an exciting and unusual educational **outreach** programme, to take information about our literature to readers and potential readers who would find it difficult to visit the Museum in Grahamstown.

As part of this programme,

 NELM staffers travel to schools and libraries to read and **tell stories** to groups of young children;

-  we **conduct informal classes** for senior pupils on South African works, which are increasingly being prescribed for study and examination;
-  we take an active part in the annual **National Schools' Festival** of English, which is run by the Grahamstown Foundation for senior pupils from high schools all over the country;
-  we **mount exhibitions** on South African writers and we invite and encourage public and school libraries to display these exhibitions. To this end we maintain an extensive collection of audio-visual materials, including photographs of authors, of places associated with them, and of theatrical productions of their works;
-  we **conduct excursions** to places of literary interest in South Africa, in order to establish in the minds of the participants, both adults and children, the clear links between literature and landscape, ecology, and social and cultural history;
-  we are extensively involved in local and national **community organisations** which have a cultural or literary aim.

Satellites

The Museum has two satellites where we make further resources available to visitors.

At the **Eastern Star** printing museum in Grahamstown we offer hands-on experience of nineteenth-century printing equipment, and place it in the context of the growth of press freedom in South Africa.

At the **Schreiner House** in Cradock, visitors are given an insight into the life and works of a remarkable family, including South Africa's first major novelist, Olive Schreiner.

The New York Times

TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK N Y 10036

February 4, 1965

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you for your piece discussing the need for a dialogue between light and dark skinned peoples, which we are accepting for publication. When the piece has been scheduled, I will be sending you galleys.

We are glad to have this contribution from you.

Sincerely,



Gerald Walker
Sunday Department

Mr. Peter Abrahams
"Coyaba"
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, W.I.

GW:jl

"Coyaba",
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

January 4, 1965

Dear Mr. Walker,

I would certainly like to do a piece on the theme of the great need for a more real and meaningful dialogue between the lighter and darker races of mankind. I think the flow of communication at present, where it does exist, makes more for misunderstanding and mistrust than the other way around. In part, I suspect, such communication as there is is largely on a government-to-government basis and here it is especially easy for the Africans and Asians in the mass to be given a distorted picture of the attitudes and values and outlook of the non-Africans and non-Asians because in the main the means of mass communication are either directly or indirectly controlled by the political leaders, nearly all of whom have emerged after bitter struggles against 'the white world'. Inevitably, the views, prejudices, resentments, scars these leaders have become prime factors in the shaping of the outlook of the people they lead. And so we have the stereotype of the white (with slight distortions and variations and dollar signs in the case of the Americans) world as something essentially hostile towards the aspirations of the non-white world. And heaven knows there is enough reported news of discrimination and it is broadcast and published widely enough for the African or Asian reading his controlled or guided newspaper to see that the white world is hostile. The fact that this, while true, is only one side of the penny is often suppressed. And so Americans and Englishmen and Frenchmen are not human beings (some of whom, like that young doctor in the Congo left home and family and security and in the end gave his life for what he believed) but stereotypes of some monstrous thing called 'white man'. Ignorance and economic misery can easily be blamed on the wickedness of this 'enemy'.

I think you know that even in free societies like Britain and the U.S. it is not very difficult to play on ignorance and fear and fan prejudice among even relatively sophisticated people. Dealing with the tragic Congo situation TIME magazine all but offered the 'white world' the stereotype of Africa as a continent of savages. And so we have the picture of white savages and black savages, and not the picture of mankind in

a particularly difficult period of its development, having at one and the same time to cope with the problems of peace, of poverty, of over-population, of the cold war; all tough enough ones, but soluble, if we don't get ourselves messed up by dividing the world into two hostile racial camps.

And I think there is no magic short cut way of avoiding this. First we must become aware that this is the situation, that it is a situation of our own making, and just as colonialism has been a long time dying so it may take a long time to correct this. And in seeking for ways to correct this I think real communication between the peoples of Africa, Asia, America, Europe (as distinct from communication between their governments) might well prove crucial. But on what terms can the Asian peasant who cannot write his name and is half starved or the African in the bush communicate with the average American? The late Mr. Kennedy pointed one way with his idea of the Peace Corps. But this is very small and it is still a one way traffic. And real friendship is never predicated on one person giving and the other receiving all the time. So the question is what do the people of Africa and Asia have to bring to this friendship to make it real? These are first rough thoughts on the theme. I shall work it out and send you something in about a fortnight.

Sincerely

Peter Abrahams

The New York Times

TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK N Y 10036

December 23, 1964

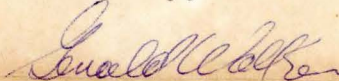
Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We are sorry you are not interested in our suggestion for an article on Negritude.

However, there was one section of your letter which rather intrigued us. It was the paragraph in which you spoke of the "great need for the beginning of a dialogue between the people of Africa and Asia and the people of America." Were you suggesting this as the germ for a magazine piece? It seems to us there might be something interesting here. If it is a theme you would like to address yourself to, we would very much appreciate your spelling the idea out at some further length in a letter to us.

If you are not interested in doing a piece on this subject either, we would like you to know we admire your work and would like to have a contribution from you some time. Do you have any other ideas which you would care to propose?

Sincerely,



Gerald Walker
Sunday Department

GW:sr

Mr. Peter Abrahams
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, W.I.

"Cayaba"
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
JAMAICA.
December 16, 1964.

