

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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113 ST. GEORGE STREET
TORONTO 5 - CANADA

March 19, 1959.

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

Dear Peter:

I am afraid I have lost track of you and I do want to see you again before too long. I don't know when I will be in Kingston, but when I do, I will let you know.

I am also trying to arrange for an invitation for you to come to Canada for a short lecture tour.

Meanwhile, would you send me a few samples of the West Indian Economist and please remember me to your wife.

Sincerely,

J. R. Kidd,
Director.

JRK/dj

Camperdown High School,
6^B Camperdown Road,
Kingston 2,
12th Jan 1963.

Dear Mr Abrahams,

We the members of 'The Historical Society' of Camperdown High School would be deeply grateful if you could find it possible to take time off from your busy schedule to be our guest speaker on Tuesday 29th January 1963 at 2 P.M. at our school.

The topic we would like you to speak on is 'The Apartheid Policy of The Union of South Africa' We await a favourable reply either by mail or telephone 824 631.

Yours truly,
Alexandine Holson (Secretary)

unable to
have telephone

Ch.
24/1/63.

Regret No.!

THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER JAMAICA

REV. HUGH SHERLOCK
CHAIRMAN

DONALD FITZ-RITSON
VICE-CHAIRMAN

P.O. BOX 56, KINGSTON 15.

17th September, 1962

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
c/o The W.I. Economist,
164 Harbour Street,
KINGSTON.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Civics Competition

I am directed by my Committee to ask if you would be so good as to let me know whether you would be willing to serve on the Panel of Judges headed by Professor C.M. Kennedy, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of the West Indies to assess papers received in the forthcoming Civics Competition intended to embrace University Undergraduates, Students in Training Colleges and Institutions of further education and adult members of the public of West Indian or Jamaican origin.

To facilitate consideration of this request I forward herewith:-

- (a) advance copy of advertisement to appear in the newspapers shortly, and
- (b) Rules of the competition.

The Committee would be grateful for a reply at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,



R. V. H. GAYLE, J.P.
Campaign Manager

THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER JAMAICA
CIVICS COMPETITION
FOR INSTITUTIONS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AND ADULTS

The competitor will choose one of the following subjects and write a paper with a minimum of 1,000 and a maximum of 5,000 words on this.

SUBJECTS

- (a) The Implications of Dedication to a country
- (b) The Impact of Dormant Citizens
- (c) World Citizenship
- (d) Concepts of Democracy
- (e) The Dynamic of Citizenship in Independence
- (f) Inspirational Civics
- (g) Civics and Government
- (h) Teaching Civics - Repellants and Impellants
- (i) The Economics of Building a Better Jamaica
- (j) The Road ahead in Jamaican Citizenship
- (k) Civics and the Church from 1833 to 1962

SCOPE OF COMPETITION

The paper should be submitted through the Principal/Registrar of the College (if any). The competitor will begin by stating the number assigned to him beforehand, date of birth, nationality, school (if any) and subject chosen.

TIME LIMIT

The competition will be opened on 7th October to receive names of intending competitors, notification of which will be accepted until 31st October. The last date for submission of papers will be 30th November, 1962.

PRIZE

A round trip to Europe, hotel expenses paid.

Duration of trip approximately two months.

CHAIRMAN OF PANEL OF JUDGES

Prof. C.M. Kennedy, Acting Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences. There is no appeal from the Judges' decision.

GENERAL

The paper must be the original unaided work of the competitor. The Committee reserves the right to publish any essay submitted. Members of the public of Jamaican or West Indian origin domiciled in Jamaica of 21 years of age and upwards are eligible to enter. The age restriction does not apply to Undergraduates and Students in Institutions of further education.

COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to:-

R.V.H. GAYLE, Esq., J.P.
Campaign Manager
P.O. Box 56, Kingston 15

or

P.O. Box 27, Kingston 5



WE SERVE JAMAICA BEST BY SERVING
HER PEOPLE

(SGD) REV. HUGH B. SHERLOCK, O.B.E.
CHAIRMAN

THIS SPACE WAS KINDLY
DONATED BY:

R U L E S

1. The paper should be submitted through the Principal or the Registrar of the College at which the competitor is in attendance.
 2. The competitor will begin by stating:-
 - (a) the number assigned to him beforehand for the purpose of this competition
 - (b) the date of birth and Nationality
 - (c) the School (if any) at which he is in attendance
 - (d) the Parish in which the College is situate
 - (e) the subject chosen.
 3. The paper must be the original unaided work of the competitor.
 4. The paper should have a minimum of 1,000 words and not more than 5,000 and should embody critical, creative and constructive thought.
 5. A margin of two inches should be left on the left hand side of the paper.
 6. When submitted the paper becomes the property of the Committee which reserves the right to publish or to use it in any manner thought fit without reference to the competitor.
 7. The competition will be opened on the 7th October to receive names of intending competitors through the Colleges concerned. Notice of intention to enter should be sent in by the 31st October.
 8. The First Prize of a trip to Europe must be taken up by the winner by the Summer of 1963 and not later than 31st December, 1963.
 9. To qualify, an essay must not fall below the minimum standard set by the Judges, and the school should endeavour to submit a number of entries representing as high a percentage of the average number of students in attendance as possible.
 10. The decision of the Judges is final and there is no right of appeal.
 11. If writing is not legible, typewritten papers are advised.
 12. The closing date of the competition will be 30th November, 1962 unless otherwise extended.
-

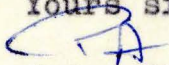
23rd January, 1963

Mr. C. L. Stuart,
Headmaster,
Clarendon College,
Chapelton.

Dear Mr. Stuart,

Thank you for your letter of January 5 inviting me to speak at Clarendon College. I am afraid that my commitments are such that it is not possible for me to be away from Kingston between 2.30 and 6.30 p.m. of every week day. Every day between 3.00 and 4.00 p.m. I have to be at Radio Jamaica to establish contact with the other islands of the Caribbean in order to arrange the programme West Indian News which goes on the air at 5 oclock daily. After this I have to prepare and record or else broadcast live my daily news commentary. This makes it impossible for me to undertake any out of town commitments between 2.30 and 6.30 p.m. during week days. And as far as the weekends are concerned I am already committed for every Saturday into the last quarter of this year. My family insists that I spend Sundays at home.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams.

PA/ul.

Clarendon College

Secretary to Board:

REV. JOHN MACKIE, B.Sc.,
22 Windsor Ave.,
Kingston 10.

CHAPELTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

Under the auspices of the Congregational Union of Jamaica.

Headmaster:

C. L. STUART, B.A. (London)

Chairman, Board of Governors:

H. R. SHARP, J.P.
May Pen

5th Jan. 1963.

Peter Abrahams Esq.,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I write to ask you to be good enough to visit Clarendon College and speak to my Sixth Form students (about 150) on a subject of your choice. The idea is to broaden the students' outlook and stimulate them to think about their own responsibilities to Jamaica.

This Term, the time arranged for talks to the Sixth Form is Thursdays at 1.40 p.m. Questions usually follow and every thing is wound up by 3 p.m. The Thursdays from January 31 onwards are still open.

We should be most grateful if you find it possible to grant this request.

If you can come, may I ask you to lunch at 12.45 ?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

C. L. Stuart

CLS/bs

HEADMASTER.

October 19, 1967

Hamilton Hall

Dear Peter Abrahams,

My name is St. Clair Drake, but I doubt if you remember me. We met in 1948 when I was in Britain doing research and we took tea together once or twice near Belsize Park Station on the underground. I was living with Mbiyu Koinange at No. 1 Hampstead Hill Gardens. For the past 20 years, with Roosevelt University as a base, I have been dividing my time between teaching sociology and anthropology there, and serving as visiting professor from time to time at the University of Liberia, the University of Ghana (2 1/2 yrs), Boston, Stanford, Syracuse, and most recently, Columbia. I am now in the Caribbean on study leave until February, 1968. I wrote a book with a colleague in 1945 called Black Metropolis (about Negroes in Chicago) and it was updated and republished in 1962. I have no other books to my credit — only a number of articles in various journals. I once started a book on the Pan African movement, but "dropped" it for a number of reasons.

Now, in my old age, I have decided to try an overambitious project in which I pull together 20 years of reading, experience, and reflection. I am enclosing a provisional table of contents and synopsis of chapters. I decided to come to the Caribbean to work on it for several reasons (a) to get away from the American hurly-burly; (b) to immerse myself in the West Indian "ethos"; (c) to examine archives, interview various people, and (d) to read.

P.T.O.

(a subsidiary reason is to visit Barbados, my father's birthplace where I have not been for 43 years.)

I have been here in Jamaica for a month subjecting myself to a rigid program of reading for Part II and drafting the chapters. I now want to spend a month revising portions of Part I that I have written and doing some field research for Chapter ~~XVII~~ on the Ras Tafari movement and on Chapter XX - Garvey. I hope to interview Mrs. Garvey and to examine the archives for references to Garvey during the Jamaica periods of his life.

One other thing I'd like very much to do is to talk to you about the "Pan African Movement" in the 1944-50 days. I saw a good bit of Griffith (alias Makonnen) and Padmore when I lived in Chana and have their version of events in those days. I've read Hooker's Black Revolutionary which is not very illuminating in re. that period. I'd like to check some of the impressions, rumors, etc., etc., with you if you'd care to grant me 45 minutes or an hour of your time. Over and above this "business" aspect of a visit, I'd just like to talk a bit about my ideas for Chapter ~~XXIII~~ and to get yours.

I consider you a very serious and very productive writer and I know one can't be that kind of person if he wastes time on every peripatetic academic who comes to Jamaica. So I apologize for even asking for an appointment.

My wife (a sociologist) and I are living in the Goodwill Apartments, but we have no phone, and I'm not sure about the regularity of mail deliveries. I think the best way to contact me by phone is to leave a message with the secretary of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, U.W.I., or to drop me a note in care of her. I am free to see you at any time having no fixed schedule.

We both enjoy your broadcasts and find them enlightening.

Best wishes, Sincerely yours, ST. CLAIR DRAKE
(St. Clair Drake)

A. Goodwill
Ave., apt. 7

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



YPSILANTI
MICHIGAN

Department of Geography,

December 5, 1959

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am currently pursuing intensive research concerning "Ethiopianism." One of my colleagues in the Geography Department, here at Eastern Michigan University, informs me that perhaps you will be able to help me in this connection, either by supplying me with references, materials (of course you should bill me) or ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

G. J. Martin

Geoffrey J. Martin
Professor of Geography

GJM: sb

File 'M'

PRINCIPAL:
A. W. POWELL, M.A., B.Sc.

SECRETARY:
(MISS) BERYL POWELL

TEL. 81079 82719

Excelsior School

METHODIST CHURCH

137 Mountain View Avenue
Kingston 3
Jamaica, W.I.

17th Sept, 1962.

Mr Peter Abrahams
Cooper's Hill,
Mount Fraser.

Dear Mr Abrahams,

The members of the Sixth Forms
have specially requested that you be
invited to speak to them on the subject
of Jamaica's Diplomatic Relations.

The lecture periods on their Time
Table are designed to bring them information
on all matters of public interest and current
affairs. These take place on Wednesdays at

PRINCIPAL:
A. W. POWELL, M.A., B.S.

SECRETARY:
(MISS) BERYL POWELL

82719
TEL. 81079

Excelsior School

METHODIST CHURCH

137 Mountain View Avenue
Kingston 3
Jamaica, W.I.

12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

I would be most grateful if
you could find it possible to speak
to the group on Wednesday 26th September.
It is suggested that you speak for half an
hour or so and the rest of the time could
be given to answering questions from the
students.

Anticipating your kind reply,

Yours sincerely,

Leila Veitch (Mrs)

PRINCIPAL:
A. W. POWELL, M.A., B.Sc.

SECRETARY:
(Miss) BERYL POWELL
TEL. 81079

Excelsior School

METHODIST CHURCH

*137 Mountain View Avenue,
Vineyard Town,
Jamaica, W.I.*

29th April, 1960.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The Excelsior School Fair Committee has planned a Mammoth Fair scheduled to take place on the school grounds on Saturday, 28th May, 1960.

The proceeds from this effort will be used to complete payment of an outstanding debt of £6,000 on the School's Assembly Hall which was recently officially opened by the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne.

Knowing of your keen interest in the field of education in our island, we invite you to be one of our patrons for this function, and would deem it an honour indeed, if you would kindly consent to give our effort your gracious support.

Since the completion of the new hall, the life of the school has improved tremendously in many ways, and the impact of meeting together for worship in one place has been felt by staff and pupils alike. The citizens of this community have also expressed satisfaction of this addition to the school and to the area and feel that the hall has been the fulfilment of a long-felt need.

You will agree that such an effort deserves the support of our well-meaning friends among which number you are.

We look forward to welcoming you here on the 28th May and in the meantime anticipate your kind support.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. Powell

A. W. Powell

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 6 TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

August 5, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
West Indian Economist
164 Harbour Street
Kingston, JAMAICA, W. I.

Dear Peter:

I have been thinking about you as I plan an African journey for this fall. If you were still in London, I would certainly try to get in touch while we stop there the third week of September.

One of the things I would like to ask relates to Jomo Kenyatta. Did you know him personally? Is it true that he has a wife and son in London? Could I meet or talk to any of these?

I don't know what I'll write about Africa but I would like to see some of the interesting and/or controversial personalities. I'm headed for Uganda and Kenya.

I've enjoyed your peices in HOLIDAY.

All good wishes.

Best ever,


Arna Bontemps
Head Librarian

AB/gg

WIDE WORLD LECTURE BUREAU, INC.
119 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

SELMA W. WARNER, PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH BROWN, VICE-PRESIDENT

July 27, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, W I
West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

You may recall that we had some correspondence last season regarding the possibility of lecturing in this country during the current season. It is now too late to do an extended tour for the season; we are, however, beginning to make plans for the 1964-65 season. I would be most pleased to hear from you if you have any interest in such a tour sometime during that period.

If you may recall we estimated that we could net you at least \$3,000 for your services after expenses and commissions to us. As we are set up in this bureau, we would be able to take care of the cost of the brochure and still net you the \$3,000.

I do hope that it will be possible for us to make arrangements for you.

Sincerely yours,

(Enc) *Selma Warner*

Selma W. Warner

SWW:mp1

G M I

The GIESEN MANAGEMENT, Inc.

COLUMBIA LECTURE BUREAU Inc.

111 WEST 57th STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • COLUMBUS 5-0862

EDNA J. GIESEN, President

SELMA W. WARNER, Director, Lecture Division

January 15, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, W. I
West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I very much appreciate your kind letter of January 8 and do hope that we will have the pleasure of representing you for lectures in this country during the 1963-64 season.

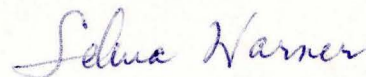
If at all possible, we would appreciate your considering the Fall period, possibly the six week period beginning November 3 through December 14, 1963.

We have arrived at the figure of \$3,000 as your net earnings after transportation, hotels and commissions on the basis of your delivering four lectures per week at fees ranging from \$200 to \$400. Our standard commission is 33 1/3% with the speaker paying for his own travel, hotels and the printing cost of a brochure. However, after paying for all of these expenses, together with our commission, we do expect to obtain net earnings for you of at least \$3,000.

In order for our sales representatives to do an effective job of representing you to lecture customers throughout the country, we will need immediately to print a circular of a general character of the enclosed. The cost of these circulars is estimated at \$200 and we will need an additional \$50 for glossies, mats and photographs, which, however, will not be needed until after we have completed the booking of the tour which will be some time next Fall.

Because the booking season is already underway, I am taking the liberty of forwarding our contract and hope that we will hear from you favorably at your very earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



SW:CB
Enclosures

C L B

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The GIESEN MANAGEMENT, Inc.

COLUMBIA LECTURE BUREAU INC.

111 West 57th Street

Columbus 5-0862

New York City 19, New York

Edna Giesen, President

January 15, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams

Coyaba

Red Hills, P. O.

St. Andrews

Jamaica, W I, West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

The following, when signed by us, and when signed after the word "Accepted" by you, shall constitute the Agreement between you and us:

1. You hereby irrevocably engage and designate us as your sole and exclusive manager for lecture engagements throughout the United States and Canada during the period of this Agreement.
2. We shall render our best efforts, in connection with your activities as a lecturer, in counselling and advising you, in advancing your professional interests, in obtaining for you suitable engagements, and in maintaining an organization adequate to serve you and the other lecturers and artists under our management.
3. You shall give us, no later than January first of each year, a Statement of your Availability for lectures for the following season. (Season is understood to be the period from June first through May 31st of each year.) See Attached Statement
4. You hereby irrevocably appoint us as your attorney-in-fact for the purpose of executing on your behalf contracts of engagement for you pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
5. Your fee for each engagement scheduled by us on your behalf shall range from.....\$200..... to.....\$400.....
- 6.a. You agree to perform each and every engagement which we book for you under the terms of this Agreement.

b. Neither you nor we shall be liable to the other for any failure to carry out the terms of this Agreement because of illness, accident, strike, military action or act of God.

c. Should you fail to perform the engagements which we have scheduled for you under the terms of this Agreement for any other reason than those stated herein, you shall be liable for full commissions due us for such engagements.
7. You shall not perform as a professional lecturer except as designated and directed by us. You shall refer to us all inquiries or requests for lectures which you receive direct, and we shall handle such inquiries in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
8. We shall bear all reasonable expenses incident to the negotiating and scheduling of lecture engagements. We shall also defray all reasonable expenses pertaining to advertising in trade papers, general direct mail promotion and general announcements, as and when arranged for, in our sole discretion.

