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14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2

LONDON

15th March 1961

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams,


On my return from America, Hilary Rubinstein has shown me your kind letter of 25th January.

We have abandoned the idea of an introduction, as we think it is probably better for the book to stand on its own feet.

But I should very much like to quote you. Unless we hear to the contrary, I shall take it that you have no objection to our using the following - all, of course, taken from your letter:

"A tremendously impressive book: one of its most striking features is the almost fierce honesty with which the author reveals herself. To read it is to share the continuously rich experience of all that went into the making of one human being: and the writing is often exceedingly beautiful. I am completely "sold" on the book."

Yours very sincerely,



Victor Gollancz



KING  
JUB  
TRU



Mr. Peter Abrahams,  
The West Indian Economist,

164 Harbour Street,

*Line 71* Kingston, *15*

JAMAICA.

*not stamp 15*

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# VICTOR GOLLAN CZ, LTD

14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2

LONDON

30th January 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
West Indian Economist,  
164-6 Harbour Street,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica.

Dear Peter,

Very many thanks for your letter about Cecily Waite-Smith's manuscript. I am delighted to know that you are as keen on it as we are, and thank you also for your advice about promoting the book.

There is now chance of showing you the revised manuscript, but I hope to be able to send you a set of page proofs, which should be in some time in the next three or four weeks.

Yours ever,

*Hilary*

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME



Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
West Indian Economist,  
164-6 Harbour Street,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica.

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25th January, 1961.

Mr. Hillary Rubenstein,  
Victor Collanz Limited,  
14 Henrietta Street,  
London W.C.2.

Dear Hillary,

Thank you for your note concerning Cecily Waite-Smith's manuscript. I am sorry about the delay in writing to Cecily about it but she knows what a crowded plate I have here in Jamaica.

I am tremendously impressed by her manuscript and I think it is the kind of book which you can publish with pride.

One of the most striking and most impressive aspects of the manuscript is the almost fierce honesty with which Cecily reveals herself to the reader. I am completely sold on the book and I think it has moments of exceedingly beautiful writing and I think it is a continuous and rich experience of all that went into the making of one human being.

I find it very difficult to suggest anybody whom you should approach to do an introduction, partly because I am not sure that I agree with you that an introduction will necessarily help the book along and partly because I feel that the book does not need the kind of crutch which an introduction by some literary V.I.P. implies. What I would suggest is that you send copies of the galleys to half a dozen writers whom Cecily admires, and invite their comments for use on the dust jacket and for other promotional efforts. This would probably delay your publication date a little but I think it would prove eminently worthwhile. If you are still bent, however, on having an introduction my own personal suggestion would be that very fine old gentleman, E. M. Foster, though I am inclined to think that he will feel rather as I do, which is that the book should

and can stand on its own feet. And it is of course likely that he may prefer not to write an introduction.

I also think that it is the kind of book that would interest Graham Greene. If neither of these two are willing to write an introduction and you are still sold on the idea then I would of course be willing to do it.

In any case, I understand Cecily is re-writing the opening and the ending of the book whether you want a note along the line suggest for promotional purposes or whether you want an introduction, I should very much like to see the revised and finish version either in manuscript form or in galley.

All goes well here though I am working so hard on so many things that there is very little time for writing. But I am sure this will end sometime and I will go back to writing. In the meantime I am enjoying life enormously.

I should be grateful if you will show this to Cecily and tell her that I will soon write her a very long love letter.

Warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

PETER ABRAHAMS.

DIRECTORS

VICTOR GOLLAN CZ • FRANK STRAWSON • RUTH GOLLAN CZ  
DOROTHY HORSMAN • JOHN BUSH • HILARY RUBINSTEIN • LIVIA GOLLAN CZ • ELINOR MURPHY

**VICTOR GOLLAN CZ, LTD**

14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2

LONDON

2nd January, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
c/o Radio Jamaica,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica.

Dear Peter,

How are you? I do hope things flourish with you and the family in the Jamaica sun, though I am sorry not to see your face around here any more.

As you will have heard, we are to have the great pleasure of publishing Cecily Waite-Smith's autobiography, THE LONG RUN. I gather that the author has written to you to ask whether you can recommend the book to some suitable literary person over here who might write a brief two-page foreword; alternatively that you might consider writing such a piece yourself.

Have you had a chance to read the book yourself yet? If so, do let us know what you think.