Mr. Gerald Walker,
New York Times Magazine,
Times Building,
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Walker,

I have just received your cable asking me to do an article on the 'African's Pride of Race' and I hasten to let you know that this is not a theme that excites me at all. I frankly find African pride of race as stupid and fundamentally backward in terms of human progress as I find the 'pride of race' of the white segregationist in South Africa or America or the pride of race, if we can call it that, that the Chinese communists would exploit for political ends. My personal position in a nutshell is that I have a basic hostility to the idea of 'pride of race' and what is usually implied by it; and this hostility is so pronounced that I have consistently refused to participate in any of the number of 'negritude' conference that have taken place in Europe, Africa and even America. In any case, I think the African 'pride of race' thing is of comparatively recent origin and is fundamentally a creation of the African elite as a counter to the long and painfully bitter experience they have had at the receiving end of the white man's 'pride of race'. But whatever the reason - and being a Negro I have natural sympathy for the African attitude - I still have no more time for Negro 'pride of race' than I have for white 'pride of race' because in the context in which we talk of 'pride of race' today, it inevitably ends up as racial arrogance and that has been one of the greatest enemies of human liberty and human progress.

I think myself that there is great need for the beginning of a dialogue between the people of Africa and Asia (the darker ones) on the one hand, and the people of America and ~~Asia~~ (the lighter ones) on the other; but I think it would be tragic for all of us if this were to be approached in terms of 'pride of race'.

The American Negro's shame at the humiliation attached to his colour, and his fight to rid himself of that sense of shame, and the response of a large mass of his fellow Americans to his fight, engages my heart and mind a great deal more.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

The New York Times
THE ADELPHI, STRAND,
LONDON, W. C. 2.
TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 5655.

September 8, 1961

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you so much for agreeing to review Spooner's "SOUTH AFRICAN PREDICAMENT", in 500-words. When you have finished the review please air-express it to this office when, if necessary, we can cable it along to New York. As cabled you on the 6th the New York office are air-freighting a copy of the book immediately. Your copy should, of course, be with us by the 16th.

Yours sincerely,

Marian Underhill

Secretary to Miss Bradley

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Coyaba Red Hills P.O.,
Saint Andrew,
Jamaica.

NNNN

ZCZC TBK243 NYT44

LONDONLB 85 15 2336

5152

16 DEC 1964

LT

PETER ABRAHAMS C/O WEST INDIAN ECONOMIST

164-6 HARBOUR STREET KINGSTONJA

WOULD YOU WRITE TWENTYFIVE HUNDRED WORD ARTICLE ON AFRICANS
PRIDE OF RACE IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED AMERICAN NEGROES ARE
ASHAMED OF THEIR COLOR BUT THE AFRICAN IS VERY PROUD OF BEING
BLACK MAN WHAT WE WANT IS DISCUSSION OF THAT PRIDE WHAT
IS IT BASED ON WHAT DOES NEGRITUDE MEAN TO YOU PLEASE ADVISE
IF YOU CAN DELIVER WITHIN TWO WEEKS WE PAY FOURHUNDRED DOLLARS
ON ACCEPTANCE WITH ONEHUNDRED DOLLAR GUARANTEE REGARDS

GERALD WALKER NYKTIMES MAGAZINE

COL C/O 164-6

R.L.A.BROWN
16 DEC 64

18th August 1959.

Mr. Walters,
New York Times Book Review,
Times Square,
New York.

Dear Mr. Walters,

Herewith my review of "A Book
Of South African Verse"! I am sorry I
missed your deadline. I had to rush down
to Trinidad on an urgent matter at short
notice so I hope you will forgive me.

Yours sincerely,

PA

Peter Abrahams

PA:ehk

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAM

Form 324

No. of Message 1Prefix C Code _____

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At 8.45 am

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Words

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From NewNew York31 22 2456By ②From Walter NY TimesTo RPT 22/6

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LT Peter Abrahams
Boyaba Red Hills

Will you review book of
South African verse edited
by Cyp Butler 400 words
for August 14 can send
immediately please reply

TELEGRAM

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If the accuracy of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and if found to be incorrect the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the Sender of the reply must pay for such excess.

N.B.—THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY INQUIRY MADE RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

as from 2 Eaton Gate
London S.W.1
England

March 22, 1957

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

You know from experience that editors are horribly persistent people ; so you will not be altogether surprised to find me once again on your track. I have not forgotten our very interesting conversation about two years ago, and I still hope that you may find time and inclination to write something for me for World Christian Books. I have been trying very hard to get something for Africa; the trouble, as you know, is that so many of our educated Africans are so westernized that what they would write would not be really an expression of the African soul or the African point of view. Of course, you have your own experiences and your own view-point; but travel and life in other countries has given you a certain detachment; and the craft of a writer has given you the habit of pondering and recreating your own experiences.

You may remember that I suggested to you as a general title ' An African looks at Jesus Christ ', and the idea was that to some extent you might write autobiographically, using your own experiences as the framework of a book. I do not insist in the least either on this title or on this way of approaching the subject; but I would very much like to have something from you. I hope that your life in the West Indies gives you rather more leisure than the hurried life of a great city, and that you may find it in your heart to do something for us. If you are able to do so, you will be speaking to a very large and varied audience. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our News Letter, which will show you that we now have translations of our books in 22 languages, and some books have been translated into as many as eighteen languages. There are not many series that are as genuinely international as this.

I feel this to be so important that I would almost be ready to divert my next trip to the States in order to take in Jamaica on the way; but I am not sure whether finance would run to this, and I still have to run the enterprise on a shoestring, as they say in the States.

With all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

Stephen North

Bishop

Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o The West Indian Economist Trust Ltd.
164-166 Harbour Street
Kingston
Jamaica

Tokyo
29 November, 1963

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I have never seen you yet, but I know your names very well. I am one of the Africanists in Japan, and have written and is writing several books and many articles on various aspects of African problems. I have attended the First International Congress of Africanists at Accra last year. And I have visited Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana early this year, on my way from Africa back to Japan.