9. We shall arrange for, but you shall bear the expenses of, all other advertising and cost of sales circulars, photos, mats and press books, as well as publicity about you individually, but we shall not subject you to such expenses without your prior approval. Upon approval of such expenditures as agreed upon between us, you shall, at our discretion, either send us your check covering the agreed upon amounts, or pay the sums due immediately upon presentation of bill for completed material.
10. In accordance with your instructions, we shall make all travelling arrangements such as preparing itineraries, making hotel reservations, etc., and you shall bear all expenses for travel, hotel, living and all other items in connection with your activities as a lecturer.
11. It is understood that in delivering lectures you may refer to notes, provided, however, that you will in no instance read any substantial part of your lecture.
12. It is understood that, at each engagement, you shall deliver a lecture of one hour or less as stipulated by local sponsor, and that we may schedule a question period thereafter.
13. In consideration of the performance by us of the terms of this Agreement, you shall pay to us an amount equivalent to 33 1/3% of all gross fees accruing to you from all lecture engagements arranged by us under the terms of this Agreement.
14. The period of this Agreement shall be from Jan. 15, 1963 through May 31, 1966 with option as follows
15. You warrant and represent that you are free to enter into this Agreement, and that the terms of this Agreement do not conflict with any prior commitments to which you are obligated.
16. This Agreement cannot be changed, nor shall any of its provisions be waived, except in writing. It shall be governed and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of New York.
17. Any and all controversies arising under, out of, or in connection with, or relating to or for the breach of this Agreement, shall be settled by arbitration in New York City in accordance with the rules then obtaining of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon any awards so rendered may be entered in the highest court, State or Federal, having jurisdiction in the premises.

The GIESEN MANAGEMENT, Inc.

COLUMBIA LECTURE BUREAU INC.

By:
President

ACCEPTED:
PETER ABRAHAMS

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The GIESEN MANAGEMENT, Inc.

COLUMBIA LECTURE BUREAU INC.

111 West 57th Street Columbus 5-0862 New York City 19, New York

Edna Giesen, President

January 15, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, W I, West Indies

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- 6.a. You agree to perform each and every engagement which we book for you under the terms of this Agreement.

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9. We shall arrange for, but you shall bear the expenses of, all other advertising and cost of sales circulars, photos, mats and press books, as well as publicity about you individually, but we shall not subject you to such expenses without your prior approval. Upon approval of such expenditures as agreed upon between us, you shall, at our discretion, either send us your check covering the agreed upon amounts, or pay the sums due immediately upon presentation of bill for completed material.
10. In accordance with your instructions, we shall make all travelling arrangements such as preparing itineraries, making hotel reservations, etc., and you shall bear all expenses for travel, hotel, living and all other items in connection with your activities as a lecturer.
11. It is understood that in delivering lectures you may refer to notes, provided, however, that you will in no instance read any substantial part of your lecture.
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15. You warrant and represent that you are free to enter into this Agreement, and that the terms of this Agreement do not conflict with any prior commitments to which you are obligated.
16. This Agreement cannot be changed, nor shall any of its provisions be waived, except in writing. It shall be governed and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of New York.
17. Any and all controversies arising under, out of, or in connection with, or relating to or for the breach of this Agreement, shall be settled by arbitration in New York City in accordance with the rules then obtaining of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon any awards so rendered may be entered in the highest court, State or Federal, having jurisdiction in the premises.

The GIESEN MANAGEMENT, Inc.

COLUMBIA LECTURE BUREAU INC.

By:
President

ACCEPTED:
PETER ABRAHAMS

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

January 15, 1963

I will be available exclusively for lectures between November 3,
1963 through December 14, 1963.

Signed By: _____
Peter Abrahams

Accepted By: _____
Columbia Lecture Bureau, Inc.

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

January 15, 1963

I will be available exclusively for lectures between November 3,
1963 through December 14, 1963.

Signed By: _____
Peter Abrahams

Accepted By: _____
Columbia Lecture Bureau, Inc.

INSTITUT FÜR NEOAFRIKANISTISCHE FORSCHUNGEN
JANHEINZ JAHN · OFFENBACH AM MAIN · HOSPITALSTRASSE 8 · TELEFON 84246

Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o John Parquhairson Ltd.
15, Red Lion Square
LONDON WC 1

Offenbach/Main, April 13th. 1959.

Dear Sir,

you will certainly be surprised that Herr Jahn does not write to you himself, but he has not come back from his journey to Africa yet and has asked me, to do the preliminary work for his next book. Having recently published MUNTU, a survey of the neo-African culture, his next work is to be a complete history of the Afro-American literature.

As you will imagine that your own writings will need full consideration within the planned work, would you be so kind as to send us your books, of which only "MINE BOY" and "THE PATH OF THUNDER" are in our possession, or, if they are not available to you, would you please let us have their titles, and give us a hint where we could obtain them?

Looking forward to your kind answer, and hoping our request will not cause you too much trouble, I am

yours sincerely,

Rose Schubert

(Rose Schubert, Assistant.)

November 8, 1960.

Rev. Herbert B. Swaby,
Iona High School,
Ocho Rios.

Dear Mr. Swaby,

I am grateful to you for your letter October 18,
and your note of November 1.

I am sorry that it was necessary for you to send
me a reminder, but life is so exceedingly busy that I find
it very difficult to keep up todate with my correspondence.

With reference to your invitation, one of the
reasons why I was so lax in writing to you was because I
have taken on an additional job of running a West Indian
Radio News Service in which we plan to broadcast the same
news bulletin at the same time in every island of the West
Indies as well as in British Guiana.

You will appreciate this is an extremely complex
operation which makes it necessary for me to be in daily radio
telephone contact with all the key centres of the region. Last
week we conducted some tests. This week the purely engineering
aspect of the problem is being sorted out. Next week we will
continue our tests. And on the following Monday, November 21,
we will go on the air daily for five days a week. This means
that if you tune in to R.J.R. at 5 o'clock on Monday 21, you
will hear the same West Indian News Bulletin that all the
other people in the West Indies will be hearing at the same
time. I am sure you appreciate that this means that I must
be on the spot constantly, and that I cannot leave my control
room between the hours of three in the afternoon and 5 p.m.
In the light of this, and taking into consideration all the
other things I have to do, I do not see how I can come to Iona
High School much as I would like to. The same problem of time
comes up into the case of the history teacher in Philadelphia.
I like to receive letters but I do not always have the time to
answer.

Thank you for inviting me and kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams.

PA/ch

DOMINO
OMNIA
FIERI POSSUNT

IONA HIGH SCHOOL
OCHO RIOS
JAMAICA, W.I.

November 13, 1960

Peter Abrahams
P.O. Radio Jamaica
Cross Roads.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

This is but a brief note asking whether or no
an invitation we sent you arrived, and whether or no we could
consider the 17th or 24th November. There was also a request on behalf
of a Social Studies Teacher in the U.S.A. She desired to correspond with
you.

With kind greetings,
Siri Cecily Jones
(Rev.) H. B. Swaby

File

IONA HIGH SCHOOL



Ocho Rios,

Jamaica, W.I.

October 18 1960.

Peter Abrahams Esq.,
90 Radio Jamaica
Cross Roads P.O.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

A number of our children here who have been taking a class in World Affairs would like to meet you in person and have the privilege of hearing you speak to them. So too would members of staff.

We should be delighted and grateful then if you could pay us a visit and speak to the school during the first week of November. A Thursday is ordinarily a good day, and at that time we have an assembly at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Knowing your many and important engagements I have to leave the hour to your convenience. We begin at 8.00 am. and disperse by 2.30.

The other thing I write to ask is whether or no you could entertain an occasional letter from a History Teacher in Philadelphia Penna. U.S.A. who desires for her own benefit and that of her class to get some authoritative and up to date interpretation of the developments on the African continent today.

There will be about 70 or 80 in the group here. The School is small. All are interested in the Future of Africa as a world power and the relative influence of the Soviet Union and the U. S. A. in the area.

With kind greetings,

Very Sincerely Yours,
(Rv.) Herbert B. Swaby.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



February 23, 2001

Peter Abrahams
c/o Ian Randle Publishers
206 Old Hope Road
Box 686
Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
PRESS

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations! Your book is completed, published, and out there!

Enclosed is a media list that reflects the mailing of review copies and press releases for **The Black Experience in the 20th Century: An Autobriography and Meditation**, officially published on **March 12, 2001**.

Often at this point, an author wants to know if there's anything she or he can do to help us market the book. Here are some suggestions. Feel free to pursue or ignore them, depending on your energy level or the realistic expectation of a response.

- Check the listing for your book on Amazon.com and other online services. If you discover an error, please notify us.
- Respond to the "author interview" feature on Amazon.com that appears under the listing of your book.
- If you think you may do a booksigning at a local store, prepare a mailing list of friends and colleagues who should be invited. Booksellers are more receptive when they can count on a well-attended event.
- If your local NPR or PBS station offers a suitable program on which to talk about your book, send me the contact name, address, and phone number.
- Submit an op-ed piece to local or national papers on the subject of your book. This generally works only if your topic is considered newsworthy but it may be worth a try.

We will be sending you copies of reviews and listings as well as samples of ads and direct mail brochures. Feel free to contact the marketing department if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Drockelman".

Heidi Drockelman
Marketing / Publicity
(812) 855-9233; fax (812) 855-8507; adrockel@indiana.edu

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Bloomington, Indiana
47404-3797

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Doretha C. Jordon, Editor
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1570 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106
REL 626-585-7821 / 7916 (f)

La Vida News/The Black Voice

Ted Pruitt, Publisher
P.O. Box 751
3613 W. Pioneer Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76101
REL

LEGEND: AFR HERITAGE LIT REV

TERRENCE COOPER, EDITOR
1730 K ST NW, #304
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
RC (202) 296-0947

Library Journal Barbara Hoffert, Editor 245 W. 17th Street New York, NY 10011 RC-A (212) 463-6806	Metro Courier Barbara A. Gordon, Editor P.O. Box 2385 314 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30903 REL	Minority Publishers Exchange Newsletter Brenda Mitchell-Powell Orange Ball Corporation PO Box 3155 Westport, CT 06880 REL 203-221-1224
LINCOLN REVIEW J A PARKER, EDITOR 1001 CONNECTICUT AVE, NW STE 1135 WASHINGTON, DC 20036 REL	Metro Herald Rick Sincere, Arts Editor 901 N. Washington St. #603 Alexandria, VA 22314 REL	Mississippi Memo Digest Robert E. Williams, Editor 2511 5th St. Meridian, MS 39301 REL
Los Angeles Sentinel Marshall Lowe, Arts Editor P.O. Box 8568 3800 Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90008 RC 323/299-3800	Miami Herald Margaria Fichtner, Book Review Editor No. 1 Herald Plaza Miami, FL 33132 RC 305-376-3630	Monroe Dispatch Frank J. Detiege, Publisher P.O. Box 4823 Monroe, LA 71211 REL
Los Angeles Times Steve Wasserman, Book Review Editor Times-Mirror Square 130 S Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012 RC 213-237-5000 or 237-7778	Miami Times Book Review Editor 900 NW 54th St. Miami, FL 33127 REL	Monroe Free Press Roosevelt Wright, Editor PO Box 4717 Monroe, LA 71211 REL
Louisiana Weekly Renette Dejoie Hall, Editor P.O. Box 53008 822 Period St. #413 New Orleans, LA 70153 REL	Michigan Chronicle Book Review Editor 479 Ledyard St. Detroit, MI 48201 RC	Montgomery-Tuskegee Times Al Dixon, Pub/Ed. P.O. Box 9133 150 W. Fairview Ave. Montgomery, AL 36108 REL
Louisville American Baptist W.W. Ballinger, Editor 1715 W. Chestnut St. Louisville, KY 40203 REL	Michigan Citizen Teresa Maxwell-Kelly, Editor PO Box 03560 Highland Park, MI 48203 REL 313-869-9527	Mosaic Communications (Mosaic Lit Mag) Book Review Editor 314 W. 231st St., Suite 470 Bronx, NY 10463 REL (212) 746-5216
Louisville Courier-Journal Betty Winston Baye, Afr- Am Reviews 525 W. Broadway Louisville, KY 40202 RC 40202	Mid-South Tribune Arlene Sanders, Arts Editor P.O. Box 2272 1188 Manna Place #104 Memphis, TN 38101 REL	Muslim Journal Ayesha Mustafaa, Editor 929 W. 171st St. Hazel Crest, IL 60429 REL
Louisville Defender Yvonne Coleman, Editor PO Box 2557 Louisville, KY 40201 REL	Milwaukee Courier Book Review Editor 2431 W. Hopkins Milwaukee, WI 53206 RC	N'Digo David Smallwood, Editor 401 N. Wabash #534 Chicago, IL 60611 RC
Mahogany Revue Candace Lewis-Khufia P.O. Box 6779 920 NW Eighth Ave. Ocala, FL 34478 REL	Milwaukee Courier Joni Alston, Editor 2431 W. Hopkins Milwaukee, WI 53206 REL	NABJ Journal (Nat'l Assn Black Journalists) Richard Prince #11 East Oxford Ave. Alexandria, VA 22314 REL 301-445-7100

Naitonal Inner City

Charles W. Porter, Pub
P.O. Box 1545
Mobile, AL 36633
REL

National Rainbow Coalition

JACK ODELL
930 E 50th Street

Chicago, IL 60615
REL

NATIONAL REVIEW

David Klinghoffer, Literary Editor
215 Lexington Avenue, 4th floor

(All review & catalogues here)

New York, NY 10016
RC 212-679-7330 / 849-2835

New American

Eleanor D. Branch, Editor
Box 4233

Brooklyn, NY 11247
RC 718-399-2271

New American Press

Bobbie Weaver, Editor
619 N. De Villiers St.
Pensacola, FL 32501
REL

New Journal and Guide

Leonard Colvin, Editor
362 Campostella Rd.
Norfolk, VA 23523
REL

New Metro News

Donna Weathersby, Arts Editor
501 E. 32nd St. #501
Chicago, IL 60616
REL

New Pittsburgh Courier

Rod Doss, Editor
P. O. Box 2939
315 E. Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15230
REL

New York Daily Challenge / Afro Times

Dawad Philip, Editor
1368 Fulton St.
Brooklyn, NY 11216
RC

New York Review of Books

Robert Silvers, Editor (Attn: Miranda)
1755 Broadway, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10019
RC-A 212-757-8070 / 333-5374

New York Times

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, Book Critic
627 West 247th Street
Bronx, NY 10471
RC 718-796-2167

New York Times Book Review

Charles McGrath, Editor
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
RC 212-556-1234 direct

NEW YORKER

Henry Finder, Books Editor
4 Times Square
New York, NY 10036
RC 212-840-3800

NEWSWEEK

Ray Sawhill, Books
251 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
RC 212-445-4000

Northwest Dispatch

Virginia Taylor, Editor
PO Box 5637
Tacoma, WA 98406
REL

Observer Group

William H. Lee, Editor
PO Box 209
Sacramento, CA 95801
RC

Omaha Star

Marguerita Washington, Publisher
P.O. Box 11128
2216 N. 24th St.
Omaha, NE 68111
REL

Orlando Times

Lisa Starke, Arts Reporter
P.O. Box 555339
4403 Vineland Rd., #B5
Orlando, FL 32855
REL

Our Times

Sondra Matthews, Publisher/Editor
PO Box 2164
Evansville, IN 47728
REL 812-425-0066

Pasadena Journal-News

Fredrick Hubbard, Editor
1541 N. Lake Ave., Suite A
Pasadena, CA 91104
REL

PENDULUM

MILLIE RILEY, EDITOR
MD COMM AFRO-AMER HIST & CUL
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
REL

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Carlin Romano, Book Critic
400 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101
RC 215-854-2000 (3,3)

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Mike Schaffer, Book Editor
400 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101
RC 215-854-2000

Philadelphia Metro

Book Review Editor
526 S. 16th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146
RC

PHILADELPHIA NEW OBSERVER

JAMES G SPADY, BOOK REV ED
1930 CHESTNUT ST
SUITE 900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
REL 215) 665-8400 / 215)

Philadelphia Sun

J. Whyatt Mondesire, Editor
628 W. Rittenhouse St.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
REL

Philadelphia Tribune

Robert W. Bogle, Publisher
520 S. 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
REL

Pittsburgh Renaissance News

Connie Portis, Pub/Ed.
1516 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
REL

Portland Observer

Joyce Washington, Editor
P.O. Box 3137
4747 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.
Portland, OR 97208
REL

Post Group Newspapers

Book Review Editor
PO Box 1350
Oakland, CA 94612
REL

Publishers Weekly

Nonfiction Editor
245 West 17th Street
New York, NY 10011
212-463-6554

Quarterly Review Books QBR :The Black Book Review

Max Rodriguez, Founder & Pub
9 West 126th St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10027
RC 212-475-1010

Rain Taxi : Review of Books

Eric Lorberer
PO Box 3840
Minneapolis, MN 55403
RC raintaxi@bitstream.net;

RESEARCH IN AFRICAN LITERATURES

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
PO BOX 3789
COLUMBUS, OH 43210
RC

RESEARCH IN AFRICAN LITERATURES

Ruthmarie H Mitsch, Mng Editor
OHIO STATE U / c/o Dept. of French & Italian
248 Cunz Hall / 1841 Millikin Road
Columbus, OH 43210
RC

Richmond Free Press

Raymond H. Boone, Pub/Ed.
P.O. Box 27709
101 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23261
REL

Richmond Voice

Jack J. Green, Pub/Ed.
P.O. Box 1162
416 N. 2nd St.
Richmond, VA 23218
REL

Roanoke Tribune

Claudia Whitworth, Pub/Ed.
P.O. Box 6021
2318 Melrose Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24017
REL

Ruminator Review
Bart Schneider, Editor
1648 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
RC 651-699-2610

Sacramento Observer Group

Larry Lee, Arts Editor
P.O. Box 209
Sacramento, CA 95812
REL

San Antonio Informer

Virginia Moore, Editor
333 S. Hackberry
San Antonio, TX 78203
REL

San Antonio Register

Edwin Glosson, Editor
P.O. Box 1598
San Antonio, TX 78296
REL

San Diego Union-Tribune

Arthur Salm, Books Editor
350 Camino De La Reina
San Diego, CA 92108
RC 619-299-1321

San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

Gerri Warren, Editor
P.O. Box 95
San Diego, CA 92112
REL

San Francisco Metro Rprr Grp

Amelia Ashley-Ward, Editor
1791 Bancroft Ave
San Francisco, CA 94124
RC

Savannah Tribune

June Anderson, Editor
PO Box 2066
Savannah, GA 31402
REL

Savoy

Fatin Sabur
315 Park Ave South, 11th floor
New York NY 10010
RC 646-654-4200 / 4233 (f)