All the best to you for 1961, and for the sixties in general, for that matter,

Yours,

*Hilary Rubinstein*

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER

AEROGRAMME



Peter Abrahams, Esq.,

c/o Radio Jamaica,

Kingston,

Jamaica,

West Indies

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VICTOR GOLLANCZ, LTD

14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2

LONDON

6th March, 1959.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
c/o The West Indian Economist,  
164 - 166, Harbour Street,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica.

Dear Peter,

It seems ages since I last saw you. I do hope things go well with you.

I am sending you by surface mail a copy of the American edition of Langston Hughes' novel TAMBOURINES TO GLORY. You may already have seen the American edition. We are all immensely keen on the book here, and are at the same time depressed at the difficulty of "putting Hughes across" over here. The purpose of my writing, as you may guess, is to ask whether, if you like the book (as I'm sure you will), you would care to give us a quote for use in our publicity. I need not say how much we should appreciate a sentence or two from you.

I heard this morning from Nadine Gordimer that she will be seeing you in Georgetown later this month at an apartheid seminar there. Give her my love, won't you?

Yours ever,

Hilary

HR/JJ



HAVE YOU  
TAKEN OUT  
YOUR LICENCE  
FOR RADIO



Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
c/o The West Indian Economist,  
164 - 166 Harbour Street,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica,  
B.W.I.

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VICTOR GOLLANCZ • FRANK STRAWSON • RUTH GOLLANCZ  
DOROTHY HORSMAN • SHEILA HODGES • JOHN BUSH • HILARY RUBINSTEIN

VICTOR GOLLANCZ, LTD

14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2

LONDON

19th November, 1953.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
37, Jessel Drive,  
Debden,  
Loughton,  
Essex.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Forgive me for worrying you in the following matter.

We are publishing early next year Langston Hughes' SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE (you will probably remember his SIMPLE SPEAKS HIS MIND / and other books of his which, I believe, haven't been published in this country). The new book seems to us quite delightful, and we are anxious to give it a good "send off" here. On the other hand, it is one of those books which are extremely difficult: it isn't quite a novel, the author's name isn't well-known over here, he is an American (which is a disadvantage at the present moment, so far as the reviewers and the public are concerned) and so on and so on. If you had time to read the proof, liked it, and cared to send us a line or two which we could use in our publicity, we should be immensely grateful. It would make all the difference.

I haven't any excuse for troubling you in this way, except that some years ago we turned down your WILD CONQUEST, and have been berating ourselves ever since for doing so. In fact, although we, like every other publisher, are guilty of such aberrations from time to time, there are not many in our history which we regret more.

Yours truly,

*Sheila Hodges*

Director.

*Pete Abrahams*

SH/MBW  
enc.

Anne Walmsley

113 Bedford Court Mansions Bedford Avenue London WC1B 3AG

Telephone 01-636-0409

3 July 1984

Peter Abrahams  
Coyaba  
Red Hills PO  
St Andrew  
JAMAICA

Dear Peter

THE VIEW FROM COYABA

Your letter of 23 June came yesterday - and crossed with mine to you of 19 June.

Thanks very much for sending a copy of the list of your corrections to the TS, as sent to Fabers last September. It's so good to see these at least. If only I'd had them before and could have incorporated them into the editing! But although I asked Fabers for them in March (when I did the preliminary editing) and in May (the final editing), they had still not come to light.

However, I'm passing this copy of your list on to Frank at Fabers rightaway. I'm sure we can incorporate these changes, wherever relevant, in the edited copy of the TS that is here: just so sorry that you won't find them in the copy that has been sent to you.

I wait anxiously to hear whether, in other respects, you find the edited TS in good shape.

Warmest regards

Yours ever



# Anne Walmsley

113 Bedford Court Mansions Bedford Avenue London WC1B 3AG

Telephone 01-636-0409

19 June 1984

Peter Abrahams  
Coyaba  
Red Hills PO  
St Andrew  
JAMAICA

Dear Peter

## THE VIEW FROM COYABA

It was very nice of you to write to me as well as to Fabers at the end of March, saying that you were happy with my proposed cuts and editing of your book: thank you. I have now been through the whole TS again, slowly and carefully, and handed it over to Frank Pike at Fabers a few days ago. Frank will then be sending you a xerox copy, with a note on what I've done. I look forward very much to hearing how you find it now. You must of course let us know of points where you cannot accept my editing. But I very much hope that, in general, you will find that that book reads as you would like to see it published.