At Kingston, I met Messrs. John Hearne, Rex Nettleford and Eddie Thomas in the University. Some members of the Rastafarians called on me. I stayed only two days at Kingston, but it was very interesting for me, because I have been and still am studying Back-to-Africa movement.

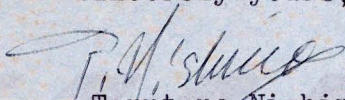
Unfortunately, I did not know that you are living in Jamaica. If I have been informed that you are the Editor of the West Indian Economist at that time, I should have called on you before everything else.

Now, I am studying the development of the Pan-African movement. I know that you have written biographical story of the late Mr. George Padmore in your novel. Would you please tell me, although this is quite an impolite request, your evaluation of the roles played by the West Indian intellectuals in the movement of Pan-Africanism? Marcus Garvey should be quite different from George Padmore as well as from C.L.R. James, of course. And how do you think about Claude McKay?

Further, if you do not mind, I would like to know your own life story as detailed as possible.

Thank you in advance, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Terutaro Nishino
National Diet Library
Nagata-cho, Tokyo
Japan

P/S: In 1961, I have toured round African continent and have been in the Republic of South Africa for two weeks. You will find out my short essay on the African studies in Japan on "The Journal of Modern African Studies" No.3 issued recently.

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Managing Editor
The West Indian Economist
Trust Ltd.

164-166 Harbour Street
Kingston



7 West Ind. Air. 4
J A M A I C A

WEST INDIES

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Speed in Air

THE OBSERVER

1791

The Observer Limited

22 TUDOR STREET
LONDON, E.C.4

TELEPHONE:
FLEET STREET 9991

20th August, 1958.

Dear Peter,

It is several years since I've heard from you, but undeterred I am nevertheless writing as if you were the same Abrahams I knew. I hear the most interesting news about a Mine Boy musical by Duke Ellington and wish you tremendous luck with it. You won't by any chance be in New York in September or October, when I'm there, will you? If so, let's meet.

What I'm writing about is this: you may remember that little yellow monthly in this funny old country of ours called "The Twentieth Century" which is one of David Astor's babies. I've been asked to edit a special number on Africa for next February, which is closer than it looks, and I'm very anxious that there should be an article (not a story or poem) by Abrahams in it. I think we will probably have to debar the West Indies since that's such a rich and different field that it will demand another issue on its own, but I'm sure there's a great deal that you have to say about the new Africa which would be of great interest. Could you think it over and, if you feel so inclined, let me know what you would like to write about on the general theme of cultural, political or social development of Africa?

I do hope very much that you can do this since I'm very anxious to keep out the usual dreary gang of sociologists and dismal dons who always seem to creep into these collections about Africa. The trouble is you Africans are too bloody lazy to write yourselves! Do drop me a line anyway and fit in some news if you can. Everything's going splendidly over here, but it's a dull place without you. All my love to Daphne and yourself. Do hope to see you before long.

6bs of 6m

Peter Abrahams, Esq.

Anthony



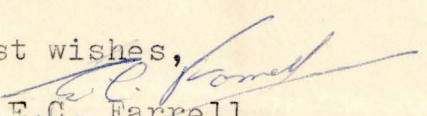
July 13, 1959

Dear Peter,

I had asked Jock to write you a letter outlining what we wanted in the way of a Servob, but from the copy of the letter which he has left on my desk he seems to have spent most of it in chinwag without explaining exactly what it is we want. This may be old ground but we should like around 800 words airmailed giving a comprehensive background to today's developments and probable developments of the next few weeks. Most people here and the countries which take our Service have little or no idea of what has been happening in Jamaica or the Federation so don't be afraid to spell it out.

We do not deal in spot news and the articles take some five days from Servob to reach our farthest-flung clients so should be written to withstand the time factor. Sorry to inflict three messages on you in such a short time, but we have been deprived of news from your area for a long time and a good airmailer will help restore the balance. Look forward to hearing from you soon,

All best wishes,


F.C. Farrell
Assistant Editor

47 St John's Street,
Oxford. Oxl 2 PJ,
England.
26/789

Dear Mr Abraham,

I believe that this letter will get to you somehow. It is not quite like putting a parchment in a bottle and throwing it into the sea. The blurbs on the back covers of some of your books suggest that the Carribbean is where to cast my efforts. So if you recieve this letter, it is thanks to the activists ~~to~~ of the global village.

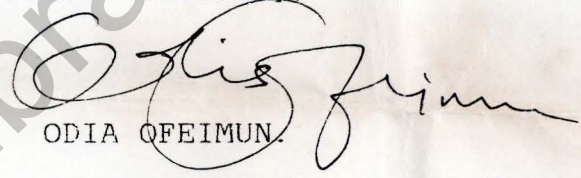
I am a Nigerian, living in Oxford until November 1989, researching for a biography of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the Nigerian leader (of Opposition until his death in May 1987) who, if you remember, took part in the Fifth Pan African Congress of 1945. As one of the principal organizers of that conference, you may be able, I believe, to recall, or reach papers~~x~~ which provide day-by-day proceedings which cover Awolowo's participation. I have no more than a few hints to go by. An autobiography published recently in Nigeria by one of the participants, Chief H.O. Davies, indicates that what Awolowo said at the conference appeared right but was not well recieved. The tenor of what he is reported to have said reminds me of a speech by one of the characters in your novel, A WREATH FOR UDOMO. I have no way of corroborating it. I am rather helpless because no book^{on} Pan Africanism deals with the matter in any comprehensive manner. Most of the books, for that matter, appear to be more concerned with a roll call of those who later became famous as leaders of government rather than as leaders of thought. Understandably, they ~~are~~ are also more concerned with the resolutions than with the positions taken by individual participants. And you, Sir - although I think I have read all your books - I cannot remember anything that you have said about the Pan African Congress of 1945. Yet you seem to me to be more qualified than anybody else to say something authoritative on that conference. I am aware that I am taxing you by making this request for you to do a recall around one of the many participants. As no library in Britain has so far

✓

been able to help, I hope you do not mind this attempt to impose my request upon your centrality to this part of African history. If you cannot find the time to write about the matter at good length, please let me know where it is possible to get the kind of information that I want. Outside any direction that you might be able to give me, why not write something about that conference or the whole of that period - the European section of that period in African nationalism- in the manner of TELL FREEDOM or RETURN TO GOLI? Your reply, even without the information requested for, will be recieved like a bonus.