Scoop USA

R. Sonny Driver, Publisher
1220 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19121
REL

Shreveport Sun

Sonya Collins Landry, Publisher
P.O. Box 38357
22-24 Jewella Ave.
Shreveport, LA 71133
REL

Skanner

Bobbie Dore Foster, Editor
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228
REL

Snap News

Bruce Harris, Editor
1609 E. Houston St.
San Antonio, TX 78202
REL

Souls : Crit Jrnl of Black Politics, Culture & Soc

Book Review Editor
Columbia Univ / Inst Research Afr-Am Std
758 Schermerhorn Extension, Mail Code
1200 Amsterdam Ave
New York NY 10027
RC 212-854-7080 / 7060 (f)

South Carolina Black Media Group

Bernard Legette, Editor
PO Box 11128
Columbia, SC 29211
REL

Speakin' Out News

William Smothers, Editor
P.O. Box 2826
1300 Meridan St.
Huntsville, AL 35804
REL

St. Louis Argus

Book Review Editor
4595 Martin Luther King Drive
St. Louis, MO 63113
RC

ST LOUIS CRUSADER

WM P RUSSELL, EDITOR
4371 FINNEY AVENUE
ST LOUIS, MO 63113
REL 531-5860

St. Louis Sentinel

Book Review Editor
2900 N. Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63106
REL

St. Louis Sentinel Michael Williams, Editor 2900 N. Market St. St. Louis, MO 63106 REL	Tri City Journal Gloria Sharrieff, Editor 7115 W. North Ave. #308 Oak Park, IL 60302 REL	Washington Afro-American Herbert Quarles, Features Ed. 1612 14th St., NW Washington, DC 20009 REL
Star of Zion Morgan W. Tann, Editor P.O. Box 31005 401 E. Second St. Charlotte, NC 28231 REL	Tri State Defender Audrey Parker McGhee, Editor PO Box 2065 Memphis, TN 38101 REL	Washington Informer Denise Barnes, Editor 3117 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE Washington, DC 20032 RC
"Strictly Books" Dan Vojir KEST-AM Multicultural Broadcasting 21 Isis St. #102 San Francisco, CA 94103 REL 415-626-2665	Triangle Tribune Deidra Jackson, Editor 119 Market Street Durham, NC 27701 REL	Washington Monthly Stephanie Mencimer, Bk Rev. Ed. 1611 Connecticut Avenue, NW 4th Floor Washington, DC 20009 RC 202-462-0128
Tallahassee Capital Outlook Tiffany Wilson, Arts Editor 602 N. Adams St. Tallahassee, FL 32301 REL	Umoja News Ronelle P. Williams, Publisher 955 Connecticut Ave., #2101 Bridgeport, CT 06607 REL	Washington New Observer Robert B. Newton, Editor 811 Florida Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001 REL
Tennessean Sue McClure, Book Review Editor 1100 Broadway Nashville, TN 37203 RC 615-259-8800	Unity First News Janine Fondon, Publisher/Editor 27 Gordon St., #308 Framingham, MA 01702 REL	WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD Jabari Asim, Black Studies Editor 1150 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20071 RC 202-334-7887 /
The Nation Art Winslow, Literary Editor 33 Irving Place 8th Floor New York, NY 10003 RC-A 212-209-5407 / 982-9000	URBAN LEAGUE NEWS RICHARD KEOUGH, EDITOR NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE 500 EAST 62ND STREET NEW YORK, NY 10021 REL	Washington Sun Howard Johnson, Editor 830 Kennedy St., NW Washington, DC 20011 RC
TIME MAGAZINE Marianne Sussman, Sen. Rptr., Books Rockefeller Center, Time-Life Building 1271 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020 RC 212-522-2622 or main	Village Beat Charlotte Durante, Publisher 600 N. Congress Ave. #550 Delray Beach, FL 33445 REL	Washington Times Colin Walters, Book Editor 3600 New York Ave., NE Washington, DC 20002 RC 202-636-3000
Times-Picayune Jeanine Blake, "The People Helper" 3800 Howard Ave. New Orleans, LA 70140 RC 504-826-3279 / 3186 (fax)	Villager T.L. Wyatt, Publisher 1223-A Rosewood Ave. Austin, TX 78702 REL	Western Journal of Black Studies Tara Perry Western Washington University Pullman, WA 99164 REL 509-335-8681
Toledo Journal Myron A. Stewart, Editor PO Box 2536 Toledo, OH 43606 REL	VOICE LITERARY SUPPLEMENT Lenora Tedora, Assoc. Editor 36 Cooper Square New York, NY 10003 RC-A 212-475-3300, 475-3333,	Western Star Mike Oakley, Editor P.O. Box 1900 1709 Third Ave. North Bessemer, AL 35021 REL
	Voice & Viewpoint Gerri Adams-Warren, Editor PO Box 95 San Diego, CA 92112 RC	Wilmington Journal Mary Alice Thatch, Editor P.O. Box 1020 412 S. 7th St. Wilmington, NC 28402 REL

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Ernest H. Pitt, Editor

PO Box 1636

Winston-Salem, NC 27102

REL

Youngstown Buckeye Review

Linda McNair, Editor

P.O. Box 287

1555 Belmont Ave.

Youngstown, OH 44501

REL

UWI Libraries

KINGSTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL,

HANOVER STREET,

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

OUR REF. _____

YOUR REF. _____

6th June, 1961.

Peter Abrahams Esq.,
c/o West Indian Economist,
114 Harbour Street,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Having had the Principal's permission to write thus, I wish on behalf of the Principal, Staff and students and myself, to thank you for interviewing Lascelles Black on "Forum on Federation".

Anent the School's request for you to come and lecture us, the Principal would be obliged if between 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. on any school day (Monday to Friday) from 3rd to 12th July, you would find it possible to honour us in this way.

While we would be most grateful if you would address us on "South Africa Today", we would be quite happy if you would prefer to choose your own topic.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,



E. A. N. Smith,
(History/Civics Teacher).

28th November, 1960.

Mr. L. M. Simpson,
Secretary, Kingston Technical School,
Past Students' Literary Society,
47, Bloombury Road,
Kingston 10.

Dear Mr. Simpson,

Many thanks for your letter of invitation dated 21st November, and asking me to give a lecture on "Race Relations in South Africa", between the hours of 4.00 and 6.00 p.m. at a date convenient to me. It is with regret that I am unable to accept this invitation as I am fully occupied to the end of the year.

I sincerely trust that you will be able to find some one who is quite capable of filling the post.

Yours truly,

for Peter Abrahams
Peter Abrahams

KINGSTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL PAST
STUDENTS' LITERARY SOCIETY,

c/o I. M. Simpson,
47 Bloomsbury Road,
Kingston 10.

21st November, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
C/o The West Indian Economist,
Harbour Street,
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

I have been instructed by the members of the above mentioned society to enquire whether you would be willing and available to give us a lecture on "Race Relations in South Africa" or any other topic of your choice.

The society is made up of young people (past students of the school) who meet fortnightly to discuss matters of current interest, to stage debates, read literary presentations by individual members and invite knowledgeable members of the community to give us talks on subjects of topical interest, to name a few of our activities.

It is in pursuit of the last named activity that we have decided to invite you to give us this lecture.

We fervently hope you will be able to and willing to grant our request. We are asking you to choose the date which is most convenient to you as we realize how very busy you are. However, we would be happy if your choice could be on a Saturday evening between the hours of 4.00 to 6.00 p.m.

If you accept, we would invite present members of the student body and staff of the school and members of the public to assure you of a fairly large and attentive audience.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

I. M. Simpson

I. M. Simpson (Secretary).

KINGSTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL PAST STUDENTS
LITERARY CLUB.

c/o A. Adams,
11 Greenwich Road,
KINGSTON 5.

13th April, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o The West Indian Economist,
Harbour Street,
KINGSTON.

Dear Sir,

I have been instructed by the members of the abovementioned club to enquire whether you would be willing and available to give us a talk on 'Race Relations in South Africa' on Saturday, 14th May starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Kingston Technical School, 82 Hanover St.

The club is made up of young people (not all K.T.S. past students despite the name) who meet fortnightly to discuss matters of current interest, to stage debates, read literary contributions by individual members and invite knowledgeable members of the community to give talks on subjects of topical interest, to name a few of our activities.

It is in pursuit of the last named activity that we have decided to invite you to give this talk.

We fervently hope you will be willing to grant our request and that being willing you will be able to come on the date we have mentioned. However, in the event that you are unable to meet this date we could leave it up to you to choose any Saturday afternoon on successive fortnights following the 14th May.

If you accept we would invite present members of the student body and staff of the school and members of the public so we can assure you of a fairly large and attentive audience.

Apologizing for this short notice and hoping that you will accept.

I am Sir,
Yours respectfully,

A. D. Adams
A.D. ADAMS
(SECRETARY)

Personal File

R.J.R. File

KINGSTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL,

HANOVER STREET,

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, B.W.I.

OUR REF. _____

YOUR REF. _____

26th May, 19 60.

~~Principal A. M. STAIR G. THOMSON B. S. A. M. K. E. M. L. R. E.~~

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o West Indian Economist,
164-166 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

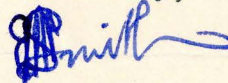
Dear Mr. Abrahams,

As History and Civics Tutor of the Kingston Technical School, I have obtained the permission of the Acting Principal to write and ask you to be kind enough to place the School on your mailing list for daily copies of your enlightening "Daily Commentary".

On my own behalf I wish to thank you for making available to the public, copies of these broadcasts.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,



E. A. N. Smith.

KINGSTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL,
82 Hanover Street,
Kingston,

17th September, 1958.

Mr Peter Abrahams,
" Editor West Indian Economist,"
Dominion Publishing Co. Ltd.,
164 - 166 Harbour Street,
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

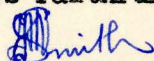
As part of the History programme of the Kingston Technical School it has been decided that the History Teacher should invite persons from the community to address the students on various topics.

Acting upon this decision and on the authority of the Principal I respectfully invite you to address the students on "Life in Africa" with special emphasis on the roll of the Negro in the Community. I would also specially ask you to outline the aims and objectives of your magazine "The West Indian Economist"

I would be most grateful if at the end of your address you would kindly consent to answer questions that may arise.

I would be further obliged if you would find it possible to arrange your address for any Wednesday afternoon starting either at 2:45 or 3 p.m.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,



E.A.N. SMITH

EANS/sv.

KNOX COLLEGE
A PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

REV. LEWIS DAVIDSON, M.A.
PRINCIPAL.
TELEPHONE :



CHRISTIANA 249.
SPALDINGS, JAMAICA. W.I.

July 28th. 1959.

Peter Abrahams Esq.
Editor, "West Indian Economist",
164 Harbour St.
Kingston.

Dear Peter Abrahams,

We are greatly looking forward to having you at Knox, and I am glad that the general public as well as the Seminar group will have the chance of hearing you. As you see from the enclosed programme, I have put your lecture down for Friday, 7th. August.

We shall have an epideiascope, a film projector and a record player here. If there is anything you require for your lecture-demonstration, please let me know.

When may we expect you?
on Wednesday evening? or Thursday morning?

Anyway, we are looking forward to seeing you next week, in time for the Seminar on W Thursday morning.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Lewis Davidson.

LD:jd.

KNOX
SUMMER
SCHOOL

AUGUST 3—17, 1959

KNOX COLLEGE
SPALDINGS JAMAICA

Daily Programme. Tuesday to Saturday inclusive.

8. a. m. Breakfast.

9. a. m. Worship, led by Rev. R. O. C. King
and Lewis Davidson.

9.30. a.m.- 12.45, with break from 11 to 11.30
a.m.

Schools within a School.

1. Child Guidance and Counselling.

Professor M.A. Sonstegard, Director of
Guidance and Counselling at Iowa
State Teachers' College.

Assisted by Dr. H. Feldman, Jamaica.

(A five-weeks' course, two at Knox and
three in Kingston for which an additional
fee of £10. 10. is charged.

2. The Communication of Ideas.

Professor Robert P. Newman, University of
Pittsburgh.

(A two-weeks' course of study on the art
of propaganda, persuasion, advertising,
etc.)

3. West Indian Literature.

Sylvia Wynter-Carew and Peter Abrahams.

4. The Powers of Man.

1st. Week. Lewis Davidson, Knox College.

2nd week. Herbert Cook, Caenwood College.

1 p.m. Lunch. Afternoons free for resting,
reading, playing tennis, etc.

3.30- 4.30 p.m. Tea.

4.30 - 6.30 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays
inclusive.

ACTIVITY GROUPS.

Art. Kenneth Robinson,

Drama. Mary Norton,

Music. Sydney Morris.

Dancing. Barbara Grant.

Photography. Robert Norton.

Creative Writing. Barbara Priestman.

6.45 p.m. Supper. (Evening Lectures overleaf)

.....

SUNDAYS

10. a.m. Summer School Services in Spaldings
Presbyterian Church.

4.30 p.m. August 9th. Lecture on "Child Guidance"
by Professor M. Sonstegard.

.....

FEES.

Resident students. £5. 5. 0 per week plus
10s. registration fee.

Non-residents. £1. 1. 0 per week plus 10s.
registration fee.

Meals for day students or Visitors should
be ordered in advance, giving 12 hours'
notice, and should be paid for at the meal
itself.

Evening Lectures are open to the public, no charge.

8. p.m. Evening Lectures & Demonstrations.

Open to the public.

Monday, 3rd. August " Standards of Value!"
Professor Robert P. Newman.

Tues. 4th. What is beautiful - in Music.
Mr. R. Verity.

Wed. 5th. - in painting & sculpture.
Mr. Kenneth Robinson.

Thurs. 6th - in Architecture.
Mr. John B. Davidson.
A.R.I.B.A.

Fri. 7th - in Literature. Mr Peter Arahams.

Sat. 8th. - Home Decorating Mr. Jerrie Isaacs.

Mon. 10th What is good. - in human relations.
Monsignor Gladston Wilson.

Tues. 11th - in group relations.
Dr. Rawle Farley, U.C.W.I.

Wed. 12th What is true - in Science.
Dr. R. Cade, U. C.W.I.

Thurs. 13th - in Religion. Rev. Herbert Cook.

Fri. 14th - in Politics. Dr. Roy Augier
U.C.W.I.

Sat. 15th. Demonstration by Activity Groups.

.....

CANTEEN. The Canteen will be open at 11 a.m.
and 9.30 p.m.

BOOK SHOP. The Book-shop will be open from
8.30 a.m. to 5. p.m.

LIBRARY. A special Summer School Library will
be open throughout the Summer School.

For Application Forms and further particulars,
write to-

The Secretary,
Knox College, Spaldings.

*Manchester School
Mandeville*

17th Oct. 1961

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
West Indian Economist,
164-6 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Peter,

I am very sorry to have badgered you with correspondence but I am afraid that I completely overlooked your radio commitments daily at 5 o'clock.

It seems that I shall have to leave your contribution for a while and work out something much more convenient. I shall contact you about this when I have something worked out.

With good wishes to yourself and the family.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry

xxx 4358

10th October, 1961.

Mr. R. A. German,
Headmaster,
Manchester School,
Mandeville.

Dear Gerry,

Sorry you had to resort to telegrams to get any sort of rise out of me but life has been hectically busy. The problem about coming up to Manchester School in the middle of the day is that I am pin down here every day from Monday to Friday with the West Indian news which goes over Radio Jamaica at 5 oclock. As you may know this is a radio hook-up between Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and British Guiana which is broadcast simultaneously throughout the region. I am the controller of the programme which means that I must be in my controlling room by a quarter to four every single day of the week. I do not see how I could leave Manchester by 2.15 or 2.30 and still make it down to Radio Jamaica by quarter to four. If there is any other time which would not clash with the West Indian news I shall be glad to come up, especially after all the trouble you have gone to.

I return your reply paid for with all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams.

PA/ul.

*Manchester School
Mandeville*

21st Sept. 1961

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
C/o West Indian Economist,
Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Peter,

A number of my students have requested that I write you to invite you to address members of the upper school on opportunities in journalism.

We have a number of speakers who come to us on Wednesday afternoons in connexion with our vocational guidance programme and I wonder if you would find it possible to come on Wednesday, Oct. 4th or Oct. 11th or, in fact, on any Wednesday in October.

The session would begin at 1.30 and you would have between 40 - 60 minutes for your address and questions.

I realise how very busy you are but I hope that you can help us, particularly since it is the students themselves who suggested you as a first choice in this field.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry
.....

R. A. German
Headmaster,

May 15, 1973.

As from:
Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

The Headmaster,
Meadowbrook High School,
2 Meadowbrook Avenue,
KINGSTON 8.

Dear Sir,

I felt strongly that the enclosed,
which is self-explanatory, should be
brought to your attention.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams

Enclosures:

- 1) Photocopy of letter from 3
Meadowbrook teachers;
- 2) Copy of my reply.

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
May 15, 1973.

Miss Elizabeth Couch,
Miss Marcia Coves,
Mr. Arthur Helps,
Meadowbrook High School,
2 Meadowbrook Avenue.
KINGSTON 8.

Dear Miss Couch, Miss Coves and Mr. Helps,

I have just received your letter dated May 10th, and while I do not normally answer rude and offensive letters, I find yours a very special one - the first such I ever got from teachers - which I shall one day use as an example of just how unpleasantly some people will react if they do not get their way.

For your information - on a matter which I had mistakenly assumed you as teachers of English would know - when 'Tell Freedom' was chosen as a schools text for Jamaica officials at the Ministry of Education, probably in anticipation of precisely a situation in which teachers and students will want background information from me, asked me to do a series of recorded interviews and discussions for the schools' broadcasting programme. These I did and they were broadcast over the schools radio programmes over a period of several weeks. So your sneers about 'non-involvement' and 'non-participation' and 'lack of social commitment' can only be judged as stemming from a disturbingly arrogant breed of ignorance for teachers. And I found your bit about 'lack of publicity' cheap and unworthy.

Whether you agree or not, the point quite simply is that I would have time for very little other work if I were to accept all the requests to visit the schools where they are using my book. So I decided that since I had done these radio programmes especially for the schools, and since really enterprising teachers of English could, if they were so minded, get tapes of these broadcasts from the Educational Broadcasting Service, I would not accept any invitations from individual schools. And whatever your views may be on the matter I personally would find it very hard to reconcile myself to discriminating in favour of some schools and against others.