May I say what a tremendously rewarding book I have found it: even at a fourth reading, I have drawn so much from it. I am most eager to see it appear and to hear it discussed. I do wish you very well with it.

Yes, Sekou Toure's death was another milestone. And Nyerere seems set on stepping down from the Presidency in Tanzania very soon. So much is changing. I'm planning a trip to Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa in August/September which will be immensely interesting.

Sorry you couldn't write for Index but understand the pressures. We had a conference this weekend: cutting enclosed. To have Sepamla and Breytenbach together was a special treat. We'd invited Don Mattera too, but he really was refused a passport.

I had dinner recently with Archbishop Trevor Huddleston. We spoke of you. What, I wonder, will he make of A View from Coyaba?

Warmest wishes to Daphne and yourself

Yours ever



Per Wästberg,  
Adolf Fredriksgränd 15,  
Stockholm C. Sweden.

8th August 1960.

Dear Mr Abrahams,

Long time ago - I think in March - I wrote a letter to you, concerning an anthology of African writing that I am editing for publication in Sweden next year. I mentioned I spent most of 1959 in Southern Africa, wrote articles for the principal Swedish newspaper, and am now a prohibited immigrant to the Union. I have a book on the Union coming out in September.

I am well acquainted with your books, having read all of them and prefaced the Swedish translation of TELL FREEDOM that will appear in a few weeks. A WREATH FOR UDUMO is also ~~underbeing~~ considered for translation, I hear, but no decision has been made yet.

What I would like to find out <sup>is</sup> if you have any special wishes for what should be included of your work in this anthology. Are there, outside your books, any personal impressions, article or short story that you might prefer to a chapter from, say, Udumo or Path of ~~Thunder~~ Thunder? In this case, where can I find them? Do you have anything unpublished, or under publication, dealing with Africa, that you might like to confront the Scandinavian public with? Finally, could you be kind enough to send me some personal dates: birth, career, &c. (except the books).

I would greatly appreciate your helpfulness, and I do hope this letter will reach you. I got this address from Mr Charles Monteith of Fabers, and Nadine Gordimer who is a friend of mine also thought I might get you there.

Sincerely yours,

Per Wästberg

William Hilling Services,  
100 West Beaver Creek, Don Mills, Ontario  
Tel: (416) 491-1111

### ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED FOR LETTER FROM BRITISH CARIBBEAN

We are pleased to have and distributing a newsletter with the title, "The British Caribbean", for the time as a first step to Canadian Indians. The newsletter has had a very good reception, and the continuing need for such a service. We are interested in improving the newsletter with better and more acceptable coverage from the British Caribbean itself and from writers who have visited the area. In time we are considering supplementing this newsletter with other means of telling the story of the area in Canada.

In view of your interests and activity, we would appreciate your assistance and that of any other communicators you know interested in increasing understanding and good relations between Canada and the British Caribbean.

The newsletter is intended to supplement various information services now in existence with which we co-operate. It is unique in attempting to cover the Federation of the West Indies as a whole. We report on good relations in all fields of mutual interest to the British Caribbean and Canada, particularly in those which are not covered by other information services.

We supply background to significant current events concerning Canada and the British Caribbean. Although we are concerned with news, we aim at producing more features use rather than compete with that supplied by the news media. We are interested in the people making the news. We have no axe to grind and we prefer to give by-lines to our contributors who are encouraged to express a personalized constructive point-of-view. We want to avoid being pompous even though we hope what we do say is significant. We prefer the light touch and style.

We prefer our material to emanate from the British Caribbean itself but we also welcome contributions from those elsewhere who have something worthwhile to say.

Our rates vary from 2 1/2 to 5 cents a word. Contributions ideally are short—200 to 350 words in length. Special arrangements are made for longer articles. It is better to query in advance on any special contribution. We also seek time photographs which tell a constructive story. We pay standard rates for these.

Probably the best way of becoming familiar with our requirements is to follow the newsletter itself. We would be glad to send it to you regularly, particularly if you could put it to good use.

Our deadline is two days in advance of the end and middle of each month.

We hope to get your assistance in this project in the form of contributions and comments.