The first hope is that this letter will get to you. i'm optimistic.

Yours sincerely,


ODIA OFEIMUN.

On Jamaica Government Service

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KINGSTON

DUNFORD HOUSE
MIDHURST
SUSSEX
MIDHURST 165

June 13 1955

My dear Peter,

I am immensely grateful to you for your letter. The fact that you approve in general is a great reassurance. You have done me a great service by making time to read through the drafts.

The book is being re-written to the extent of about two thirds. I am not altering the argument, but making it, I hope, twice as convincing. I am fully in agreement with your two comments. I have amended the reference to the Federal Constitution. I have also altered the ^{as} page about inter-marriage. What I wrote did not represent

my own view, but was a concession to strong feelings in certain quarters. This I now recognize to be a mistake, and I have altered the ^{an} page accordingly.

When the book is off my hands, as I hope it will be in a fortnight's time, we must try to meet. I want to keep in touch with you. If you cannot pay a visit to Dunford I shall do my best to come to London.

Ever yours,

Joe

P.S. I return the cuttings which I have read with interest and full agreement.

37 Jessel Drive
Loughton,
Essex.

June 16, 1955.

My Dear Joe,

I have just finished the nine chapters by the skin of my teeth, but I fear I agree so completely with what you have set down that I cannot really be of any use on the fundamental points. I think you knew this.

There are two minor points, however, on which I should very much like you to think over again. The first is your mention of the Central Africa Federation in relation to partnership in your first chapter. You say it (partnership) is the policy agreed on by all parties in this country. That is so. Then you add that it is the explicit basis of the constitution of the Federation. The point I feel that might profitably be made here is that we do not all mean the same thing by partnership. The unbalance of black and white representation in the Federal Assembly is very great indeed and cannot be changed except by the white members of the Assembly. I think it is important that the Capricorn Africa movement should not seem to endorse this. You know the hypersensitivity of the best among the Africans on such points. I enclose herewith one of a series of articles I did for the Canadian national weekly SATURDAY NIGHT. It is rather 'popular' - as these things have to be - but the idea I am trying to convey to you probably emerges more clearly in it than here.

My second point is your handling of the rather emotionally charged question of mixed marriages. This is a delicate one, but, for all the reality of settler fears, it is really a red-herring. I do not feel at all happy therefore, about your third para on page 6 of the chapter dealing with race. You urge there a strong public opinion to discourage inter-marriage. This, to me, is sailing too close to the moral wind for my liking. I would feel exactly the same were you to urge a strong public opinion to encourage inter-marriage. Marriage, especially Christian marriage, is, I feel very strongly, too sacred a private contract between two individuals and their God. I am probably completely wrong about this, Joe, but I should feel so much happier if the offending paragraph should come out. My second enclosure is a copy of a letter I wrote on this same subject in reply to a letter by a missionary. This, in all the book, is the only important point where I feel I cannot go along with you. I think all the rest wonderfully clear and offering what I feel sure will lead to new thinking in and on our key problems in Africa today.

I hope you are both well and happy.

Yours ever,

DUNFORD HOUSE
MIDHURST
SUSSEX
MIDHURST 165

April 5 1955

My dear Peter,

I am committed to writing a book which will interpret the idea of the Capricorn Africa Society. I think that as idea the fate of Africa depends on it. I want the book to reflect, if possible, the African mind as truly as the European. This is possible only if one or two Africans participate in the fundamental thinking. You can help me more than anyone else within reach. I can send you the stuff in a few weeks time to tear to pieces so far as may be necessary. But at this stage a talk with you about fundamentals would make the whole difference.

Can you come to Dunford? I shall gladly meet all costs of travel. I know it is a great deal to ask and do so only because a good deal may hinge on getting things right. A good deal has happened since we last met, and unexpected opportunities have opened up of doing something that might count.

David Stirling will be spending a week here this month and we shall be working on the book together. I am not certain what his

commitments are, but I think that if April 18, 19, or 20th were possible for you, he ~~would~~ would probably be free to join in the conversation. *He is in Scotland on holiday at present, and I can't check up on dates.*

Apart from this I am pretty well booked up for April, though I could manage, (I think) April 25th, 26th, 28th or 29th.

Also, probably, a date in the first week of May, or almost any time after May 9th.

If Dunford is too far for you I shall try to come to London. But this is not very easy for me, and it would probably have to be after May 9th. Also we could talk for greater length of time and under more favourable conditions in these quiet surroundings if you could manage a visit.

Ever yours,

Joe O'Connell

English Dept.,
Stranmillis College,
Belfast, 9.
5 Dec., 1972

Dear Mr Abrahams,

I am compiling a biographical/bibliographical dictionary of twentieth century writers in English, to be published shortly by Blackie and Son of Glasgow.