Finally, may I remind you that the original invitation that came was an unsigned one, purporting only to come from Form 5A. I now in what way my wife's note was 'patronising' or 'insensitive' your letter strikes me as so aggressive and offensive, and I hope you will be prevailed upon not to resort to the same of me if some other unfortunate person turns down an invitation from you. I am sending a copy of your letter as well as this reply to your headmaster.

Yours sincerely

c/o Meadowbrook High School,
2 Meadowbrook Avenue, Kgn. 8.
10th May, 1973.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Thank you for your wife's letter dated 28th April.

As teachers of English at Meadowbrook, we were concerned at the patronising tone and insensitivity of the reply. The children were impressed by the struggle for education against great odds which were mitigated by the humanity of people such as Mr. Visser. 3A find it difficult to understand how someone who has received such generosity can adopt a policy of non-involvement, and lack of social commitment especially as a writer's popularity depends on the public's response. Can a writer deny the enthusiastic reaction of his readers, in this particular case, young readers who had identified themselves with his personal struggles?

A writer cannot afford to alienate himself from the society in that the society ought to provide meaningful contact, new ideas for his work. Non-participation is never justifiable or perhaps is it the lack of publicity in this particular engagement which has motivated such a tepid response?

To deny the children the opportunity of discussing your work with you on the grounds that writers must write (?) and that since all schools cannot be visited, none should be, seems a rather intangible pretext.

That 3A did derive more than entertainment from "Tell Freedom" is evident from their invitation but they now experience disillusionment re your lack of enthusiasm for your own work....a reflection of your life.

(over)

Having publicly endorsed a policy of National Service
where is your contribution?

May we be permitted to quote from Tell Freedom "And we,
the aspiring, were ashamed to see ourselves as we had once been. We
resented being reminded of our origins." With what sincerity was this
written? Was it and is it relevant?

Yours resentfully,

Elizabeth Couch

Althea Helps

Marcia Cover

Form 3A.

Meadowbrook High School
2 Meadowbrook Avenue.
Kingston 8.

29/3/73.

Mr. Peter Abrahams.

"Coyaba"
Red Hills.

Answered

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Form 3A of Meadowbrook High, have read your book 'Tell Freedom' during our Literature classes. We found it very entertaining and interesting.

We were wondering if you could kindly spare us some of your time to come and talk to us about your book.

We have consulted our teacher, and she has agreed that we could extend an invitation to you.

I think that our chance to talk with you will help us to understand ~~more~~ more about your book as well as South Africa.

Our invitation will be open to you any Tuesday morning from 10.00 am to 11.20 am, when we have Literature classes. Please let us know when it will be convenient or possible for you to come.

Thank You,

Yours Sincerely

Form 3A.

29th May, 1962.

Rev. A. W. Alphonse,
P.O. Box 52,
Linstead.

Dear Rev. Alphonse,

It is with regret that I must decline your invitation to speak at the Annual Summer School on the 15th of August due to a very close schedule of appointments and speaking engagements.

Please therefore accept my apology for the inability to attend and I do hope I will be able to accept your next invitation.

Yours sincerely,

/ul.

Peter Abrahams.

The Methodist Church

Spanish Town Circuit

REV. A. W. ALPHONSE
MINISTER :

LINSTEAD CHURCH
EWARTON ..
GUY'S HILL ..
MT. ROSSER ..

BOX 52

LINSTEAD P.O.

JAMAICA, W.I.

.....18th May.....1962

cant make it

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The Jamaica Broadcasting Corp.,
Halfway Tree. Kng. 10

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I have been directed by the Youth Department of the Methodist Church to ask you to speak to a select group of Methodist Young People on the subject "The Place of the Christian in Politics".

This will take place at the Annual Summer School to be held August 13th to 20th. We would like you to come to the open session on Wednesday August 15th, at 7 p.m..

This Summer School will be held at Dinthill Rural Technical High School in Linstead.

Because of Independence we have decided that the Theme of the Summer School should have some bearing and relationship to the Political Development and National Life of the country. It is with this in mind that we ask you to come and share with us your own thoughts. I imagine you will be very busy at this time, but we would be very grateful if you found it possible to be with us.

Every good and kind wish.

Very Sincerely,

A. W. Alphonse

G. H. OWEN, B.A., M.R.S.T., J.P.,
Associate of University of Lond., Inst. of Ed.
PRINCIPAL
TELEPHONE 664056

MICO COLLEGE,
CROSS ROADS P.O.
JAMAICA.

30th November, 1962.

C/06/62 - 8

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o The Economist,
164 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Peter Abrahams,

Thank you so much for coming to address our students on November 21. It was a significant occasion in their lives and in the school year. We are very glad that the address was taped because after you left some of the students reported that our sound system had failed and they had not been able to hear you. As a consequence the tape has been played over and over to their great delight and benefit.

Please feel free to visit Mico at any time.

Yours sincerely,

I. M. Jones

I. M. JONES
Acting Principal.

IMJ:11.

G. H. OWEN, B.A., M.R.S.T., J.P.,
Associate of. University of Lond., Inst. of Ed.
PRINCIPAL
TELEPHONE 664056

MICO COLLEGE,
CROSS ROADS P.O.,
JAMAICA.

9th November, 1962.

Dear Peter,

Mr. Mack Jones told me this week that you will be the speaker at General Assembly on Wednesday. I am so pleased, but as I told him I am making sure this letter reaches you before you come to College. It is about 10 months late.

Can you remember coming with Ian and Warren to our home at No. 11 Trevenion Road, and inviting us to a New Year's Eve party which we were very anxious to attend. I was ill so we could not come; the reason for my illness is now 4 months old and his name is James.

We still keep in touch with your views, if not you, through JBC. Hope you and family are well.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Dor McKendrick.

8th February 1960.

Mr. Aubrey Phillips,
Moneague Training College,
Moneague P.O.

Dear Aubrey;

Sorry about the delay in replying to your letter of January 6th but I have been up to my neck in all sorts of things, as you can well imagine.

I doubt very much whether it is going to be possible for me to do anything for you during this term. I am off to Puerto Rico²¹ the end of this week and on my return I have²⁰ a report which will have to be delivered by mid April. This plus the Economist plus a body of other work I have undertaken this year is going to keep me pinned down to the grind stone to such an extent so that I cannot even see myself taking a week's holiday this year. If, however, things look a little clearer later in the year I promise to let you know. I am sorry to seem difficult but I am sure you understand the position.

With best regards to you and yours.

Yours sincerely,

PA
Peter Abrahams.

PA:ehk

MONEAGUE TRAINING COLLEGE,

ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE
TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE PRINCIPAL AND
NOT TO ANY OFFICER BY NAME
AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE
QUOTED:-

MONEAGUE P.O.,

No. _____

JAMAICA, January 6 1960

Dear Peter,

Roughly about a year ago you spoke to our students and at that time we exacted a half promise from you to come back again. I remember your saying that you were giving only one Lecture a year so I have made the year pass. But I am asking you to give us one Lecture during this term. (term ends on April 9th). We would prefer a Friday evening say around 7.30.

Since it's a new lot of students we would be delighted with the same Lecture, or if you prefer a change, then perhaps you could talk to us about Negro Writers or any other topic which you would care to choose. Do let me hear from you early as I am trying to arrange my programme of Speakers for the year.

With kind regards to the family.

Yours sincerely,

Aubrey Phillips

(A. S. Phillips)

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
W.I. General Insurance Ltd.,
164 Harbour Street,
Kingston.

8-2-60 ✓

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAM

4423

Form 324

No. of Message

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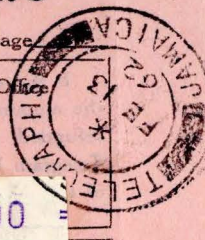
From _____

By _____

From

To

. AO KN 6 S ALLMANTOWN 26 13 1600



MR PETER ABRAHAMS C/O WI ECONOMIST HARBOURST KN

CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT RE R E RAINFORD APPLICANT
OR ISSA SCHOLARSHIP URGENTLY REQUIRED PREVIOUS
CORRESPONDENCE REFERS = MINISTRY OF EDUCATION +

1433 TELEGRAM POST OFFICE
NOTICE

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

UWI Libraries

14th February, 1962.

Mr. S. Robotham,
Ministry of Education,
P.O. Box 498,
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

Following on our telephone conversation of today's date re Mr. Peter Abrahams recommendation for Mr. Roderick George Rainford, enclosed please find the letter of the 20th January, 1960 to which I referred.

Yours sincerely,

Monica
Monica Hamilton

URGENT

ISSA SCHOLARSHIP

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
P.O. Box 498,
5, South Race Course,
KINGSTON.

20th January 1962

Referring to the application of Mr. Roderick George Rainford

Sir/Madam,

Your name has been given as a referee by the abovementioned candidate for an Issa Scholarship. I should be grateful if you would send me a frank and confidential statement regarding his/her qualifications. Your prompt compliance with this request will be of great assistance to the applicant and will be keenly appreciated by the Committee of Selection.

The scheme of the Scholarship requires that, in addition to possessing good health and a good standard of education, a candidate must have shown initiative, originality and force of character; also that the course of special training and consequent career proposed by the candidate should be of value to the community.

It is not expected that each individual should be able to speak about the candidate's qualifications under all these heads, and you are requested to confine yourself to those qualifications on which you have information gained by personal contact.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as his/her strong points. A critical appraisal of his/her qualifications will add rather than detract from the force of your letter, since Committees tend naturally to be dubious of recommendations which imply that a given individual has no limitations whatever.

Since the Committee needs time to consider the credentials of a number of applicants, I should be grateful if you would reply at your earliest convenience. Your letter will be treated as strictly confidential and will be read only by those whose duty it is to pass judgment upon the qualifications of the candidate.

I am, Sir/Madam,
Your obedient servant,

Mr. R. G. Rainford
Secretary,
Selection Committee.

Mr. Peter Abrahams

C/o "West Indian Economist"

Harbour St. Kga.

xxxx 4358

12th February, 1962

The Secretary,
Selection Committee,
Issa Scholarship,
Ministry of Education,
Post Office Box 498,
Kingston.

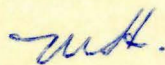
Dear Sir,

Re application of Mr. Roderick Rainford

With reference to your correspondence of January 20th, 1962, concerning the application of Mr. Roderick George Rainford for an Issa Scholarship, may I please refer you to my letter of January 20th, 1960, when I wrote you on this same matter.

I have nothing to add to the recommendations made in that letter.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams

PA/mph

20th January 1960.

The Secretary,
Selection Committee,
Issa Scholarship,
Ministry of Education,
P.O. Box 498,
5 South Race Course.

Dear Sir,

Re application of Mr. Roderick Rainford

I have known Mr. Rainford for the past three years. I first met him when I was editor of Public Opinion and he brought some of his verses to me. I was so impressed with his literary promise that I published several of his poems in a number of issues of Public Opinion. I also commissioned him to write a Christmas story one year and he produced an excellent story which I also published.

From this you will gather that I have a high opinion of Mr. Rainford's talents and promise as a writer. I think that, given the chance, he might easily develop into a very good Jamaican writer in later years. Of course he has limitations. I have gained the impression that he lacks a certain freedom in the use of language which makes his writing a little stilted and old fashioned. But this, as with so much else in writing, will be overcome only with practice and the development of his education and knowledge. Certainly, he possesses the major ingredients that go into the making of a writer: sensitivity, a feel for language and a delicate feel for people.

I am not in a position to discuss his schooling or his background but from conversations I have had with him I have gained the impression that the education he now has has been acquired by dint of hard work and great personal effort rather than through any economic advantage his family could confer on him. I do not think he has the brilliant kind of intelligence usually possessed by a scholarship winner, but I do know that he has a painstaking capacity for hard work and a remarkable consistency, for one so young, in following through whatever he undertakes. I think your committee could probably have other applicants with more brilliant academic backgrounds and qualifications but I doubt very much whether it will have another with the dedicated determination of Roderick Rainford to fit himself to play a useful part in the life of his community.

For this reason I recommend him wholeheartedly as a worthy candidate for an Issa scholarship.

Yours sincerely,

PA
Peter Abrahams.

PA:ehk

Kindly reply by 28th January, 1960.

ISSA SCHOLARSHIP

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
P.O. Box 498,
5, South Race Course,
KINGSTON.

18 January 1960

Referring to the application of

Mr. Roderick George Rainford
Golden Town

Sir/~~Madam~~,

Your name has been given as a referee by the abovementioned candidate for an Issa Scholarship. I should be grateful if you would send me a frank and confidential statement regarding his/~~her~~ qualifications. Your prompt compliance with this request will be of great assistance to the applicant and will be keenly appreciated by the Committee of Selection.

The scheme of the Scholarship requires that, in addition to possessing good health and a good standard of education, a candidate must have shown initiative, originality and force of character; also that the course of special training and consequent career proposed by the candidate should be of value to the community.

It is not expected that each individual should be able to speak about the candidate's qualifications under all these heads, and you are requested to confine yourself to those qualifications on which you have information gained by personal contact.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as his/~~her~~ strong points. A critical appraisal of his/~~her~~ qualifications will add rather than detract from the force of your letter, since Committees tend naturally to be dubious of recommendations which imply that a given individual has no limitations whatever.

Since the Committee needs time to consider the credentials of a number of applicants, I should be grateful if you would reply at your earliest convenience. Your letter will be treated as strictly confidential and will be read only by those whose duty it is to pass judgment upon the qualifications of the candidate.

I am, Sir/~~Madam~~,
Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
Secretary,
Selection Committee.

Mr. Peter Abraham

West Indian Economist

Harbour St.

Kgn.

18/12.

Dear Mr Abraham.

I am Caren suggested I send
you the enclosed - which the Times regretfully
could not find space for, but which was
sent to the Cape Times by Donald Rolles, etc.
an old friend of mine, and published on
6th Dec. I have long had the notion of
trying to arrange a visit of some prominent
S African to the W. I. to broaden their
horizons - and wonder whether the
time is not ripe whether my letter
may provide a starting point. Do
you think the West Indian Press
might make a good visit from
the South African Press? This might need
Govt. backing - my name would carry a
little weight with Grantham, Rolles, Robert Bradshaw.
Carl & Co. in mine own corner Phyllis Abrahams. Also
with Manley, Blackburne. Kirkwood with

a very good letter to the Times once on
the very same subject - so he might
be interested. I prefaced it with forward
the idea. [I met Sherlock + Hugo Sprague are
also friend of mine] I once suggested to
Kirkwood that he + Sherlock should
go on a good old mission to
Nigeria replace my friend's husband
but was in 1951 - before the
time was ripe!

I should be grateful for your
views & any ideas you may have about
the desirability of the project or about how
it might be promoted. I make no claim
to copyright!

Respectfully,

Raymond King

PUBLISHED IN CAPE TIMES

Pembroke College,

CAMBRIDGE.

6/12/60

Letter 10
15 2/11/60

6/5/60.

WHERE THE RACES RULE TOGETHER

The Editor,
The Times Newspaper.

From Mr. Donald B. M. -
Teno GC. (1 D. of S. Cape Town).

Sir,

Your letter was received in the
following letter addressed to the London Times by M. B. E. King, Fellow of Pembroke College.

May a West Indian be allowed to comment on the statement read to the Press by Mr. Louw on Wednesday, 4th May? I and my people, like Mr. Louw and his, are of European extraction; many of our ancestors came to the West Indies three hundred and more years ago. We consider that we have as much right to the West Indies as have the descendants of the negro slaves we transported there from Africa. By a logic which may not, however, appeal to Mr. Louw, we have come to consider that they, and other more recent arrivals, the "East" Indians, have as much right there as we. Effect is given to this belief by a universal adult suffrage even though we Europeans are outnumbered in the proportion of one to twenty. In the result a very Anglo-Saxon looking little woman - a favourite cousin of mine - sits happily as Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in an otherwise negro and coloured Federal Cabinet which includes, as very able and successful Finance Minister, the pure negro son of another of my cousins' cook. For all three of us, ardent nationalists, the West Indies is our only country and beloved home.

Cambridge, +
Chairman of the
Cambridge Club
of the
Relief:-

We, too, as much as any South Africans, cannot return to the country of our forbears. We too, are determined to remain in our islands in the sun, willed to us by our fathers' hands. We all built them together, and we too are creating in it a new nation, with its own exciting new language, literature, music and song, customs and traditions. We are not without our troubles. But for our comfort there is much.

No doubt the problems of South Africa are greater than any we in the West Indies have ever had to face. But greater too, are the available resources. No doubt the problems of South Africa are in many ways quite different. But some essential likenesses remain. Voices like those of Mr. Louw have not been unheard in the West Indies. But they are nearly silent now. Were Mr. Louw and his friends to visit us, to hear and to hold converse with these fading voices, might they not have - to pass on to him and to those who think like him - something of value?

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

B.E. KING.

Chairman: Cambridge Committee of Apartheid Relief.

PITZER COLLEGE

1050 North Mills Avenue
Claremont, California 91711-6110
Telephone 909/621-8000



A Member of The Claremont Colleges

February 12, 1994.

Dear Mr. Peter Abrahams,

It was really an honor and gratifying to have spoken with you a few minutes ago. It was revitalizing speaking with you, a great figure in our literary history.

You fully and clearly explained yourself as to the immediate priorities pressing on you. Fully accepting this, I would still want to beg from you an essay that will be included in a text consisting of an anthology of essays by black American and South African writers, intellectuals and artists examining the reciprocal cultural, political and philosophical relations between the two countries over the last hundred years. Please consult the enclosed document for details. Many outstanding writers and thinkers on both sides have committed themselves to contributing to the anthology. The deadline is November 15, 1994. The aim is to publish the text in May 1995, on the first anniversary of the Mandela unity government in our country.

I'm sincerely begging you for a contribution to the book, a contribution which would enhance the vision and scope of the book in immeasurable ways. I clearly understand that nothing can interfere with the great final project you have undertaken. Even a two-page essay would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Peter Abrahams, I'm genuinely begging you.

I would really appreciate if you can send me the telephone number and address of Professor Cecil Abrahams in Canada.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ntongela Masilela.