Sincerely,

William Hilling

August 14, 2000

Coyaba  
P.O. Box 20  
Red Hills  
St. Andrew  
Jamaica

Dr. Catherine Woeber  
P.O. Box 20091  
NOORDBRUG  
2522  
South Africa

Dear Professor Woeber

This is to thank you for your letter of July 27<sup>th</sup> (I assume you have by now received your doctorate hence my formal and congratulatory style of addressing you; so much better, I think, than the safe and guarded 'Ms').

I received from the in-house editor of the *American Dictionary of Literary Biography*, in December of last year, a copy of the master proofs of your contribution and found it interesting. I wrote Mr. Jan Peter F. van Rosevelt about one correction and told him my last work was in preparation for publication. He wrote back asking me if he could inform you about the new work and I replied 'yes'; so I assumed you would be aware of *The Coyaba Chronicles* which should be published simultaneously here and in Johannesburg within the next ten days. An American edition is planned for next Spring. European publishers seem, understandably to me, ambivalent about this book. You may understand why when you read it. The South African edition is published by David Philip.

As for your questions, I hope you find at least some of the answers you seek in *The Coyaba Chronicles*. Beyond that I have very strong and deep reservations about explaining my writing. It should stand or fall on its own. What I do hope, and I say it in the *Chronicles* is that the need for my kind of writing is coming to a close. I see glimpses of the shape of tomorrow's writing from those who succeed the black writers of this century. I hope for a much freer, more open, more challenging literature - beyond race, colour, ethnic and tribal and regional difference - which would question and try to redefine the relations between man and man, man and woman, mothers/fathers and children; and all of these as they affect and are affected by nature's scheme of things: and I hope for all this from a uniquely non-Western, non-European perspective. What a tall order! I hope it will come about. But I am too old to even think of starting the process. Someone else, someone young and full of the passion and emotional and intellectual vigour and energy we had when those of our generation were in our late teens and early twenties. The big difference, the great advantage, would be that they would start where we left off. This is part of the process, the continuum we must maintain if life is to have any worthwhile meaning in tomorrow's world. But it is they, not we, who will decide the terms of engagement.

Best regards from both of us

P.O. Box 20091  
NOORDBRUG  
2522  
SOUTH AFRICA

27 July 2000

Mr Peter Abrahams  
'Coyaba'  
Red Hills  
St Andrew  
JAMAICA

Dear Mr Abrahams

It has been five years since I last wrote to you, and I do hope this letter finds you and your wife Daphne in good health. You recall that I was investigating the contribution of St Peter's School to our literary history, the focus being mainly on you and Zeke Mphahlele. As I have immersed myself in your work, one of the things I have found most difficult is lack of contact with you, because you have made the doctorate much more than an academic study, rather my own search for identity.

Since my last letter, I have spent some time among the Community of the Resurrection, in Mirfield, Yorkshire, and spoke to Trevor Huddleston before he died. His ashes were brought back to be buried on African soil, but I found it very moving to walk on that Mirfield hillside among the graves of those brethren buried there, who had discovered that Africa fulfilled them deeply, among them Alban Winter, Roger Castle, and Raymond Raynes. Last year around this time, I made a pilgrimage to Grace Dieu, now derelict and windswept, an indictment on those who held power for the past fifty years, but all there as you described it, and redolent of the people who had lived and worked there. I saw Latimer Fuller's grave, and walked the perimeter of the bounds which you used to with Jonathan, and it was as if sixty-five years collapsed. I spoke to an old woman who remembered its former glory, yet the deepest conviction I had was that its real glory lived on in the people who had been there, and those whose lives they still touch.

It was *The View from Coyaba* which set me off on the quest for you ten years ago, but which has ended up as a quest for myself. After reading and re-reading all your work, fiction and non-fiction, I moved back to Du Bois, and read as many of his writings as I could and David Levering Lewis's biography, and then moved on to our own thinkers, Sol Plaatje, Anton Lembede, Robert Sobukwe, all the time your position becoming more central not only to our literature, but to our struggle to find ourselves as a nation.

I have often wanted to write to you, but felt it was not appropriate to push things as you consolidate your life's work. But given that Du Bois made it to his ninety-fifth year, you could still have over a decade to go, and I wanted to tell you how deeply you have affected my life, and influenced my search for home. I still have a deep desire to visit you at Coyaba, and would make the arrangements if you gave the word.