I should like to include your name. If you are agreeable, I would need the following information: year and place of birth, details of education, profession, titles and dates of books published under the following genres: poetry, drama, fiction, essays and miscellaneous. Details of any critical work about you would also be helpful, as would any statement that you would care to include about your own work.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

(T.H.Parker)



PENGUIN BOOKS LTD

HARMONDSWORTH · MIDDLESEX

17th June 1965

Dear Mr Abrahams,

We hope to publish, WILD CONQUEST

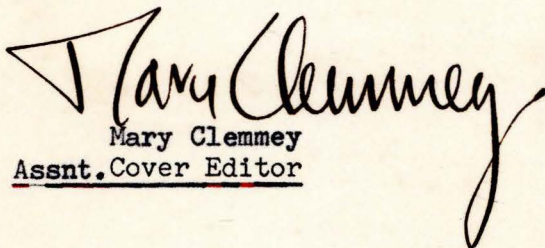
during the **summer** of 1966, according to our present schedule.

We should like to print the enclosed short biography of yourself on the half-title page of our edition. This has been prepared from information supplied to us by **Faber & Faber Ltd.**

Will you please assist us by making any corrections or additions which you want in this biography (within a limit of 150/200 words, normally) and returning the corrected copy to me as soon as possible.

If we have not received any reply from you within three weeks of the date above, we shall assume that it will be in order for us to use the biography we enclose.

Yours sincerely,


Mary Clemmey
Assnt. Cover Editor

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Received
7/7/65
returned
8/7/65

Hamburg 36

~~West~~

Poststr.11

AM Sept.1st,1956

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Due to the holiday season, it took till today before I got a reply from the publishing house Diederichs at Düsseldorf to whom I reported our London conversation immediately at my return. They say that Fabers haven't fulfilled their request for a copy of "Mine Boy". So I am quickly sending them my copy. As soon as they have got it they want to look at it for a day or so and then write to you. As far as I can say they want to approach you definitely.

This is only to give you an intermediate warning. A second firm, Bertelsmann of Bielefeld, is also interested and ~~will~~ will bestir itself in case Diederichs for one reason or another should not bite. Could you let me have your Jamaica address as soon as you move there?

That brings me to my last point. I have applied to the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas at Woburn Square for a post advertised in The Times by the University College of the West Indies. It is a Senior Research Fellowship in the field of Social Science. I am convinced I could do what is expected, and possibly might serve the community well for the very reason that I am an outsider. The project is to be chosen by the man appointed himself. I shall consult Lewis and Simey beforehand in case they give me the job. I should just like to inform you in case you have any influence in that line or are asked your opinion.

The evening at your hospitable house is still a very happy memory with us. Kindest regards to Mrs. Abrahams and the children.

Sincerely yours,

K. H. Pfeffer
(Karl Heinz Pfeffer)

37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton,
Essex.
England.

August 16, 1954.

Dear Dr. Hill,

I am grateful for your letter of August 6th, and glad that you feel 'The Conflict of Culture in Africa' a useful contribution.

I have now informed the Royal Institute of International Affairs of your desire to reprint the article in PHYLON, and of my intention to let you. They have accepted this and request that you acknowledge it as a reprint from INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

The article is being reproduced in at least four other countries, including India and the Union of South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams
Peter Abrahams.

Dr. Mozell C. Hill,
PHYLON,
Atlanta University,
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA.
U.S.A.

PHYLON

A Quarterly Review of Race and Culture

Atlanta University

ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Editorial Office

August 6, 1954

yes.

Peter Abrams, Esq.
34 Jessel Drive
Laughton, Essex
England

Dear Mr. Abrams:

Thank you kindly for sending me a copy of a reprint of a recent article entitled "The Conflict of Culture in Africa." I have read the article with a great deal of interest and I am entirely in agreement with the views expressed.

I am wondering if it is possible for us to obtain permission to re-publish the article in PHYLON. In our judgment, it makes a very definite contribution and would be of interest to PHYLON readers.

I, too, am very sorry that we missed each other during my stay in Britain. However, I look forward to a return trip in the not too distant future, and I hope that we will be able to spend some time together.

Sincerely,

Mozell C. Hill

Mozell C. Hill
Editor

MCH:rav

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Statesman Calcutta
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Commonwealth Challenge - C. Office

PITZER

A MEMBER OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

1050 North Mills Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-6101
(909) 621-8000

July 27, 1998.

Dear Mr Peter Abrahams:

It was wonderful talking with you a few days ago. I'm really honored, flattered and appreciative by your liking my Dhlomo monograph. It means a lot to me, for as I mentioned on the telephone, I was startled on reading **Return to Egoli** that you were veru good friends.

As I begged and requested of you, I would really appreciate if you could write a Foreword of a few pages for my Dhlomo monograph. It would be a real great honor.

Please find enclosed "The TransAtlantic Connections of the New African Movement" which is included in the anthology I'm editing called: **Black Modernity: Discourses Between United States and South Africa**. The book will appear later this year or early next year. Please find attached a photocopy of the publicity sheet for the book. This essay is important because it maps the parameters of the work I hope to be doing for a decade or more. I would be happy yo hear your reflections on it.

I'm looking forward to reading some of your essays, which you thought you might possibly send to me. As I inquired on the telephone: do you have enough essays which may be published in a book form? I think such a book from you would be invaluable to future generations in a 'New South Africa'.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


Ntongela Masilela.

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"PENNAT"
PORT-OF-SPAIN

PHONE 35158

22nd October, 1962.

Your Ref.....

Our Ref.....

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Editor,
The West Indian Economist,
164 - 166 Harbour Street,
Kingston, Jamaica.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Last month you wrote stating that you had forwarded, in my care, issues of The West Indian Economist - Vol. 5 No. 1. You also asked that I arrange for selling them.