PITZER COLLEGE
1050 North Mills Avenue
Claremont, California 91711-6110
Telephone 909/621-8000



A Member of The Claremont Colleges

14/8/94

Answered
gave him C. Abrahams'
address

Book Proposal Number One

by

Ntongela Masilela

The book, with tentative title of **Black America and Black South Africa: The Cultural Field of Interaction**, will consist of a series of essays by African-American and black South African scholars, intellectuals and writers on the historical evolution of the cultural relations between black America and black South Africa. The book will examine the whole complex structure of the cultural reciprocity between these two cultures from the 1880s when the McAdoo American Jubilee Singers had a profound impact on South Africa touring and singing Negro spirituals to the 1980s when American hip hop (rap music) culture seems to be making a lasting impact presently in my country. In the century between the moment of spirituals and hip hop culture, other black American musical genres such as ragtime, jazz and the blues have also made a great impact on black culture in South Africa. But this influence was/is not confined only to the musical sphere, but it also encompasses the political and literary spheres. In the literary domain, the classical example of this influence is the impact of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s on the Sophiatown Renaissance of the 1950s, symbolized by the fascinating relationship between the black American poet Langston Hughes (1902-1967) and the black South African literary scholar Ezekiel Mphahlele (1917-). In the theater, the influence of Amiri Baraka on the South African black theater (Percy Mtwa, Mbongeni Ngema, Matsemela Manaka and others) is evident. Writing in the "Preface" of a compilation of black South African theater plays, Baraka observes: "This is the reason the plays in **Woza Albert!** exist as they do, in both form and content. They issue from a blood-filled society staggering toward revolution and social transformation. . . As the American slave narratives told of the underside of a prosperous slave society, revealed the evil sick oppressive social relations of the whole system in their descriptions of slavery, so does this group of plays, based much on improvisation and broad mimicry of facts that are infinitely more terrifying, expose the tragic hell of white supremacist colonialism" (New York: 1986). In the political sphere, one can speak of the influence of Booker T. Washington (18 -1906) and the Tuskegee Institute on his South African disciple John Dube (18 -19), the first President of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1912 to , and founder of the Ohlange Institute in Natal, South Africa. Also important within this context of confluences, the exchange of letters and the meeting at the Second Pan-Africanist Congress of 1919 in Paris between W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963), arguably the greatest African American

intellectual, founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its journal *Crisis*, and Solomon T. Plaatje (18 - 1932), first Secretary-General of the ANC and writer of the first African English-language historical novel **Mhudi**, is central. It is in the context of these exchanges that the fundamental cultural importance of Garveyism in South Africa should be evaluated.

But it would be a mistake to see this political, cultural and intellectual relationship as a one-way street from the North (America) to the South (Africa), for it has been reciprocal in nature as the instances of Ezekiel Mphahlele, Ibrahim Abdullah (Dollar Brand) (193 -) and Nelson Mandela (1918-) make clear. Ezekiel Mphahlele influenced by Langston Hughes while a young man living in South Africa in the 1930s and the 1940s, spent a decade in the 1960s and the 1970s in American exile thereby influencing some of the major poets of the American Black Arts Movement like Sonia Sanchez (193 -) and Clarence Major (193 -). Within this context, the literary relationship between Mphahlele, one of the founders of the Sophiatown Renaissance (Drum writers) and Houston A. Baker (1944-), the premier African-American literary scholar and founder of Blues Literary Criticism is critical. Ibrahim Adullah influenced by the piano style of the bebop revolution of Bud Powell (-1966) and Thelonius Monk (-1979), has subsequently until recently spent two decades in American exile thereby influencing one of the Young Jazz Lions around Wynton Marsalis, Mark Whitfield (1971-). The political impact of Nelson Mandela on America, particularly on black American political culture, needs no emphasis here.

It is necessary and essential to indicate through texts the nature of this reciprocal relationship between African-American culture and black South African culture. Peter Abrahams (1915-), one of the major South African novelists who precedes the moment of the Sophiatown Renaissance, writes the following in his autobiography, **Tell Freedom**: "I moved over to the bookshelves. I wanted to touch the books but held back. Perhaps it was not permitted. Typed slips showed what each shelf held; novels, history, sociology, travel, Africana, political science, American Negro Literature. . . I stopped there. American Negro Literature. . . In the months that followed I spent nearly all my spare time in the library of the Bantu Men's Social Centre. I read every one of the books on the shelf marked: American Negro Literature. I became a nationalist, a colour nationalist through the writings of men and women who lived a world away from me" (London: 1954). In a slightly different inflection but related to this, Ezekiel Mphahlele writes the following in **Afrika My Musik: An Autobiography 1957-1983** "Penn has a most impressive campus, among the most expensive in the country. The Afro-American novelist, John Weideman, had invited me there to teach African Literature and Creative Writing; he himself was on his way out to the University of Wyoming. The faculty included a batch of distinguished writers and scholars. . . My entry into the English Department coincided with that of

Houston Baker, Jr., the youngest scholar I had ever met with a full professorship. One of the most brilliant black literary critics, too. He soon became Director of Afro-American Studies. I was in for a stimulating time" (Johannesburg: 1983). Not only does Mphahlele celebrate African-American literary culture in this text, he also pays homage to Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and Nina Simone. Another South African writer, Bloke Modisane (19 -1986), who belongs to the same School of the Sophiatown Renaissance as Mphahlele, celebrates in his classic autobiography, **Blame Me On History**, the importance of African-American modernism in the forging of the historical consciousness towards modernity among black South Africans.

From the other perspective meditating on this reciprocal relationship between black America and black South Africa, Miles Davis (with Quincy Troupe) writes in **The Autobiography**: "I think that's where I met Hugh Masekela, the very fine South African trumpet player. He had just come over to the States and was doing real good. He was a friend of Dizzy's [Gillespie], who I think had helped sponsor him while he went to music school here. I remember one night riding uptown with him and him being somewhat in awe that he was in the same car with me. He told me that I had been a hero of his and other blacks in South Africa when I stood up to that policeman outside of Birdland that time, and I remember being surprised that they even knew about that kind of thing over there in Africa. Hugh had his own approach to playing the trumpet even then, had his own sound. I thought that was good, although I didn't think he played black American music too well. Everytime I saw him I told him to just keep on doing his own thing rather than trying to play what we were playing over here. After a while I think he started listening to me, because his playing got better" (New York: 1989). It is very important to note that Quincy Troupe, a prominent literary scholar and outstanding African-American poet in his own right, is in the process of writing a biography of Hugh Masekela. In a riveting essay on the poetry of Sonia Sanchez, Houston A. Baker writes: "And in blue/black secular and spiritual vocabularies Sonia Sanchez is a rocking home in a weary land. A performer who can sing the blues, she also jolts consciousness and celebrates such African exemplars as Maragaret Walker, Ezekiel Mphahlele, and Dr. Martin Luther King . . . Words that she wrote to Zeke Mphahlele seem appropriate as concluding reflections on her own status in a world where some receive kudos, but few (very, very few) do as much (Afro-American) cultural work as she" ("Our Lady: Sonia Sanchez and the Writing of a Black Renaissance" in **Reading Black, Reading Feminist**, [ed.] Henry Louis Gates, New York: 1990). From the observations of Miles Davis and Houston A. Baker, it can be seen that there are many zones in which the black cultures of United States and South Africa intersect with each other in very imprinting ways.



Prof. Ntongela Masilela

PITZER COLLEGE

1050 North Mills Avenue

Claremont, California 91711-6110



A Member of The Claremont Colleges

Mr. Peter Abrahams
PO Box 20
Red Hills, St. Andrews
JAMAICA

NOVEMBER, 1, 1960.

The Headmaster,
of The Priory School,
32, Hope Road,
Kingston 10.

Dear Sir:

Mr. and Mrs. Abrahams thank
you for your invitation to the Official
Ceremony to mark the inauguration of the
Priory School Trust Society on Wednesday
November 9th. at 4:30 p.m.

They will be glad to attend.

Yours truly,

6.4.60

SECRETARY.

xxxx 4358

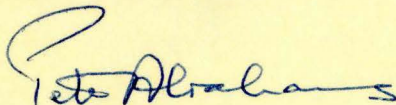
18th April, 1961.

Miss E. M. Collins,
Secretary,
Rennock Lodge School,
Wareika P.A.

Dear Miss Collins,

Thank you very much indeed for your invitation to be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Rennock Lodge Parent Teacher's Association. I am extremely sorry but ^{I am} under such heavy pressure of work and I have ¹ already committed myself to so many speaking engagements that it is not possible for me to take on another one.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Abrahams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Abrahams.

PA/us.

Rennock Lodge School,
Wareika P.A.

10th April, 1961

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The Rennock Lodge Parent Teachers Association extend to you a cordial invitation to its Monthly meeting on Tuesday 2nd May, 1961 commencing at 7.30 p.m. as guest speaker.

We do hope you will be able to attend as we have been looking forward to having you.

Thanking you for an early reply
I remain,

(Miss) Yours sincerely
E. M. Collins (secy.)

ERIC L. FRATER ESQ., B.SC., (LONDON)
HEADMASTER.



*Rusea's High School
Lucea,
Jamaica, W.I.*

ELF/bmr.

23rd. January, 1961.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
164 - 166 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Peter,

Mr. S.O. Veitch has sent me a note stating that you would like to interview me on your radio programme "Forum on Federation" and suggest that I indicate to you a convenient Saturday morning for this purpose.

I intend to be in Kingston on Saturday the 28th instant and could make it possible if such a time is convenient to you.

Please ring Lucea 211 or telegraph me by way of reply.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

Eric

Eric L. Frater.

Tele sent 25/1/60

27th September, 1962.

Miss Sybil Watson,
Secretary,
Shortwood Training College,
Kingston 8.

Dear Miss Watson,

It is with regret that I must decline your invitation to speak to members of your club due to a very close schedule of appointments and speaking engagements.

Please therefore accept my apology for the inability to attend and I do hope I will be able to accept your next invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams.

unable to do this

Shortwood Training College,
Kingston 8,
21st September 1962.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
164 Harbour Street.

Dear Sir,

The Geography and Travel Club of Shortwood College, had its inaugural meeting on Wednesday last. We had sent you a letter previous to that date asking you to be our guest speaker but, unfortunately, we had no reply. Of course we think the fault lies in our not using the correct address.

We would be very glad however, to have you speak to us about South Africa, at our next meeting, to be held at 7:30 p.m. on the 17th October 1962. We feel sure that you have got a wealth of information on this subject.

The club aims at getting first-hand information about countries included in our studies, and on subjects of current interest. We have a 35 m. projector and would appreciate any films or film strips you might have to show us.

We would be very grateful if you

would find it possible to fit this into
your very busy schedule.

Thanking you,

Yours respectfully,
Sybil Watson, (Miss).
(Secretary).

UWI Libraries

Shortwood Training College,
Kington 8

May 4, 1961.

Mr. Peter Abrahamus,

Red Mills P.O.

Dear Sir,

The students of Shortwood Training College have formed a Political Academy Group and there are times when our meetings take the form of lectures or discussions.

At these meetings we ask prominent persons outside the college to speak to us; and so we would be honoured to have you as our Guest Speaker at our next meeting. The topic we are interested in this time, is, Apartheid in South Africa.

The meeting will be on May 19, at 4.30 P.M. If this date is not convenient to you we also suggest June 9, at the same time.

Trusting you will find it possible to attend and to partake of tea with us

at 4 P.M.; we look forward to
hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,
Minette G. Williams.
(Secy.)

UWI Libraries

Shortwood Training College,
Kingston 8.

11th. October, 1960.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The members of the Shortwood Literary and Debating Club are interested in the recent happenings in the Congo, and are inviting you to address them on this subject.

The club will have its next meeting at the College on the 21st. of October at 7.15 p.m. The students would be very grateful if you could find it possible to attend this meeting and address them.

Kindly inform me if you will be able to attend.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
(Miss) L. Isolding.
Secretary.

10, Melrose Ave

Kingston 5,

April 20th. 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Radio Jamaica,
Kingston 5.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Executive
of the Sixth Formers Association to
ask if you would be so good as to
address a meeting of our Association on
Saturday, April 30th. at 2.30 p.m.

We hope that you will be able to
speak to us about South Africa, as we
are very interested in the developments
there.

The meeting will probably be held
at the Queen's High School, but this
venue will be confirmed later.

Yours sincerely,

Elsa Fairweather
.....
Elsa Fairweather,

Secty.,

Sixth Formers Asscn.

13th January 1960.

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

Professor Umberto Campagnolo,
Secretary-General,
Societe Europeenne de Culture,
Piazza S. Marco 52,
Venice,
Italy.

Dear Professor Campagnolo;

I am grateful for your letter of December 8th 1959 inviting me to participate in your conference on African and Occidental cultures sponsored jointly by the Society for European culture and the Society for African culture.

Unfortunately your letter has only just reached me. As you can see from the above address, I am no longer resident in the United Kingdom but am now living here in Jamaica. My publishers redirected your letter by surface mail hence its delay in reaching me.

It is now the 13th January and I think it would be extremely difficult for us to finalise arrangements for me to reach Rome by the end of February. In any event it seems to me that the cost to your Society would be excessive to transport me all the way from Jamaica and then back to Jamaica for a brief three day visit, as this would have to be by air. Had you communicated with me earlier it might have been possible to arrange something less expensive by sea-route.

In addition to this problem I have also just committed myself to spend a few weeks in Puerto Rico to do some research for an article for Holiday magazine.

For these reasons I must, most regretfully, inform you that I do think that it would be practicable at this stage to accept your most highly esteemed and appreciated invitation to participate in your Rome conference. Believe me, Sir, it with the greatest regret that I say this.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams

PA:ehk



UNIVERSITÉ
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UNIVERSITY

Toronto - Canada

Ruth Compton Brouwer

*Canada Research Fellow
Department of History*

H: 493 5887

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65 Marowyn Drive
Willowdale, Ontario
CANADA M2J 2A6
April 12, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

In the hope that you still make your home at Red Hills I am writing to enquire whether you have any memories of a Canadian-born woman named **Margaret Wrong**, whom you evidently knew in London during the 1940s when she worked out of Edinburgh House as the secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa (ICCLA).

According to documents I have examined here in Toronto and at the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Public Record Office, London, you were a guest at the memorial service for Margaret Wrong in the spring of 1948 following her sudden death in Uganda, and a featured speaker at a 25th anniversary service for the ICCLA in 1954. The records also indicate that for some years in the 1950s you served on the committee that evaluated manuscripts submitted by African writers for the annual Margaret Wrong Memorial Prize.

My interest in Wrong is part of a research project which I have been undertaking during the last three years as a Canada Research Fellow at York University, Toronto. The working title of the larger project is "Missions, Social Change and Decolonization: The Changing Roles of Three Canadian Professional Women in Asia and Africa, 1902-1969".

I wonder if you met Wrong in 1936^{*} when she attended the first conference of South African writers, convened by the Rev. R. H. W. Shepherd of the Lovedale Mission. Or, did you come to know her during the War years when she was a member of the Fabian Colonial Bureau, doing BBC broadcasts on Africa, and serving on various Colonial Office sub-committees on education as well as working for the ICCLA? Did you ever go to the home in Golders Green that Wrong shared with the anthropologist Margaret Read?

Wrong emerges from the printed records I have examined as someone who was remarkably open on questions of race. I wonder if you can recall your own impressions of her. I realize that this was a long time ago and that I am therefore asking a great deal. Still, I would very much like to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Compton Brouwer
Ruth Compton Brouwer

** after re-reading my notes, I realize
You were still very young then. I first
"discovered" you less than two years ago
when I first started reading African writers in a
more systematic way than formerly. I began with*

MARGARET WRONG (1887-1948)

Margaret Wrong was born in Toronto, Canada; educated at Somerville College, Oxford, and University of Toronto

1921-25 - Geneva: travelling secretary, World Student Christian Federation, especially engaged in European Student Relief

1926 - six-month tour, Africa, beginning Gold Coast, ending Kenya

1926-29 - London: missions secretary, Student Christian Movement, Britain

1929-48 - London: First secretary International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa (ICCLA)*

A sub-committee of the International Missionary Council, the ICCLA was established to promote the creation of literature for use in African schools and homes; as its head, Wrong sought out and assisted African writers; supported adult literacy campaigns, especially in the 1940s; worked closely with International African Institute

As secretary of the ICCLA, Wrong:

travelled extensively in sub-Saharan Africa; made regional tours of some six-months duration, 1933, 1936, 1939, 1944-45; died, Gulu, Uganda, April, 1948, during fifth tour

edited Books for Africa, an information quarterly for missionaries and senior African educators; and Listen, a small magazine for schoolchildren, villagers and newly literate women (excerpts reissued in various languages in newspapers, etc.)

wrote at least four books and numerous articles, dealing mainly with literature and literacy in Africa

served on various sub-committees of the Colonial Office's Advisory Committee on Education for the Colonies, including the sub-committee which produced Mass Education in African Society

was asked by Nigerian and Gold Coast governments to investigate literature needs for literacy campaigns during 1944-45 tour

became a member of the Fabian Colonial Bureau in the early 1940s

Following Wrong's death, the Margaret Wrong Memorial Prize was established, to be awarded annually to an African writer; winners included Chinua Achebe for Things Fall Apart.

* Records of the ICCLA are mainly in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

and social adjustment to the two social systems in which he lives. Ability to read and write often saves the African from getting into trouble through lack of understanding. For instance, many Africans are killed at railway crossings because they cannot read the warnings. Experience shows that education develops greater responsibility on the part of Africans, improvement in personal hygiene and in relationships between Africans and Europeans, and between the African races themselves. There is no doubt of the growing demand for education among many adult Africans in South Africa.

Reading matter for Literacy Campaigns

THIS short bibliography of books and booklets has been compiled in the hope that it may be of assistance to those who are investigating material for use in English or in translation in connection with the spread of literacy among adults. Text-books for use in school are not included.

About Our Bodies. By Agnes Fraser. Sheldon Press. 9d.
African Home Library. Sheldon Press. 1d. each.

The Country of Jesus.
The Fight for Health.
Children Fight Enemies of Health.
Woman's Work in the Home.
Women Pathfinders.
African Women Pathfinders.
Money and Its Uses.
The Fruits of the Ground.
My Visit to England.
Learning to Live.
Women Christians Long Ago.
Some Women of the Old Testament.
Christian Family Life.
Bananas.
Morning and Evening Prayers.
The Christian in God's World.
The Woman Who Built a School.
Qanda the Hunchback.