As I put the finishing touches to my thesis, I am trying to situate *Tell Freedom* within your life, and perhaps you might help me here. Your autobiography was written when you were in your early thirties. You had been in close contact with Richard Wright in Paris after the War and read *Black Boy*, but were there any other autobiographies you had been reading? You had read Washington's *Up from Slavery* at the BMSC some twenty years before, but were there any others before you came to write yours, and why was it that you felt the need to write your own life story then?

Secondly, how would you respond to the idea that your life story was a testimony to truth ('tell freedom'), a witness to the reality of who you were (and were becoming)? In as much as the spiritual *Go Tell It on the Mountain* is a testimony to the good news of Christ, could your autobiography *Tell Freedom* bear witness to freedom as the apex of human achievement and striving, as Albert Lutuli suggested in 1958:

"Is this vision of a democratic society in South Africa a realisable vision? Or is it merely a mirage?" I say, it *is* a realisable vision. For it is in the nature of man, to yearn and struggle for freedom. The germ of freedom is in every individual, in anyone who is a human being. In fact, the history of mankind is the history of man struggling and striving for freedom.

Or as Anton Lembede had put it in 1945, tracking your constant ideas about the three levels of freedom, "Man is body, mind and spirit with needs, desires, and aspirations in all three elements of his nature. History is a record of humanity's strivings for complete self-realisation". This is a profoundly religious vision, and I would like your assessment of the autobiography as a testimony or witness to truth. Were you conscious of this dimension at the time, and where did it come from?

Finally, could you shed any light on why you chose to use the autobiography to relate the first twenty years of your life, and the epic novel for the next forty, for that is partly what *The View from Coyaba* is, isn't it? Did the autobiography trace your life away from Africa, and the novel integrate your life back to Africa, as it were? Did you ever want, like Zeke Mphahlele, to write a second instalment of autobiography and eschew that for the novel, because the novel, by its manipulable form, could say far more about the course your life took than autobiography?

It would mean a lot to me if you would give me your responses as briefly or as fully as you want to. I respect what you told me in your last letter, that you are working hard to close the circle, which is why I have not written before. But I did want you to know how much your life and writing have meant to me, even more so five years on, as I have tried to situate myself within a very different South Africa from that in which I first read *Coyaba*. And work out why it has claims upon me that I cannot, do not want to refuse, because of you and Mphahlele and Du Bois and all the other thinkers who believe in Africa and the contribution she gives and has yet to give to the world.

I do hope to hear from you in response, even if it is only to let me know how you are, and perhaps whether anything of yours is due to be published. Please tell me if there is anything I can do for you, for it would give me great pleasure to give something back to you for the meaning and fulfillment you have given me. I have tried to do this in my doctoral study which has taken so long, because it has followed so many side roads. It was my way of paying you homage, even if we may never meet in this life.

I look forward to hearing from you when you can reply. Meanwhile, my very best wishes to you and to Daphne.

Yours faithfully

Cathernie Wacker



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17 December 1999

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Enclosed is a copy of the uncorrected master proofs of Professor Catherine Woeber's entry on you for *Dictionary of Literary Biography* volume 222, *South African Writers*, edited by Paul T. Scanlon. (The queries in the proofs are intended for the contributor.) *DLB* is a reference series intended for students and general library patrons, primarily in the United States.

Should you wish to review the entry, we would be glad to correct any factual errors you point out or add any significant information that was omitted; however, please send us any corrections as soon as possible, as we may not be able to incorporate your information if we receive it too late in the production process.

We hope you are pleased with the entry. Please feel free to write, call, or e-mail me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Jan Peter F. van Rosevelt

In-house editor, *DLB* 222

[Jvanrosevelt@bcl-manly.com](mailto:Jvanrosevelt@bcl-manly.com)

ENC: 1

P.O. Box 20091  
Noordbrug  
2522  
North West Province  
SOUTH AFRICA

2 December 1995

Mr Peter Abrahams  
'Coyaba'  
Red Hills P.O.  
St Andrew  
JAMAICA

Dear Mr Abrahams

Thank you so much for your letter of 16 November. I am writing immediately by return of post to ask you to please disregard my letter of yesterday (the third!), as I only received your welcome reply today.

I do understand your reasons for not granting an interview, given your desire to complete the circle. Like my daily prayer for our dearly-loved President, I can only wish that good health and time remain to you in order that you may finish the special task only you can accomplish.