Since The Nation is not geared for that sort of enterprise, I took the liberty of contacting Fogarty's & Co. Ltd., and asking the Managing Director, Mr. Harold Crowe,* to attend to the matter.

He has done so. The magazines are on sale and I believe one of his subordinates would have written you in connection with commission and the like.

May I apologise for this delay in writing. As you would imagine, our hands were filled during and after the Independence period, whilst I had to go to Grenada on the occasion of the recent general election.

I do hope that your arrangements with Fogarty's are permanent and satisfactory.

My very best regards.

Yours faithfully,

Randolph Rawlins
Randolph Rawlins,
EDITOR,
THE NATION.

William Fogarty (T'dad & Tobago) Ltd.,
62 & 74 Marine Square,
Port of Spain.
Trinidad.

Cc. Mr. Harold Crowe.

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The NATION

90 Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

BANKERS

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

CABLE ADDRESS

"PENNAT"

PORT-OF-SPAIN

PHONE 35158

10th January, 1962.

Your Ref.....

Our Ref.....

Mr. Peter Abraham,
Editor,
The West Indian Economist,
164-166 Harbour Street,
Kingston,
Jamaica.

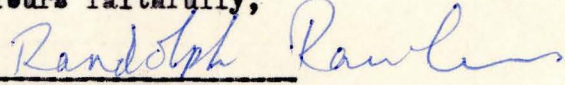
Dear Mr Abraham,

May I draw your attention to an error which appears on Page 8 of the November issue of your journal, Vol.4. No. 5.

There you featured as editorial comment what was, in fact, a news report from our correspondent in Jamaica.

You will appreciate the important difference.

Yours faithfully,


Randolph Rawlins,
Editor.

RR;jk.



SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

September 14, 2007

Peter Abrahams
c/o Faber & Faber Ltd., 3 Queen Square
London WC1N 3AU, England

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am writing a book in which you figure significantly as a member of the London political community to which George Padmore also belonged. My focus is on how you, Padmore, James, Nkrumah, Kenyatta, Wright and others used publishing to build opposition to colonial rule in Africa.

I have relied on archived correspondence and on your published work (including your recent autobiography published in the U.S. by my own university's press) to write about your place in this community, but it would be so helpful if I could put some questions directly to you. Would you mind if I sent questions to you by email or letter? You could then respond to whichever ones you wanted to respond to, at whatever length suited you.

Of course, it would be grand to sit down and talk with you, but since we are so far apart, perhaps we could converse in this writerly way. If that suits you, could you give me a Jamaica address to write to? Or else an email address?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Carol Polsgrove
Professor
cpolsgro@indiana.edu

P.S. I am also sending this letter to the Jamaica address that I found on the web.

9th October 1959.

Mr. J.J. Post,
105 Appelstraat,
The Hague - Netherlands.

Dear Mr. Post,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 1st. I shall of course be glad to try and answer any questions you might have concerning my book and the other books mentioned in your letter. I am afraid though, that you might find me a poor correspondent as I have an enormous volume of work to get through publishing the West Indian Economist monthly, and fulfilling a number of other civic commitments, *such* as sitting on various advisory councils and committees. In addition to this I am trying to get a book or two written. All this gives me very little time for private correspondence or even for very much of a social life. However, I will do the best I can to answer your questions.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams.

PA:ehk

J. J. POST
105 APPELSTRAAT
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

The Hague, October 1st, 1959

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I take the liberty to ask you a question.

As a collector of postage stamps I'm specialising in the stamps and postal history of Jamaica. My main emphasis is on postmarks and cancellations. So I collect used stamps and meter postage marks on pieces of paper with the complete postmark. As you will understand it is nearly impossible to acquire these here.

From this hobby, however, I developed another hobby, namely to have a full knowledge of all aspects of Jamaican ~~life~~ ^{history}. For this purpose (and also for the purpose of obtaining postmarks) I've written in the last four months a great number of letters to Jamaica trying to collect informations and to get into direct correspondence with Jamaicans. Until now I've not succeeded; in nearly 70% I never got any answer at all. Some weeks ago my name must have ~~appeared~~ appeared in the "Daily Gleaner" (in what context I do not know) and this resulted in one letter from a young girl.

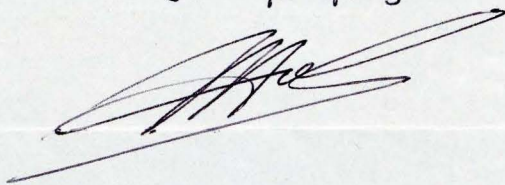
Meanwhile I ~~g~~ have built up a library about Jamaica and so I already know quite a lot about it. The first book I bought was your book (An Island's Mosaic); afterwards I bought Mcmillan (Land of Book Behind), Henriques (Land of Wood and Water) and Chapman (Pleasure Island). I've also acquired a great number of special publications.

I should like to correspond with you about some questions that have arisen with me when comparing your book with the other books I've mentioned. Should it be possible for you to find some time for it? If so will you please let me know.

For this purpose I got your address from the Government Public Relations Office. This address gave me a shock for I'm myself an economist with the Dutch Government (I'm engaged in econometric research on model building in the Central Planning Bureau). Notwithstanding this I never heard of your publication. I only know Social and Economic Studies).

Of course I must apologise for the trouble I'm causing you. Hoping to hear soon from you I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully



C
10/10/59

AEROCAMME
LUCHTPOSTBLAD



Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Editor, West Indian Economist

164, Harbour Street
Kingston
Jamaica
West Indies

PAR AVION / PER LUCHTPOST

EXPÉDITEUR / AFZENDER

J. J. Post
105 APPELSTRAAT
THE HAGUE - NETHERLANDS

NIETS INSluiten!