In the Press:
Some Women of the Gospels.
A Guide to Private Prayer.
Hygiene Games and Stories.
The Making of Things.
Women's Institutes.
The Trade of West Africa.
The Co-operative Movement.
Libraries in Africa.
About Food.
How to be Healthy.
The I.L.O.
Prophets of the Old Testament.
Give Thanks to God!
Some Experiences of an African Air-Raid Warden.
The Gold Thread. (An allegory.)
Brave Deeds of the War.
Birds, Flowers, and Insects.
Some Industries in Nyasaland and Nigeria.

Africa's Own Library. Lutterworth Press. 9d. each.

My People of Kikuyu.
The Singing Minister of Nigeria.

My Ngoni of Nyasaland.
Lewanika of the Barotse.

Agricultural Pamphlets. By K. H. Prior. Sheldon Press. 2d. each.

An Outline of Poultry Breeding, Feeding, and Management.
A Practicable Poultry Improvement Scheme.
Small Seeds and Seedlings.

The Planting and Management of Citrus Fruit Trees.
The Pruning of Trees.
Planning the School Compound.

Bees and How to Handle Them. By F. B. Macrae. United Society. 8d.
Bicycle, and How to Look After It. By F. B. Macrae. United Society. 4d.
Children at Home and at School. By Jessie Hertslet. Oxford University Press. 1s. 6d.

Empire at Work Series. Oxford University Press. 9d., 10d., and 1s. 3d. each.
Our Letters in the Post.
Cocoa and Chocolate.
The Story of Gold.
English Women. By Elspeth Huxley. Sheldon Press. 9d.
Five English Farmers, The Story of. By Elspeth Huxley. Sheldon Press. 9d.
Health and the Home. By Janet Welch. Sheldon Press. 9d.
How Britain is Governed. By W. Millman. Sheldon Press. 3d.
Leader of Africa (Aggrey). By W. M. A. Jones. Harrap. 1s.
Little Books for Africa. Sheldon Press. 2d., 3d., and 4d. each.
King Khama of Bechuanaland.
The Hare and the Lion.
The Leopard and the Goat.
Nsangi and the Apes.
Africans All.
Florence Nightingale.
Saint Perpetua.
The Martyrs of Uganda.
Sun, Moon, and Stars.
Thohmes the Third.
Migration of Birds and Fishes.
Uganda and Its People.
Nomalizo.
St. Augustine.
Chaminuka.
St. Cyprian.
Egypt and the Desert.
The Religion of the Hearth.
The People of the Far North.
The Merchant of Venice.
Tombo Temba.
The Blood Brother.
The Making of the Rocks.
The Obstinate Girl, and other Gold Coast Stories.
Lord Shaftesbury.
Tales of Tortoise.
The World We Live In.
Stories from Aesop's Fables.
The Staff of Oranyan.
David Livingstone.
Two Women of the Cameroons.
Aaron Kuku of Eweland.
Living Names Series. By John Walton. Oxford University Press. 1s. each.
Six Physicists.
Six Biologists.
Six Reformers.
Mone Fe's Visits. Sheldon Press. 3d.
More Liberian Tales. By E. O. K. Freeman. Sheldon Press. 9d.
Personal Hygiene. By E. P. Broderick. United Society. 6d.
Pim Pamphlets. South African Institute of Race Relations. 3d. each.
Africans and the Police.
How to Get Higher Wages.
Simple Science in Simple English Series. Oxford University Press. 6d., 8d., and 1s. each.
Progress and Conquest.
Book I. The Creation, and the World Around Us.
Book II. The Soil and the Plants.
In Search of Science.
Book I. Air, Wind, and Rain.
Book II. Looking-Glasses and Candles.
Rubber and Its Many Uses.
The Story of Transport.
The Arm of the Law.
Moffat of Kuruman.
The Life of Bishop Crowther.
Ways I Have Trodden.
John Mackenzie.
Stories of Old Times.
Hausa Tales.
The Story of Dorugu.
Tales of Ancient Greece.
Setsofia, the Wise Boy.
Awake, Deborah! and Rachel Dangilo.
The Rabbit and the Lion.
The Rabbit and the Baboons.
Why Rabbit and Hyena Quarrelled.
Easy Lessons on the Care of Babies.
Sickness and Health.
Nigerian Babycraft.
Teaching of Midwifery.
Addresses on the Holy Communion.
Talking Woman.
In the Days of Long Ago.
Stories of Liberia.
What Is Islam?
The Israel of God.
Our Own African Saints.
Kenya and Its Peoples.
African Airs.
Travel by Water.
Stories Told by African Girls.
Some Kenya Birds.
Travel by Land.
Semane, Queen of the Bangwato.
Australia.
New Zealand.

Water, Air, and Earth. By F. E. Joselin. Sheldon Press. 6d.
West Africa and the Issues of the War. By K. A. Busia. Sheldon Press. 3d.
What Are We Fighting For? By C. Kingsley Williams. Sheldon Press. 3d.
Writing Letters in English. By G. A. Gollock. United Society. 4d.

SERIES OF SUPPLEMENTARY READERS. (For subjects and price, see *Books for Africa* as indicated.)

Basic Way Reading Books. (Vocabulary, 850 words), 2 in series. Evans Brothers. Vol. X, 47.

From Basic to Wider English. Letters from members of an English family describing life in England and abroad. (Vocabulary, 850-2000 words) 6 in series. Evans Brothers. Vol. XII, 63.

New Method Readers. (Vocabulary of 458-773-1072-1415-1779-2280-2751 words) 26 in series (7 grades), of which 13 are simplifications of English classics. Longmans, Green. Vol. I, 29; II, 30, 47; V, 47; VI, 64; VII, 16; IX, 68; X, 64.

Oxford English Supplementary Readers. (Vocabulary of 500-1000-1500-2000 words) 21 in series, of which 9 are simplifications of English classics. Oxford University Press. Vol. V, 31; VII, 21.

Oxford Story Readers for Africa. Stories of Africa. (Vocabulary of 500-1000-1500-2000 words) 10 in series. Oxford University Press. Vol. IX, 36; XI, 16; XII, 32.

NOTE.—Graded book lists have been published in the following numbers of *Books for Africa*:

Vol. I, 39. Stories and biographies of Africans.

Vol. II, 36. Library lists, in four grades, covering fiction, poetry, drama, biography, travel, etc., in each grade.

Vol. VII, 20, 42, 53. Preparation of book lists for libraries: lists drawn up to meet the needs of people who can read simple English. Books in simplified vocabulary, biography (juvenile and senior), science, nature study and invention, geography and travel.

Vol. VIII, 21. List of 40 popular books, placed in order of preference by pupils at the Alliance High School, Kikuyu, Kenya.

PERIODICAL

Listen. Issued six times a year by the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa. Price 1s. a year, post free. Contains news items, articles of general interest, notes for women, daily Bible reading notes, and competitions. Articles on the teaching of reading are contained in the issues of July 1942 to July 1943. No copyright for translation. Is being used as English inset in mission periodicals in some territories.

Vernacular Literature

THE spread of literacy brings to the fore the need of a more adequate supply of vernacular literature. The first step towards meeting that need is to know what literature is in existence. Two recent publications are of value in this respect.

In an article on *The Native Languages of South Africa*, a report on their present position with special reference to research and the development of literature,¹ Dr. Doke summarises what has been done and left undone following on the *Preliminary Investigation into the State of the Native Languages of South Africa* (*Bantu Studies*, Vol. VII, No. 1, 1933). In certain important respects recommendations have been carried out, some need modification and others need attention. He notes work in ten South African languages and dialects, and emphasises the necessity of stimulating African writers and the importance of literature committees for language areas. He commends the initiative of the Christian Council of South Africa in setting up such committees. The need of choosing English texts for translation as well as original work is pointed out.

¹ *African Studies*, Vol. I, No. 2, June 1942. 4s. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

The second publication is *A Vernacular Bibliography for the Languages of Nigeria*.¹ This does not aspire to be a complete or authoritative bibliography, for it includes none of the work by Native authors written prior to the British occupation, and only a small part of the matter which has appeared in scientific journals. Where known, dates of publication and prices are given, but many of the publications are no longer on sale. This bibliography includes 57 languages and dialects. *Hausa* leads with 182 items, including several series counted as single items; *Yoruba* is second with 128, and *Ibo* third with 86. Thirty-two languages have under six publications. The pioneers and main producing bodies are missions and the Bible Society, and many of the publications listed are translations of gospels, hymns, catechisms, and prayer-books. Publications in *Hausa*, prepared by the Education Department and the Government Literature Bureau, reveal the extent of government initiative in helping to meet the need of general literature and text books.

Publications in African Languages

THE following publications in African languages have been received during the past three months:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Alur.</i> Premier livre ku ddu alur. Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M. 1941. | <i>Kimpese, Congo Belge:</i> E.P.I. 1942. |
| <i>Bangala</i> (Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M.). | <i>Kingwana (Ruwendzori).</i> (Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M.) |
| — Kukaba Batu Mokomoko. Personal evangelism. 1941. | — Kufundisa ya Biblia kwa Waa-mini. Bible Studies for Young Believers. 1939. |
| — Kula na Yesu na Basala na ye. Harmony of the Gospels. 1941. | — Nyimbo ya Imani na Sifa. Hymns of Praise. 1942. |
| — Buku Muke ne Kubaka Kula na Biblia. Bible story outlines. 1940. | — Mafundiso. Catechism. 1941. |
| — Homeletiques. 1939. | — Kitabu ya Kwanza. First Primer. 1940. |
| — Tasali Lembo. Small Hymn book. 1940. | — Kitabu ya Mbili. Second Reader. 1939. |
| — Lembo na Sasaipi. New hymns. 1940. | — Maneno ya Dawa. Petit manuel pour infirmiers indigènes. Illus. 1941. |
| — Lembo na Bakristu. Hymn book. 1939. | <i>Lugbara.</i> (Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M.) |
| — Katekisimo. Catechism. 1942 (3rd ed.). | — Katekisimo. Catechism. 1938. |
| — Buku na Libosu Kutanga Bangala. First Primer. 1940. | — Buku Okori Lugbara Tisi. Primer. 1941. |
| — Buku na Kutanga Bangala. Reading Primer. 1940. | <i>Swahili.</i> Hadithi za Esopo Chuo Cha Tatu Cha Kusomea. Stories from <i>Æsop</i> . By D. E. Diva. Illus. London: Sheldon Press. 1942. |
| <i>Baletha</i> (Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M.). | <i>Swahili</i> in the book has been approved by the Inter-Territorial Language Committee to the East African Dependencies. |
| — Dyikbar Baletha Na. Hymns. 1940. | <i>Zande.</i> (Aba, Congo Belge: A.I.M.) |
| — Premier I Baletha. First Primer. 1940. | — Ringbisa Pai Fu Abawiriki. Catechism. 1938. |
| — Premier II Baletha. Second Primer. 1933. | — Aimina 102-128 na Sima Abia. Hymns and Choruses. 1940. |
| <i>Fante.</i> Mfantse Nkasafua Nkyerewee Nye Ho Mbra. Fante word list with rules of spelling. 1s. 9d. Gold Coast: Methodist Book Depot, Cape Coast. 1942. | — Bambata Kitabu Geda Pai. First Primer. 1941. |
| Published with the approval of the Education Department of the Gold Coast. | — Gu Ue Kitabu Geda Pai. Second Reader. 1939. |
| <i>Kikongo.</i> Leçons Bibliques. 3 frs. | |

¹ Literature Bureau, Zaria, 1941.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

file

Mr. Peter Abrahams, Esquire
c/o "The West Indian Economist"
Harbour Street
Kingston,
Jamaica

My dear Peter,

This is just a hurried note, a mere reminder to ask you to be kind enough to send me your answers to the Questionnaire I sent you sometime in February re my research on the "History and Role of the Jamaica Youth Corps."

I know how busy you are and I am certain that the delay is not caused from indifference or lack of interest. I believe that both the end of the financial year with its usual requirements for reports plus the recent election fever that has just abated might have stood in the way. Do tackle some for me. If I am to make my study an objective one, I must be guided by opinions and observations from knowledgeable and interested citizens.

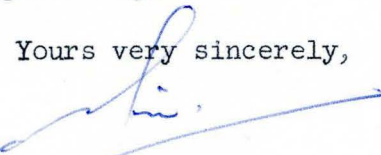
Attached hereto is a copy of the Questionnaire sent previously.

The University requires that a start be made on the study right away so I would be very grateful if you could endeavor to let me have your answers as early as possible.

I anxiously await your early and kind reply.

Please accept my sincere thanks and highest regards.

Yours very sincerely,



Vin. H. Lawrence

QUESTIONS RE: HISTORY AND ROLE OF THE JAMAICA YOUTH CORPS.

1. Do you think the idea of establishing the Jamaica Youth Corps was the answer to a real need?
If so, what was the need?
2. Why did the "founders" prefer to create a new institution rather than meet the need by expanding the vocational school system?
3. What objections were advanced by citizens who were opposed to or sceptical about the establishment of the Jamaica Youth Corps?
Please identify these sources.
4. If the Jamaica Youth Corps was conceived as a "mass movement" for a large and fast increasing group of unemployed and underprivileged youth what has prevented its expansion?
Can you identify reasons other than financial?
5. Why was not the Jamaica Youth Corps established to prepare a selected group of potential leaders for responsibility in a developing country with scarce skilled man-power?
6. What type of boys do you think should be recruited into the Jamaica Youth Corps?
7. What role in Jamaica's future do you visualize for the ex-campers?
8. How long a period would you recommend for a boy to remain in the Youth Corps Camps? Why?
9. On which of these paths would you prefer to see the Jamaica Youth Corps organized?
 - (a) An organization dedicated to National Service. (Afforestation, Soil Conservation, Building Schools, Building houses for indigents, Establishing parks and playfields, Emergency groups in case of hurricanes, earthquakes etc.)
 - (b) An organization concentrating principally on vocational guidance and special pre-employment skills.
 - (c) A multi-purpose organization engaged in national service, basic training in the rudiments of skills and character training.
10. How large an organization should the Youth Corps be? Should it be large enough to accommodate all young Jamaicans who are interested in joining or should it be limited to a smaller number of youngsters?
What size would you suggest?
11. Would you favor organizing the Youth Corps as an obligatory form of non-military national service for all Jamaican youth?
12. What special activities should the camps pursue to be of greatest benefit to the campers and to Jamaica?
13. Whose responsibility do you think it should be to provide gainful employment for ex-campers?

ESCUELA DE ADMINISTRACION PUBLICA
COLEGIO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES
UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

OFICINA DEL DIRECTOR

April 9th 1962

Dear Peter:

A long silence it has been nor have I been ever to Jamaica for some time to break it in person. But I send you best wishes for all that you are doing, including the radio journalism. I have long since ceased to be interested in writing for the Gleaner, though I haven't said as much to Sealy, mainly because of the man's unpardonably bad manners. As you may know, Sybil and I and the family--we now have a fine little boy of 11 months, born last year in Trinidad--spent the period Jan 1960-April 1961 in London, South Wales and France on my sabbatical leave; and while in the UK I attended the now famous 1960 Labour Party annual convention at Scarborough. While there I sent off two reporterial pieces to the Gleaner, only to have them returned with the usual printed card of rejection, no letter or anything. To treat an established (and, I hope, worthy) contributor like that is beyond measure difficult to excuse, and I have never sent them anything since. Just as well, perhaps, since with the federal secession there is little in the Jamaican scene with which I can identify sympathetically, unless it be the impending revolt of the masses against the Jamaican Establishment.

More than that, however, I have been very busy, first of all with the sabbatical, of course, and then with the writing of the very big book on Puerto Rico with which I have been pregnant these last two years. The Ms is now with the NY publishers and I expect a late 1962 publication date, at the earliest. I enclose a copy of the chapter outline. That, of course, doesn't tell you anything about the quality of the thing, so I also enclose a copy of the recent Studies of the Left (which is an interesting American counterpart to the UK Left Review in which there is printed one of the chapters of the book. Let me have your thoughts on it at your leisure. Have also been busy with the usual Caribbean jaunts; was recently in Martinique, and, before that, in Trinidad for the Rec elections. I shall have a full report of the election in the summer issue of the new journal, Caribbean Studies, published here by the burgeoning UPR Institute of Caribbean Studies. Incidentally, a subscription from the WIE to both these publications, the US and the PR one, would, I know, be welcome to both.

I should have been in Jamaica last July, but Stephen Hill behaved with gross discourtesy about the whole thing and it fell through. He sought me out in Trinidad in the spring of 1960 and pleaded with me to deliver a series of three lectures under his auspices in Kingston for that summer, conceived as part of the pre-Referendum public debate. We made verbal arrangements, and he even got me to send photographs and personal information from PR. Then I heard absolutely nothing, and to this day have never had a word of explanation, let alone apology, from him. I intend to bill him for the \$24.00 I spend on having the photos taken. Would you

be so kind as to seek out his address for me and send it on? Sorry to make this letter sound like a series of complaints against "eminent" Jamaican public figures, but for a people who have so slavishly emulated the UK culture-styles some of these West Indians have managed to pick up very little of the code of manners of the English gentleman.....So, the Jamaican visit didnt materialise. I had hoped, later, to make it for the elections tomorrow, but unless one gets a sponsor somewhere a poverty-stricken university professor finds it difficult to meet the travel expenses.

I shall be sending on a renewed subscription to the WIE very soon. After an absence of 16 months or so, there are problems of re-entry, and we are just getting over some of the more intractable ones, so that we can release ourselves for more pleasing preoccupations. Please give my regards to mutual friends over there. I shall try to get over sometime later in the year.

With best of wishes to you and yours,
very sincerely,

Gordon

78 High Cross Road
Rogerstone
Mon.,
South Wales.

May 27th 1960

Dear Peter:

Just a line to keep you up to date. We got here April 26th after a month in NY and a week in London. The above address remains for present, though in fact we have removed for the summer to a friend's cottage in rural Monmouthshire just out of the market town of Abergavenny: the real image of the American tourist-vision of traditional England. We shall stay here until the end of July, and after that shall probably go up to London for a more permanent residence; for there is very little by way of culture in Wales, and Plaid Cymru's dream of a Welsh culture based on a Welsh language is far more fantastically unreal than that of the Puerto Rican pensadores.