I also appreciate that your books are indeed your testament; that indeed is why I was drawn to them in the first place. It is also important for me to know that you hold this view. Still, on your recommendation, I shall be contacting Professor Abrahams once he has had a chance to settle in, although I see he is already making his mark in South African academic circles.

Thank you for writing such a warm letter. I appreciate receiving your reply, and respect the sentiments you have expressed. May I wish you all the vigour and time you need to finish your remarkable life's work.

Warm regards to your wife Daphne from whom, I know, you draw your strength.

Yours faithfully



CATHERINE WOEBER

P.O. Box 20091  
Noordbrug  
2522  
North West Province  
SOUTH AFRICA

1 December 1995

Mr Peter Abrahams  
'Coyaba'  
Red Hills  
St Andrew  
JAMAICA

Dear Mr Abrahams

I wrote to you in July and again in October this year, requesting an interview with you early next year. Since I do not know if my letters arrived, I will give you some details as to why I am so keen to meet you.

I am at present working on my PhD through the Department of African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand. My thesis investigates the contribution of urban mission education to South African writing, specifically those schools run by the Community of the Resurrection, and the writers' varying responses to their education. While much can be gleaned from autobiographies like Tell Freedom or Down Second Avenue, you can appreciate that a personal interview with a writer is a crucial, and perhaps the most honest, way of approaching the subject.

I am aware that you value your privacy and prefer not to give time to things you consider unimportant at this stage in your life. But I have read your books again and again for seven years now, and would dearly love to meet you for that reason alone. It was The View from Coyaba, in fact, which steered me on to this topic, as I felt intrigued by what I read as your resolution of spiritual questions first set up at Doornfontein, Grace Dieu and Rosettenville.

Please let me know whether you are willing to see me. I am giving a paper at the annual African Literature Association Conference (ALA) in New York from 25-31 March, and should like to meet with you beforehand, if possible on March 20 or 21, during the octave of your birthday.

As I need to finalise my travel arrangements by 15 January next year, I would be very grateful if you could let me know your response as soon as possible.

I would consider it a very great privilege to meet you.

Yours faithfully



CATHERINE WOEBER

# WORLD CHRISTIAN BOOKS

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London, S.W. 1

SCN/GC.

4th September, 1956.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
37, Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

You will bear me witness that I have been true to my word and have not bothered you with requests for a book; but the time has come when I think I might renew contact with you, especially as you have had some talk with Mr. Northcott of the Lutterworth Press. I know that you are always occupied with a good many things, but I hope that the time has come when you might feel inclined to experiment on something for us.

When we talked before, I had the idea that you could do a good deal of the work in quasi-autobiographical form, but history has moved on since we talked, and there are other things that need to be taken into consideration. I think that you are one of the very few people with an African background who sees the real complexity of the many directions in which the lines of opposition are running - the difficulty of the African trained in western ideas of democracy, as against both the traditional African systems of authority and the simple tribal loyalties which still persist, even after many of their outward forms have been destroyed. It would help us immensely if you could make use of your own more recent observations to give us an understanding of the African mind as it tries to find the Christian way amid these many perplexities. You may reply that your own thoughts are still tentative and your own Christian convictions fluid. From our point of view this would be an advantage rather than a drawback. There are fifty missionaries in Africa from whom I could get a clear and intelligent analysis of the situation. I do not know any African Christian who both feels like an African and at the same time stands far enough back from the problems to view them at all objectively. If your transcript of your own feelings and attitudes reveals some uncertainty, I think that your evidence would be all the more valuable for the purpose of our series, and I believe that it would be rendering a real service to the cause of Africa, as well as to the limited purposes of our series.

I am not sure whether you are in London at present. If you are, could you ring me up any day between 10th and 17th September - in office hours at Sloane 9611 and at other times at Western 5032. It would be a pleasure to me to be personally in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely,

*Stephen Neill*  
*Bishop*

# World Goodwill

11 WEST 42nd STREET  
THIRTY SECOND FLOOR  
NEW YORK 36, N.Y., U.S.A.

1 RUE DE VAREMBÉ (3a)  
GENEVA  
SWITZERLAND

88 EDGWARE ROAD  
MARBLE ARCH  
LONDON, W.2., U.K.  
Tel: PADdington 1484

*File*

PERSONAL

7th September 1962

Mr Peter Abrahams  
c/o West Indian Economist  
164 Harbour Street  
Kingston  
Jamaica.