INDIEN ZULKS TOCH GESCHIEDT, DAN WORDT DEZE BRIEF PER BOOT / TREIN VERZONDEN

NIET OPENEN

*Pub Assoc
file*

18th November, 1959.

Printer's Ink,
The Editor,
635 Madison Ave.,
New York 22,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Being a subscriber to Printer's Ink we have just received your October 23rd Issue and were more than surprised at your article on Page 42 "Where Rum Comes From" incorporating a brief on Advertising in Jamaica West Indies, information gleaned from Miss. Sheila Chong - Miss Jamaica 1959.

We would like to point out that most of the information in your article is erroneous and ask that you have it corrected for the benefit of Advertising in Jamaica, that you may present a true picture of the Advertising Agency Business in this country.

Advertising Agencies in Jamaica do not require a license to operate but must be recognised by the Publishers Association - a body composed of representatives from most local News Papers and Magazines. Recognition by the Publishers Association means that they acknowledge an Agency's Financial stability and qualification for service to clients. As of June 1957 the Publishers Association laid down new rulings whereby an agency to be recognised must handle at least Five Active accounts and meet certain specified gross billing qualifications, (Prior to this all Agencies received 12½% commissions, there were no Classification of Agencies.) In February 1958 further rulings were issued whereby Agencies would be classified as either Class "A" receiving 12½% commission or Class "B" receiving 10% commission. At this time there were thirteen Agencies in Jamaica - the Publishers Association then recognised eight of these Agencies as Class "A" - (we were one of the eight) and the five other agencies were under consideration. In October 1958 the Publishers Association finally recognised eleven Agencies as Class "A" - there are no Class "B" agencies today. Due to an amalgamation of two Agencies there are now only ten Active Agencies in Jamaica - all Class "A" Agencies.

We would very much appreciate your publishing an article correcting the information released in your October 23rd issue as your article could be damaging to local agencies many of whom are affiliates of foreign Agencies throughout the world.

- 2 -

We feel sure that you appreciate our point of view in clarifying this matter and have no doubt whatsoever that you will in turn do everything within your power to give the Advertising world a true picture of advertising in Jamaica.

Thanking you,

We remain,

Yours truly,

C.F. LINDO.

Business/Display Manager.

CEL/thb.

Oct 25, 1959.

Where rum comes from

Word reached us that the advertising manager of The West Indian Economist was in from Kingston, Jamaica, and wanted to tell us about advertising there. Our informant briefed us that the publication is comparable to Barron's and The London Economist, so prepared for a sober afternoon we arrived at a midtown hotel.

It was sobering, all right. The advertising manager who greeted us was a very well-arranged beauty named Sheila Chong, and we shortly discovered that she is also Miss Jamaica and a contender in the upcoming Miss World contest.

Miss Chong insisted on telling us about advertising. We learned that all ad agencies in Jamaica must be licensed, and to get a license they must have lined up four accounts representing a minimum amount of billing. We learned that agencies are rated by class—either A or B, depending on the number of accounts and the billing. We learned that there is currently one class A agency, which gets a 12½ per cent commission, and two or three class B agencies, which get ten per cent.

We learned all about how and why Jamaica's economy is prospering, that domestic consumption and exports are up, that people there are "becoming more advertising-conscious" and that there is "a crying need in Jamaica for talented people in all phases of advertising." We also learned about media—that a new radio station was recently inaugurated and that in three months there will also be a new daily competing with The Gleaner (a.m.) and the Star (p.m.), which is owned by the Gleaner.

Finally we interrupted to ask Miss Chong how she got involved in all this. It was very simple, she told us. She'd been working as a layout artist at Art & Publicity, Jamaica's one class A agency, when eight months ago The West Indian Economist hired her away. A few years ago, said Miss Chong, who is a native Jamaican, United Artists offered her a movie contract which she turned down to accept a scholarship at Emmanuel College in Boston, where she majored in fine arts and got the

training that eventually led her into advertising.

We wondered what will happen should she win the Miss World title. Miss Chong assured us that no matter what, she will be right back at The West Indian Economist. She emphasized that she'd gotten into the Miss Jamaica contest because Red Stripe Beer, a Jamaican brand, wanted to sponsor her. After all, one must help promote the economy.

Mouth-watering

Neiman-Marcus of Dallas tells us that its Zodiac Restaurant is now serving such delicacies as "wrapped children," "mother-in-law's eyes" and "old clothes." Lest the news send you calling the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the menu is merely part of the store's South American promotion and in South America, we are assured, "wrapped children" are plain old banana fritters, "mother-in-law's eyes" are stuffed prunes and "old clothes" is the name of a sauce served over flank steak.

No matter what, there are less than 100 meals left until National Indigestion Week, announces the Baking Soda Institute, an event "which starts right after Thanksgiving dinner."

Shutting up

Radio Station WCAE, Pittsburgh, was in a quandary. Its announcers were spending too much time chatting and too little time playing records. So Paul Ruhle, the program director, installed an "automatic talk-stopper." Now when an announcer gets carried away with his own prose, the engineer throws a switch and on comes a recorded voice that drowns out the chatter by exclaiming, over the air: "All right, all right!" And should the engineer get carried away with the announcer's prose and neglect to throw the switch, Ruhle has instructed listeners to call in on a special phone and shout: "All right, all right!" WCAE says that response has been simply terrific; why, in one hour 50 people called one announcer and yelled, "All right, all right!"

Morale, anyone?