Thank you for the WIEs. They arrived here safely, including the one with my own piece on Eddie. I have to get down to a couple of pieces on the Caribbean for Carey McWilliams at the Nation, and after that is over shall see what I can do for the WIE as an English correspondent. The South Wales economic renaissance might warrant a piece, especially as it is rapidly reducing the mining valleys to dormitories for the new industries of the coastal towns, with unfortunate social consequences.

Did you manage to speak to Bailey about the Spotlight matter? I shall wait your reply on this before sending him another more sharply worded enquiry, with copy to Hector Bernard. I shall be doing the usual stuff for the Gleaner. The Bdos Advocate had a very dirty editorial on me (March 24, 1960), and I would rather be interested in discovering if it is actionable for libel.

Best regards to all of you there; do keep in touch with an occasional letter.

as ever-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gordon' or similar, written in a cursive style.

11th March 1960.

Prof. Gordon Lewis,
59 Carlos Street,
Woodbrook,
Port of Spain,
Trinidad.

Dear Gordon,

Many thanks for your note of March 4th which reached me yesterday. I am sorry I have not got the text of the Munoz speech you asked for. I believe this is the speech you suggested I get from the Puerto Rico News Service people. They let me down on this one.

I cannot tell you and Sybil how much I appreciated your hospitality. It turned a chore into a most pleasant experience. Now I have to settle down and see just what comes out. On the basis of what comes out will be determined when next I will visit Puerto Rico. Just had a note from Rudolph enclosing an analysis by Rene Marques of the Kazin article which makes a deal more sense on the whole business than all the stuff which preceded it. It appeared in the San Juan Star of Tuesday March 8th, as the first PR view I have read on the whole controversy and sheds the whole world of light on the possible motives of those who made such a performance of denouncing Kazin.

The March issue of the Economist carries a special article on the economy of Trinidad and, I hope, In Memoriam Eddie Young by yourself.

Warmest regards to Jackie, Sybil and yourself.

Yours ever,

Peter Abrahams.

PA:ehk

UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
Colegio de Ciencias Sociales
Escuela de Administración Pública
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

MEMORANDUM

March 4th 60

A: Dear Peter--

DE: We enjoyed Carnival immensely and are
now working hard in Lent. I hope to get my work
completed here by the middle of the month. If you
have the Munoz Marin text of speech entitled
(I believe) "What Would Happen if Puerto Rico
RE: Became a State", or similar title, do you think
you could airmail it here to me immediately,
for I could use it if it gets here soon.

My address here in POS is:

59 Carlos Street
Woodbrook
Port of Spain
Trinidad.

It was very pleasant indeed having you
with us and I hope you managed to get the most out
of the trip. Do let me know if and when you shall
be coming again, if that is possible before our
own departure from PR, approximately the first
week in April.

Meanwhile, all very best
to you and yours--
very sincerely,

London



UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
COLEGIO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

ESCUELA DE ADMINISTRACION PUBLICA

Dear Peter= Please forgive delay in replying to yours of Feb 5th but I have been enormously busy, and still too busy, really, to get down to doing a piece for the WIE. Have just returned from a series of lectures on Federalism at the Tdad Pub Library, which I enjoyed immensely, although I suspect that the UCWI ExtraMural Dept attempted to sabotage them; how else explain the curious fact that Ivy Lawrence, the Tutor in POS, organised a long series of lectures in the immediately preceding period on same topic? In any case, we bested them, for she put on Fed Govt officials and US "safe" liberals like Commager, and it was no difficult task to rise above the orthodox platitudes of their speeches.

Now I'm back to do some more work on a book I'm trying to write up on America in PR. We go on sabbatical to the UK Jan 60-Jan 61, so it will be a race against time and tide to get a Mss completed by Xmas. But I want to try. The Tdad Pub Lib people (who at least will sponsor a dangerous Welsh radical where neither the Fed Govt Info Services nor the UCWI would ever dare such an indiscretion) have asked me to do another series in Oct sometime, this time, perhaps, on the general character of politics and pol parties. (See Gomes in Tdad Guardian Apr 21 for a piece of vicious rhodomontade against yours truly).

I enclose my latest "academic" piece which you might like to see. US corporate capitalism, of course, is far too powerful to be "anparticle destroyed by an article", but at the same time one must blow the trumpet in the hope that the walls, one day, might collapse.

Please give my regards to Daphne. It looks very unlikely, from here at this moment, that I shall be coming over to Jamaica anytime this year, but if it does become possible

I shall naturally let you know. Hope all goes well.

yours ever-



UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
COLEGIO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

ESCUELA DE ADMINISTRACION PUBLICA

Feb 7th 1960

My dear Peter+

Is it too late to accept this little piece on Eddie? I have been feeling, half-consciously, for some time that I ought to say something publicly about him. But time has flown since that bloody accident and now I don't know

whether it is too late to put an obituary in the WIE. But in any case I send it on to you to do as you please. If you feel it can't be used I shall quite understand.

I am really sorry I haven't been able to sit down and do other things for the WIE. This last year has been a close race with time all the way. I've been working mainly on a book on Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and US colonialism, all in one; and have just finished completing the original mss. It will probably get published by Knopf sometime in 1961. In addition to that, I have had to prepare enormously for my sabbatical leave, which theoretically started in Jan; and goes on until Aug 61. We shall leave about April 1st; spend two weeks with friends in NY; then on to South Wales, where we shall make our HQ in my sister's home in the West Ebbw valley of Monmouthshire, right in the middle of the classic Roman military entry into the Vale of Gwent. As you will appreciate, preparing for this has been a major operation in itself.

Once the Puerto Rico book is out I think I might want to turn my attention to one on government and politics in the West Indies, as the non-Hispanic Caribbean. It is odd to recall that a good book hasn't been published on the subject since Hume Wrong's book of that title back in 1923; and now, of course, it is a completely new world. I shall check with London publishers about this; do you have any names for suggestions?

I would like to get over to Jamaica before leaving, but it looks unlikely. And, actually, if I do get out to the Federation it will probably be Trinidad. In any case, if I go there I can usually get myself a few public lectures to make it worth while, whereas in Jamaica nobody ever bothers to ask an evilly-minded socialist and federationist to lecture. It is a grim commentary on UCWI.

Do write and let me know how things are before April 1st. Best regards to your wife=
as ever-

Emm.M

February 5th, 1959

Professor Gordon K. Lewis
University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras
PUERTO RICO

Dear Gordon:

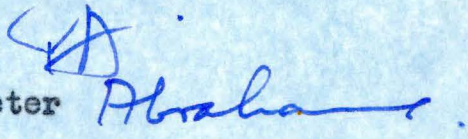
Please forgive the long silence. I was glad to receive your two publications as well as the cheque for \$12.00. We have been sending out copies and you should receive yours regularly. We have noted that from the middle of this year you will be in the United Kingdom.

It was great fun having you up at the house and I hope this can be repeated in the not too distant future.

I am planning a short trip to the United States in March to take part in the Holiday Magazine seminar on Africa. Holiday is bringing out a special issue on Africa to which I have contributed and have planned a seminar to coincide with the publication. I also hope to go down to the South Caribbean in April but this also largely depends on the financial state of the publication.

Please do, try and do something for the journal fairly soon. It could do with a stimulating and provocative piece that would shake my rather complacent readers. Daphne joins me in wishing all the best to you and yours.

Yours ever


Peter

PA/bid



UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
COLEGIO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

ESCUELA DE ADMINISTRACION PUBLICA

January 4, 1959

Dear Feber:

I cannot for the life of me remember whether I have ever sent you a copy of the recent things I have done on our GOM; if I have, please forgive the vanity that sends you additional reprints. My English conservative friends think I have been too harsh; my American liberal friends--who see Mr Churchill as the evil villain to President Roosevelt's immaculate liberalism--think I have been too kind. What, perhaps, is a South African-Jamaican opinion?

I am beginning to settle down after the always unsettling influence of travel. I shall have to go down to Trinidad in the third week of April to give a series of lectures in POS; and in addition prepare for another semester of work here at the University. I doubt very much whether a trip to Jamaica will be feasible before we leave in early summer for our sabbatical leave in the UK and Europe (friends in UK universities envy me bitterly for the American academic habit of the sabbatical leave). But I do hope very much that we shall keep in touch with each other.

Please accept my best wishes to you and your family for a good New Year.

very sincerely--

Gordon

UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
Colegio de Ciencias Sociales
Escuela de Administración Pública
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

MEMORANDUM December 29, 1958

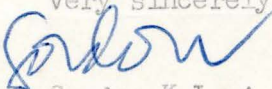
A: Dear Peter:

DE: It was one of the genuine and
unexpected pleasures of my last trip to Jamaica
to spend such a pleasant evening with you and
your family on a mountain home. I hope next
time I shall be with my wife and tiny daughter,
RE: for the latter of whom we now die each night
as she cries her way into sleep. I shall take
a long rest for the next three weeks before
our second term begins here; and after that
slowly prepare for our departure in midsummer
for the UK.

I enclose 12 dollars (was that the
amount?) for the two orders of the Economist.
I shall also try to do something for the
journal as I begin to settle down to the
daily routine here.

with best wishes for 1959 to
you all--

very sincerely



Gordon K Lewis

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

June 18, 1961

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
154- 6 Harbour street
Kingston, Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Thank you very much for your letter dated May 9, apologising for your delay in replying to an earlier one of mine. And please be assured that my own tardiness is in no way a petty retaliation. I have had to leave the island a few times since receiving yours, and then got bogged down packing books and furniture and the like for storage or shipping. I have just completed this, and leave tonight for a year and a half, most of which will be spent at

Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University.

I enclose the pages of Caribbean Quarterly which published the ms to which I had referred (their Vol. 6 Num.4).

Of course, I do not for a moment suggest that my comments supply the entire explanation - I merely suggest that it is an important matter to watch the demand for what the small, hill cultivator produces, and to avoid assuming that industrial promotion will automatically help him.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Alfred P. Thorne

Alfred P. Thorne

From tomorrow up to August 31
my address will be
242 Decatur St.
Brooklyn 33, N. Y.

neighbours, and have little sense of belonging to a world society; this must change. They must stop straining every nerve to get into the nineteenth century, and must look instead to the 21st century which is almost upon us and which the present generation of children will have to manage. We are moving with great rapidity into a world frighteningly different from that even of our fathers, a world of great danger but also of great promise, with space travel, automation, atomic energy and perhaps with immense new powers over the forces of life. The islands have already caught the vision of the human race; they must now catch the vision of the world society. They should be leaders of the movement for world government and world order, for this is on the road to somewhere for all humanity. This is a hard road, but it is not an impossible one, and if the vision can be caught, the road can be travelled.

UWI Libraries

An Economic Phenomenon

(Study of an Apparent Psychological Trait and its Probable Effect on Regional Economic Development)

ALFRED P. THORNE

HAVING been conceded by their metropolitan guardians, mainly within the last decade or so, a greatly enlarged freedom of action, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and, recently, Trinidad, hasten with youthful vigour to extricate themselves from the social and economic morass which has held them fast for generations. Pacing the two other islands, and dramatically raising the average income per person year after year, Puerto Rico already can claim a substantial measure of success. Its Fomento or Development Administration and its Planning Board, though, naturally, not free of earthly imperfections, have undoubtedly merited a great deal of credit for the achievement so far. The industrial promotional program has been spectacularly successful. And this is so even allowing for Puerto Rico's special advantages in its access to America's wealthy consumer market and to that country's apparently bottomless well of investment resources. Not surprisingly, many other territories already see some advantages in studying, not necessarily in order to copy completely, what the now relatively happy island has done. Jamaica and Trinidad have not been slow to observe the tremendous annual gains through industrialization. And, in fact, it is remarkable that Jamaica could be reported in no less a paper than the *New York Times* (January 14, 1959) as having got ninety new industrial establishments promoted in only ten months of 1958. Puerto Rico has witnessed a hundred or more new industrial establishments a year, promoted by the Fomento; and others have sprung into existence independently of Fomento promotion.

But, in all of these islands, particularly in Puerto Rico and Jamaica, there can be sensed an interesting phenomenon, which is not without implications for the development process itself, and for the distribution of its general advantages. It is the apparent tendency for the quantitative consumption of certain farinaceous roots, traditionally the main foods of the bulk of the islands' populations, to vary inversely with income and class.

Receipts from the sale of the roots are extremely important sources of income for large numbers of small farmers. Accordingly, when one observes the much slower rates of economic advance that obtain in many of the rural areas of the islands, question arises whether there is not here a *partial* explanation of the disparateness in growth, compared to urban development. Obviously, there are other explanations also for the slower rural development. Many of these, well publicized in relation to other countries, are relevant to phenomena in these islands, too. The proposition that is being made here is not that the trends in the consumption of certain locally produced, farinaceous foods are the sole cause of the rapid rural emigration and the slow rise in farm income; but that, first, these trends in consumption are probably contributing

factors; second, they are likely to be accentuated, if ignored, as economic development proceeds; and, third, this is undesirable, in the short run at least, considering the declared objectives of the honest, well-educated and well intentioned governments of the islands.

II

Both the optimistic and the pessimistic analysts of the economic problems of the islands agree that the conditions of low income and high unemployment cannot be eliminated without industrialization. But it is also unanimously held that for many years to come agriculture will continue to be an extremely important source of income; and that, in fact, it will be the most important source in most of the islands, and will continue also to supply far more employment opportunities than secondary or manufacturing industries. An increasing amount of resources is therefore being applied to the study of the *technological* factors that influence agricultural output. There seems, however, to be a neglect to pay adequate attention to demand, to marketing, and to the cultural factors that are relevant to demand. This might seriously mitigate the advantageous effects of the purely technological improvements in production that will undoubtedly be forthcoming. It appears, for example, that large numbers of middle and upper-class islanders avoid regular consumption of many local roots or "ground provisions", and prefer imported items of corresponding food value (and usually higher cost)¹. If this is true, better farm techniques and higher productivity will obviously be more limited in their effects upon the expansion of the economy as a whole.

No unusual insight is required to observe that, as one moves from the working-class eating houses in down-town areas to the middle and upper-class restaurants and hotels almost in the same neighbourhood, rice and "Irish" potatoes quickly displace sweet potatoes, tannias, cocos, eddoes and the like. An almost similar substitution among the starchy components of a meal becomes evident as one travels from the independent "hut" of the rural labourer to the tiny apartment room of the urban artisan. One notices also that among families of approximately equal incomes the more socially ambitious ones consume less of local roots; and, although many white collar workers make use of local roots, they are frequently reluctant to serve them on formal occasions. The roots, or, at any rate, some of them, apparently do not qualify for presentation on genteel occasions.

(¹) There have been assertions that there are very similar cultural or psychological obstacles that affect the supply side of agriculture, reducing elasticity. It is said that larger farmers of the "better class" do not as a rule condescend to produce the food crops to which we have referred. It has been difficult to check the veracity of such statements. One meets with much vagueness in seeking answers to queries on this. (A few have alleged that a bias on the part of "big" farmers contributed to the difficulty experienced in securing increases in output of the crops concerned during an early wartime food shortage that was due to the inability to obtain adequate supplies from abroad).

Conclusions cannot, of course, be drawn firmly on the bases of such casual observations. One does not urge that this be done. But the economic importance of the matter seems to suggest that it would be worthy of some research. We are particularly persuaded that there is likely to be something in our observations by such rough quantitative data that are available. It is significant that whilst the official estimate made in 1948 of the consumption of root crops in Jamaica during 1943 was 16 pounds per person per week ⁽¹⁾, the corresponding estimate with respect to the year 1952 was only 9 lb. The latter estimate was made in 1955, and was based on data obtained from the Director of the Department of Statistics ⁽²⁾. He had for many years been Senior Agricultural Economist, Department of Agriculture. The most recent available estimates published by the Department of Statistics are as follows ⁽³⁾:

Jamaica :				Total quantity of root crops (collectively produced each year in millions of pounds
Year				Quantity
1950	...	...	...	657
1951	...	...	...	636
1952	...	...	...	614
1953	...	...	...	577
1954	...	...	...	559
1955	...	...	...	587
1956	...	...	...	553

Even when we allow for errors in the estimates, probably substantial errors in them all, we cannot but feel that the general trend is likely to be downward in Jamaica.

Yet, between 1943 and 1952, the Jamaican population rose 20 per cent. There was a further increase of 8 per cent. from 1952 to 1956. Throughout this period of thirteen years the real incomes of Jamaicans rose ⁽⁴⁾.

In regard to Puerto Rico, it is not clear whether its output of the root crops increased *pari passu* with its population over the period. Data on quantities have not been available for the years preceding 1950. But quantity statistics for 1950-1951 through 1955-1956 do not strike us as portraying any definite upward trend. The total output of the roots rose from 1.5 million quintals in 1950-1951 to 1.8 millions in each of the years 1952-1953 through 1955-1956, and then fell back in 1956-1957 almost exactly to the 1.5 millions of seven years earlier ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Jamaica, The Department of Statistics, *The National Income of Jamaica, 1943*. Kingston: A Mimeographed Report, 1948.

⁽²⁾ A. P. Thorne, *Size, Structure and Growth of the Economy of Jamaica*, I.S.E.R., U.C.W.I., 1956.

⁽³⁾ Jamaica, the Department of Statistics, *National Income of Jamaica, 1956*. Kingston: A Mimeographed Report, 1958.

⁽⁴⁾ See the publications cited in footnotes ⁽²⁾ and ⁽³⁾ above.

⁽⁵⁾ These statistics were obtained by interview by Miss Ana Zorida Villanueva from Mr. Carlos Jiménez de la Rosa, Chief of the Information Section of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Puerto Rico.

In view of a casual comment made to the writer, it seems necessary to observe here that the fact that the price per unit of these roots has risen substantially both in Jamaica and in Puerto Rico does not necessarily signify that the demand has been growing, and that the quantity data, such as they are, are hopelessly wrong. Inflation or the general fall in the value of money is obviously a major cause of the price rise.

Since our purpose is to draw attention to some probable economic consequences of the apparent pattern of demand rather than to explain the causes of the pattern, we would merely mention our speculations on the causes. First, consumption of most of the local roots is probably associated with inferior social status. These roots are associated with field labourers and small peasants, among whom they are staples.