Dear Mr Abrahams,

On the 28th June Mr Ian Gordon-Brown, one of the editors of WORLD the organ of two non-profit international organisations, wrote to you care of the West Indian Economist asking for permission to reprint your article "The Blacks".

Due to the fact that you were off the Island when Mr Gordon-Brown's letter reached Jamaica, we went ahead and had the article set in type because of the problem of time factors due to printing in India. We then heard from the Secretary of the West Indian Economist with your suggestion that we should get permission from Holiday Magazine and also your literary agent. We have since been in correspondence with your agent who has asked us for a reprint fee of \$25. While we feel that this is a very reasonable figure, we would like to ask whether we may not use "The Blacks" as a free contribution.

We will send a copy of the magazine in which your article appears under separate cover. Both we and our readers think very highly of it.

Yours cordially,

*Marguerite Lidchi*

Marguerite Lidchi  
Joint Editor

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Tel: PADdington 1484

10th August 1962

The Editor  
West Indian Economist  
164 Harbour Street  
Kingston  
Jamaica

Dear Sir,

I write to thank you for your letter of 26th July concerning our request for permission to re-print an article by Mr Peter Abrahams.

Our New York office have been in touch with the magazine concerned and Mr Peter Abrahams' literary agents, and I believe that the situation is under control. I am grateful for your help.

Yours truly,

*Ian Gordon-Brown*

Ian Gordon-Brown

26th July, 1962.

Mr. Ian Gordon-Brown,  
88 Edgware Road,  
Marble Arch,  
London, W.2,  
U.K.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of a letter dated 28th June, 1962, written to Mr. Peter Abrahams requesting permission to re-print an article he wrote entitled "The Blacks" which appeared in an issue of "Holiday Magazine".

Mr. Abrahams is off the island at present but we have communicated with him with regard to your letter and he advises that you get permission from "Holiday Magazine" and Mrs. Sewell Haggard, Curtis Brown Limited, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, U.S.A. who are his literary agents.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Heslop*

Secretary/Accountant.

/ul

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BY AIRMAIL

28th June 1962

The Editor  
West Indian Economist  
164 Harbour Street  
KINGSTON  
Jamaica

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter for Mr. Peter Abrahams and I wonder if you would be good enough to forward it on to him by air if he is not at the moment in Jamaica.

This letter is a request for his permission to reprint a piece he wrote and which appeared in "Holiday Magazine" some little while back. We hope to be able to reprint it in the August issue of a magazine which is sponsored jointly by World Goodwill and World Union, whose headquarters are in Pondicherry, India and we should therefore be most grateful if you could get my letter to Mr Abrahams as soon as possible.

I am sending two copies of the magazine by second class airmail addressed to Mr Abrahams, c/o of The West Indian Economist. If Mr Abrahams is not in Jamaica, it would also be real service if you could forward these copies on to him.

I do hope that this request will not be too much trouble for you.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Gordon-Brown

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BY AIRMAIL

28th June 1962

Mr Peter Abrahams  
c/o West Indian Economist  
164 Harbour Street  
KINGSTON  
Jamaica

Dear Mr Abrahams,

I am writing to ask whether we may have your permission to reprint a piece you wrote entitled "The Blacks" which appeared in an issue of "Holiday Magazine".

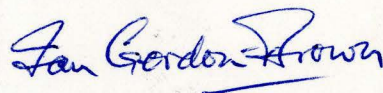
I am joint editor with a Miss Marguerite Lidchi of a bi-monthly World Review sponsored by World Union and World Goodwill. Miss Lidchi had suggested that "The Blacks" would fit very well in our plans for our August issue and I agree with her. It is a really beautiful piece.

I do hope that it may be possible for you to give us this permission as soon as possible. Will it be necessary for us to write to "Holiday Magazine" and will it be necessary to acknowledge its prior publication? We shall be grateful for your advice on this point.

I am sending the two latest copies of our magazine by second class airmail to you and you will I think see that we are attempting to develop a publication that will reflect the many trends towards human unity in the world today but without being tied to any particular political, religious, or ideological attitude.

May I say once again how very much I and my colleagues like "The Blacks" and I do hope that we may use it.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Gordon-Brown

Public Opinion,  
2 Torrington Road,  
Kingston, P.O. Box 115,  
Jamaica, B.W.I.