Old world

Chain Store Age, which spends a good deal of time leaning over counters, recently cast its eye on Russian drug stores, and reports back that they look more like museums than apothecaries. "The lighting is murky by American standards and the decor was outmoded here 30 years ago," says Chain Store Age gloomily. "Stores are divided

into a series of rooms with marble arches, ornate columns and inlaid tile floors."

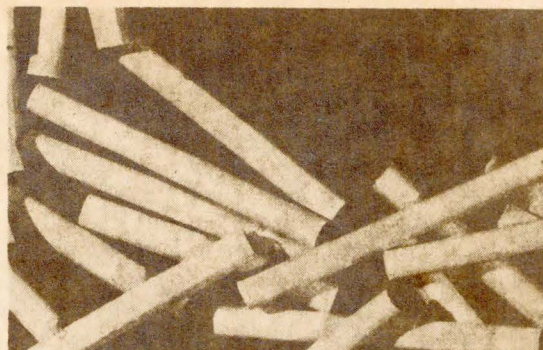
Unlike American drug stores, where frequently the customer must fight his way to the aspirin through record albums, raincoats and small appliances, Russian drug stores sell only drugs—no cosmetics, toiletries, candy or tobacco. "Drugs are hidden in drawers or displayed in dark mahogany showcases," Chain Store Age reveals, "and as for 'professional touches,' the Russians settle for a chart on cancer detection, plus a bronze statue of Lenin." One other note: Most of the pharmacists in Russia are women.

• • •

Prisoners in the San Mateo (Calif.) County jail publish a newspaper called, poignantly, "Time."

The enigmatic consumer

When the British frigate HMS Scarborough docked in Buffalo, N.Y., the local USO held a party for the crew, going out of its way to procure 1,000 imported English tea bags. At party's end, almost 1,000 tea bags were still left, and the crew had depleted the USO club's supply of milk.



The thinking man makes his vanilla

Flavor buds

So the Reader's Digest's latest cigarette report cheerily finds that all manufacturers have cut down tars and nicotine, and then of course there is Vanguard, the tobacco-less cigarette. But science marches on and on. Now, one Henry I. Siegel of Rancho Cordova, Calif., has gotten a patent for a cigarette which like Vanguard, is tobacco-less, but like nothing we have ever smoked, has a sugar concentrate instead of paper, and is impregnated with flavoring agents such as vanilla, orange, banana or blends of several flavors. Mr. Siegel says his cigarette will offer the psychological effects of a real smoke but none of the hazards to health—unless you have a weakness for banana splits.

18th November, 1959.

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U.S.A.

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Yours truly,

C.F. LINDO (Sgd)
Business/Display Manager.

CFL/thb

The West Indian Economist

Miss Chong's Apology

Printer's Ink,
The Editor,
635 Madison Avenue,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

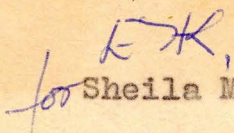
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Since these facts (a) that agencies must be licensed (b) that Art & Publicity is the only A class agency and (c) that agencies are rated according to the number of accounts they carry and the billing; are incorrect I feel that I must apologise to all concerned. Would you kindly publish this to clarify my position.

I know that you have already received corrections both from the Publishers Association of Jamaica and from advertising agencies in Jamaica, so I will not bother to spell out the clarifications.

I remain,

Yours truly,


for Sheila M. Chong

The West Indian Economist,
164-166 Harbour Street,
Kingston, Jamaica.

27th November 1959.

Printer's Ink,
The Editor,
635 Madison Avenue,
New York 22, N.Y.

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Sheila M. Chong

The West Indian Economist,
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Kingston, Jamaica.

27th November 1959.

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I remain,
Yours truly,

Sheila M. Chong

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Industrial) LTD

5 PLOUGH PLACE FETTER LANE
LONDON EC4 FLEET STREET 0626

25 Farmcote Road,
Don Mills, Ontario,
19 October 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Managing Editor,
The West Indian Economist,
164-166 Harbour Street,
Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Tony Hugill, whom we both apparently happen to know, suggested I see you, if possible, on my trip down to Jamaica next month. He is now on his way down there and possibly you will meet.

Being aware of our continuing search for contributors to our feature service intended to promote good relations and better understanding between Canada and the West Indies, he was good enough to mention you as a possible contributor. Undoubtedly we should have been in touch with you before.

I am attaching a copy of the current issue of our "Letter from the British Caribbean" which we have been putting out for the Canadian press for a year. It is still in the development stage and probably will be renamed as it is intended to include in it similar material from Canada as well as from the West Indies. I also attach a memo on our editorial requirements which similarly are being developed. We will be glad to add you to our mailing list for this publication. It might give you the odd idea. Incidentally we are also planning distribution of the service to the West Indies press.

It seems to me the most satisfactory basis to you as a possible contributor would be on a query or commission basis. You have undoubtedly the writing ability and background we are looking for. Our "Letter from the British Caribbean" has not completely achieved what we are trying to do. Only occasionally do we get the sort of material from the West Indies which Canadian publications are interested in and which I am convinced exists provided we can find the right writers to present it.

During the next period, we plan to commission the occasional article of a longer nature, the sort of assignment you presumably might be interested in. Provided we get the sort of material

we could expect from a writer of your calibre, we are prepared to pay top rates for it.

Even if you are not interested in contributing, I would appreciate the opportunity of meeting you next month. In the meantime, we would like to hear from you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Willie

I see your publication from time to time, enjoy it and hope I profit from reading it. You are obviously doing a very good job.

PURNELL & SONS LTD

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21st December 1964

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Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew
Jamaica
West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

A Night Of Their Own

At the request of Messrs. Faber and Faber Ltd. we have pleasure in forwarding two sets of page proofs, one of which is the marked proof.

Yours sincerely,

PURNELL & SONS LTD

J. Woodland