June 10, 1957.

Mr. R. H. Young,  
Corona Library,  
Colonial Office,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
S.W.I.

It occurs to me that in my introduction to the book, I omitted to say that I did not visit Jamaica's dependencies and therefore they did not fall within the scope of the book.

Will you please insert a line to that effect in the introduction? I also overlooked one error of spelling in the galleys, but I assume that straight-forward name spelling and the like will be handled by the printer's proof-readers who will check against the manuscript.

However in the section on Green Town, galley No. 77, 8 lines down from the sub-heading, "Green Town", the village of Ebdon is printed Eodon. It is a small but important point and hope I have not overlooked any others, and in any case I expect your proof-readers to check straight spelling against the typescript.

I am sorry to hear that Harold Ingrams's book is so very much longer than it should be. Poor man! He is going to have an enormous amount of cutting to do.

Best regards,

Yours ever,

*PA*  
file - PETER ABRAHAMS

PA/cm

Tel.: ABBey 1266

Extension.....

Your Reference.....

My Reference...INF 121/32/01



COLONIAL OFFICE

SANCTUARY BUILDINGS

GREAT SMITH STREET

S.W.1

30<sup>th</sup> May, 1957

My dear Peter

Very many thanks for the corrected proofs and the rest. I'm glad you enjoyed reading the book; we think quite highly of it!

I've just been reading Harold Ingrams's first draft on Uganda. It's jolly good, but enormously over length. Cutting your text will be nothing compared with cutting his.

"British Guiana" was published on the 24th May - Empire Day, very appropriate; the only two notices I've seen so far, in the Daily Mail and the Liverpool Post, have consisted almost entirely of quotations from Sir Winston Churchill's foreword. But there was a sympathetic leader in the Manchester Guardian.

Index: yes, we will find someone and (I am afraid) send you the bill, probably about ten guineas.

Yours ever

R.H. Young

(R.H. Young)

file  
PETER ABRAHAMS, ESQ.

PUBLIC OPINION,  
P.O. Box 115, Kingston,  
Jamaica, B. W. I.

April 30, 1957.

Mr. R. H. Young,  
Information Department,  
Colonial Office,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
S. W. 1.

Thanks for your letter of April 4th. The picture about which doubt has arisen is that of Mr. Powell and his common-law wife Miss Emiline Green of Greens Town. I hope this clears up the little confusion.

I am planning to send you the odds and ends i.e. introduction, comments on the booklist, copyright clearance, photograph and short biographical note of myself with the first batch of proofs, which I hope to return very shortly.

I am enjoying Kingston and Jamaica enormously, and look forward to seeing you here one day.

Sincerest regards.

Yours ever,

PA

PETER ABRAHAMS.

PA:db

Tel.: ABBey 1266

Extension.....

Your Reference.....

My Reference..INF.121/32/01



COLO' OFFICE

SANCTUARY BUILDINGS

GREAT SMITH STREET

S.W.1

4 April, 1957.

*My dear Peter*

Some doubt has arisen at the Central Office of Information whether the group in the enclosed photograph is (a) Mr. Powell and his common-law wife and their family or (b) the Webbs of Allsides. Could you please decide this for us? (Don't bother to return the print; we have another).

May we soon expect the odds and ends asked for in my letter of the 28th February, i.e. introduction, comments on the book-list, copyright clearance, and photograph and short biographical note about yourself? The printers have given us a schedule for publication in the autumn. If we fall down on it we shall incur at least four months' delay.

Are you still enjoying yourself in Kingston? I envy you a good deal.

All the best.

*Yours ever*

*R. H. Young*

(R. H. Young)

Information Department.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,  
"Public Opinion",  
Kingston.

E.R.

P.264-6. "And the young poets....  
there is no other."

281. "H.V. Wiseman....  
in sight."

295-9. Condense, or select quotations?

You will understand that I do not suggest the book will be the better for the excision of these passages; only that it will be shorter, and we have an upper limit beyond which production becomes too expensive. What I suggest cutting is mostly quotation.

There is what seems to be a typing error on p. 213, the mystic word "ducoing". Can you construe? And on pp. 350-1, we have "Management" where I should have expected "Manager" - but this may well be intentional?

*James van  
Hugh*

(R. H. Young)  
Information Department