The historical élite of the islands quite naturally have always preferred the roots of their original homes, "English" and "Irish" potatoes, rather than the local roots. (The fact that their own "English" potatoes originated in South America is irrelevant.) To put it in a nutshell, imitation of the élite, which is a feature of community life wherever vertical mobility obtains, probably affects adversely the consumption of the root crops under discussion.

Another factor is the unreliability of the quality of some of the local roots. The absence of grading, and of neat and clean packaging, must also be considered to be relevant. But, as we have said, these matters are not the subject of our essay.

If we assume that there is, in fact, a bias against the consumption of the local (and possibly breadfruit and the like also), what consequences should we expect to follow improvement in the technical, productive skill of the farmers concerned? (It must be emphasized that this paper does not seek to argue that the productivity of the farmers should not be raised. This would, indeed, be the height of absurdity.)

Since the producers of these root crops are numerous and competing, one of the clear advantages of improved productive efficiency will be lower food prices to consumers of these products. These consumers will constitute the greater bulk of the population, without doubt. But if the middle and higher economic classes of the population avoid consuming such crops, the increases in physical output will be restricted to (1) supplying the increased consumption by persons who are at present underfed quantitatively, as distinct from malnourished, and (2) supplying in the longer run the increasing number of persons in the non-middleclass and non-upperclass population. If emigration proceeds at a great rate, such increases of the population might be very limited indeed. All this assumes that there will continue to be no external market for the foods in question. (We shall consider this later, and offer suggestions). The majority of consumers of these foods will, however, because

their prices fall, be able to purchase more other goods and services, including imports, and will be better off materially. The point is not that the improved agricultural techniques will bring no benefits; but that these will be considerably less than they would be if the bias against the local products were swept away, and then if the propensity to import were lower. One may go further. Since economic development will be attended with an enlargement absolutely as well as proportionately of the number of persons in the middle and upper income classes, and will result in greater urbanization, especially if industrialization becomes important, the quantities of a number of local foods and fruits demanded may tend to increase only very slowly, or may even decline, in greater prosperity, as persons rise in the social and economic scale, unless the bias is removed or reduced. Moreover, as vertical social mobility continues to become greater, as it certainly must, the more frequent exposures to contact with, or the "demonstration effect" of, "superior goods" (largely imports), will accelerate the movement away from the consumption of the locally produced foods of the kind mentioned.

In so far as the roots are concerned, there is, among those who consume them, so much substitutability between sweet potatoes, eddoes, tannias, cassava and the like that they may be regarded for our purposes as one commodity. But, in great contrast, there is little substitution between these and, say, Irish or English potatoes, carrots and so forth. We may therefore consider that the demand curve for these local roots as a whole is price inelastic. It is therefore quite conceivable that technological improvements could, in lowering the supply curve or cost of production of the "rootcrops industry", result in a reduction of the gross receipts of the producers. If, on top of the price inelasticity and the competitive supply conditions, the demand for the local rootcrops is also diminished as incomes, aspirations and status rise, the combination of improving agricultural techniques and rising real incomes in the islands could produce very substantial decreases in the gross receipts of the farmers concerned.

In both Jamaica and Puerto Rico (and, no doubt, in the other lands of the Caribbean), agricultural development programs implicitly assume that demand is not a problem, or not a serious one, for commodities supplied for the *domestic* Market.

Would the farmers be better off materially, in spite of the smaller total receipts they might obtain? Only if either (1) the farmers' net receipts, (after expense payment to others) were greater, or (2) if these net receipts, though smaller, nevertheless could purchase more of the products of other segments of the economy or more products from abroad. We cannot show that net money receipts, or earnings, or profits, would be greater after the technological improvement unless we can demonstrate that the expense payments would decrease even more than the gross revenue. However, it is known that the actual operations of the small farmers, who are the producers of the rootcrops, entail little out-of-pocket money expenditures for materials or labour, and that depreciation is already almost nil because little equipment is used. Their prospective gains from better farm techniques lie not in reductions of expense

payments but in increases in the reward for their own direct manual labour. If gross receipts are reduced, therefore, there is no reason whatever to think that net receipts *might* be (far less *would* be) greater.

To support a suggestion that the farmers' net receipts would have greater purchasing power after technological advance, it would be necessary to prove that productivity in other segments of the economy would rise to an even greater extent by then. But it is difficult to see why this should necessarily be the case. On the contrary, the methods of production employed by small farmers are so primitive compared with the productive methods of other segments of the economy that the reverse is to be expected—especially in the next few years.

One may wish to argue that marketing, credit and other institutions might so improve that farmers would obtain a greater share of the retail price of a unit of their produce. But, obviously, such institutional improvements are not functions of the productive techniques employed by the farmers. Gains from changes of that kind could, and probably would, accrue to the farmers whether agricultural methods improved or not. Moreover, in regard to the possibilities and probabilities of technological improvements in other segments of the economy, improved methods of producing foods could reduce rather than increase the pressure of wage costs upon management and entrepreneurship in other segments of the economy. The urge to innovate, in order to economize, would then be reduced, not increased.

Another objection to the argument that is advanced in this paper would be this: that the producers of the rootcrops or ground provisions would reallocate the use of their resources, mainly their own labour and land, shifting them, or a proportion of them, to some other activity. The demand for dairy products, for example, would surely increase with rising national income. So, also, the demand for fresh green vegetables and the like. If this sort of shift were possible in general, or widely enough, there would be only the problem of initiating programs to assist and guide the farmers in selecting the most appropriate substitute crops with as little delay as was possible, in the light of events as they actually folded. Enquiries, however, admittedly haphazard and insufficient, give the impression that for a very large proportion of the farmers, such substitution would for technical reasons, be impracticable, or at least severely limited. Rootcrops are reported to be produced mainly by the very large number of small farmers on steep hill and mountain slopes and on other marginal land. But even where the substitution of other crops might be technically feasible, it would reduce the wastefulness of the delays that would result from the farmers' ignorance of possibilities, if guidance were given to them. And, again, the demand for such technically substitutable crops would also need to be studied. To the extent that such alternative uses of their land were not available, the farmers involved would find that their greater productivity benefited persons engaged in production in other segments of the economy, but not directly themselves.⁽¹⁾ Obviously the lack of skill and

⁽¹⁾ International phenomena of this kind have been more widely publicized.

of such complementary resources as capital and entrepreneurship reduce to almost zero the probability of the farmers' finding readily non-agricultural economic opportunities for their labour.

There are at present insufficient statistics of the distribution of families by size of income in the islands; but it is usually held that the small farmer, with his all too small holding, often located on steep, fast-eroding hill slopes, falls within the lowest income groups. We therefore have the probability of the paradox, in the described cultural situation, that efforts made *bona fide* to "develop" agriculture might bring the farmer the unlooked for reward of still greater impoverishment: perhaps absolutely; certainly in comparison with other members of the island communities!

But it is not only the farmer who would be worse off than in different cultural or psychological circumstances. The resulting weakness of farm purchasing power will mean that the local market for the young manufacturing and for the service industries would be smaller than it would be in other demand circumstances. And since small farmers and their families form a large proportion of the population, this is not an insignificant consequence; especially when one remembers how small economically is the domestic market anyway, and how formidable an obstacle this is to the development of secondary industries.

III

In these circumstances, the first suggestion we would offer is that demand research and crop substitutability research be undertaken. What solutions would be available if the nature of the demand should be found to be as we have thought? Some have already been implied. In the first place, steps could be taken to increase the local demand for the crops concerned, or reduce its rate of decrease (if it is in fact decreasing). There could best be a program of "education" in order to mitigate and, perhaps, finally remove the consumers' bias discussed in the preceding section. In many cases, the local item qualifies well by the criterion of nutrient value in relation to bulk and cost. The sweet potato is an example. In other cases the advantage rests with the *dangerous extremes of nationalism in this matter*. And it should, perhaps, be emphasized that the objective must not be confused with the suicidal one of autarchy and self-sufficiency. As incomes rise, imports too should. But these should consist of commodities of the kinds which it is more economical for the communities to *obtain* from abroad, by exchange or trade, on the old principle of comparative advantage—without leaving more of the islands' resources (land, labour and so forth) utilized, or uneconomically utilized.

That a corrective educational program is unlikely to yield large results quickly is itself an argument for its early undertaking. The efficacy of the "psychological program" will be substantially determined by the *example* set by political and other leaders, by the new élite, rather than by their fervent imprecations and exhortations. However, it is for psychologists and sociologists to work out the methodology of this attack on the problem. Launched in time

to catch the new wave of "national" enthusiasm, such an educational movement is likely to achieve success in a much shorter time than it would in less exciting circumstances. And, moreover, after consumers have long abandoned the roots, their taste will not be again remodelled to revert to forgotten staples of old.

The desire to acquire higher social status by imitating the habits of middle and upper classes is well known to have been an important social factor not only economically but otherwise in advancing Western Europe in its modern history, and in North America. It would be nonsensical, and dangerous, to suppress or attempt to suppress, this. But is there any good reason why, in the prestige system, sweet potatoes and the like should not be among the foods of the middle—and upper—income classes of the communities? Do not elegant English barons and earls, and, indeed, even most gracious royal princesses share common "Irish" potatoes with English dock labourers? Not even the "Cockneys" renaming these humble roots as "spuds" have diverted the aristocratic consumer. There is available to residents of the Caribbean islands a sufficiently large range of other consumer items to remain as "prestige goods".

Another avenue of approach, not alternative but supplementary to the above, is to mount an assault on the external market of emigrants from the islands, residing in the United States and the United Kingdom.⁽¹⁾ These already are now counted in scores of thousands in the latter country, and are far more numerous in the former. Such exportation of the roots as already exists could probably be promoted on a large scale. There might be included among exports even canned creole meals. It must be remembered here, too, that the successful *émigres* in these countries are likely on the whole to be under less social and snob pressure—due to the social cleavage between themselves and the upper classes of the indigenous populations—to avoid foods for reasons other than economy and nutrient value.

There is need, also, for a greater amount of innovation in the designing and preparation of recipes and menus of local foods. This is, of course, merely another manifestation of the generally very short supply of "entrepreneurs" in underdeveloped countries, including housewife and hotel-kitchen entrepreneurship!

In regard to the search for alternative crops for land released by technological improvements, attention might well be directed to an examination of the economic possibilities of some of the now rarely encountered varieties of fruit that have resisted extinction, despite a long era of almost complete horticultural neglect. Some of these may be enjoyable, or at all consumable, only when processed; or de-seeded and de-skinned; or only as canned juices. They may require the development of new dining-table tools and some original eating acrobatics and "new etiquette". One is fully mindful of the "messiness" of some too succulent fruits, and of the large number of

(1) If the pattern of costs and prices should make it necessary, the market research suggested here might have to be extended into the examination of possibilities of obtaining temporary tariff concessions from the governments concerned, or granting subsidies in the early stages to canning and other preserving industries that provide outlets for the crops concerned.

seeds in others. It is not, however, the farmers who usually solve problems of these kinds in any land, though the corresponding problems have also usually been somewhat less formidable. (And, quite clearly, the undertaking of this kind of research and innovation does not have to depend on our being found to be correct as regards the nature of the demand for local roots).

There are, of course, also available the use of cold storage, and the possibility of canning or otherwise preserving the roots, etcetera, to minimize wastages caused by seasonality. There is also the possibility, in fact, the need to improve marketing facilities as well as practices. But these and other means of maintaining and raising farm income are too well known to require discussion and elaboration in this paper.

To conclude, our fundamental general statement is that technological research and improvement in agricultural production will yield as they do in other economic sectors, higher returns if there is also undertaken appropriate and commensurate *marketing research and promotion*, nationally as well as internationally. Economic history has repeatedly illustrated the importance of marketing research and promotion. More spectacularly, of course, has this been demonstrated in the field of manufactured commodities. Most famous for achievements in these areas of activity have probably been Germany and the United States of America. The islands will need to emulate these countries as far as they can, in regard to their agriculture as well as their adolescent manufacture. They will, perhaps, nearly always derive net gains from improvements in the technology of production. But both the size and the distribution of this net gain will be affected substantially by other factors, including cultural or sociological ones.

xxxx 4358

9th May, 1961.

Alfred P. Thorne, Esq.,
University of Puerto Rico,
College of Social Sciences,
Rio Piedras,
Puerto Rico.

Dear Mr. Thorne,

Let me begin by apologising most sincerely for the fact that your letter of 29th September of last year was mislaid. This was due to the fact that I had just about the most incompetent young woman handling correspondence with the result that several very important letters which were marked for attention unaccountedly disappeared. Among them was your letter which has turned up in one of our most obscure files almost a year later. I am truly sorry about this and I do hope that you will not consider me as rude a person as I might have appeared when you did not hear from me.

If you are still inclined to do so I should be most interested indeed to receive a copy of the manuscript you referred to as I am sure we have not seen the end to the Rasta ~~Fari~~ business and the challenge at present to the Jamaican society.

Again my most sincere apology for the very unfortunate delay in acknowledging your cordial letter of 29th September, 1960.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams.

PA/us.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO

September 29, 1960

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I have just received and read the August issue of the West Indian Economist, instructive and highly stimulating as usual, and should like to refer to the fourth paragraph of page 6, "Notes of the Month", and also to the second paragraph of page 7.

I agree completely with the observations made in these paragraphs with respect to some of the causes of the economic difficulties that the Ras Tafari and others in their economic class are experiencing, and would like to draw attention to Social and Economic Studies Vol. 7, No. 3, (Sept. 1958), which carries a summary of the remarks made at the Development Conference, 1957, on the probable trend of the demand for some of the important products of small farmers, and the influence of this on rural as well as overall emigration.

Foreseeing some trouble for Jamaica, Puerto Rico and other islands on account of the nature of demand for root crops and the like, I offered an analysis of the developmental effects of this in an article published in Spanish in Revista de Ciencias Sociales, Vol.iii No. 3 (Sep. 1959). The English version has probably at last appeared in the Caribbean Quarterly, Vo. VI, No. 4. Some of the suggestions made to cope with the situation have been receiving attention here. If the Caribbean Quarterly is not yet available in Jamaica, I shall be glad to send a copy of my ms. - if you are interested.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Alfred P. Thorne

Alfred P. Thorne

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20

May 26, 2009

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hill PO
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

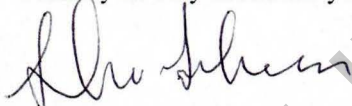
On behalf of my co-editor John Walters and myself, I am writing to request permission to include in our book, *Langston Hughes and the South African Drum Generation: Correspondence, 1953-1967*, up to 4,689 words from 10 of your previously unpublished letters to Langston Hughes. These letters were written between 1954 and 1959, and are held in the Langston Hughes Papers at the Beinecke Library at Yale University. Attached please find a document containing the complete text of your letters, and a list of the dates and word count for each letter.

Our book is scheduled for publication by Palgrave Macmillan in spring 2010. The permission we are hereby requesting is for any editions in any media of our book in all languages throughout the world and for excerpts from our book in any media derived from the book and in advertising, publicity, and promotional materials in any media for the book and for works derived from it.

We do not have a lot of money to spend on permissions and our book will have a limited, scholarly print run, at least initially. We hope to reach a reasonable accommodation on the issue of fees, as this book will hopefully further fuel global interest in your art, both visual and literary. Let me simply add that these letters afford a fascinating insight into a crucial moment in history and into a transatlantic connection that most people are unaware ever existed; we hope you will consent to our including them.

If you are amenable to the above terms, please acknowledge by signing below and returning this to me by fax, email, or post. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss whatever terms or questions you may have. Finally, please specify any credit line you would like in the space provided below your signature.

Thank you very much for your help. Sincerely,



Shane Graham
Associate Professor of English
Utah State University / Logan, UT 84322-3200 / USA
shane.graham@usu.edu
1-435-752-2756
FAX 1-435-797-3797

AGREED:

By: _____ Date: _____
Peter Abrahams

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Peter Abrahams Letters		
Date	Recipient	Word Count
January 14, 1954	Langston Hughes	459
February 20, 1954	Langston Hughes	475
May 25, 1954	Langston Hughes	495
June 28, 1954	Langston Hughes	559
NOT DATED, 1954	Langston Hughes	463
March 14, 1955	Langston Hughes	480
June 27, 1955	Langston Hughes	272
July 24, 1955	Langston Hughes	440
June 11, 1956	Langston Hughes	888
March 6, 1959	Langston Hughes	158
10 Letters	Total:	4689

* * *

January 14, 1954

PETER ABRAHAMS [LOUGHTON, ESSEX, UK] TO **LANGSTON HUGHES** [NEW YORK]

Dear Langston Hughes,

I was very happy indeed to get your letter of the 9th because I have been an admirer of yours for so very long. I still recall most vividly the emotions with which, as a semi-literate youngster in Johannesburg, I first came across your work many years ago in Alain Locke's *New Negro* anthology. That discovery made all the difference in the world to my life because till then literature, like so much else had seemed to me to be 'Reserved for Europeans only'—the sign with which I grew up. I have recorded the impact of that discovery on me in my new book, *Tell Freedom*, which Knopf are bringing out in America this year. In fact, I expect my agent will be contacting you to ask permission for a short poem of yours I quote. So you will see that it is I who should thank you, and not you me. Please tell your fellow American Negroes through your newspaper column how tremendously important their achievements are to the Africans. They are a unique source of inspiration.

I have long wanted to visit the United States and see the life and problems there at first hand, particularly of the Negroes. But I've never been able to afford it. This year there is a chance of my getting one of those foundations of yours to make a grant that will make it possible for me to come over, family and all, to have a good look around. I look forward very much to meeting you if this comes off.

As you can imagine, the idea of visiting the States, of possibly making a home there for a spell, of trying to make a living there, and of what we as a racially mixed family should expect in terms of colour attitudes on both sides of the race fence, has been the point of much discussion and speculation between my wife and myself. Do you think Simple might be interested in putting us straight on some of those problems? But please do not hesitate to ignore this point if you feel there is nothing in it for your *Defender* readers as we do not want to take up too much of your time.

Many thanks for sending me your stories. I look forward to their arrival. *The Ways of White Folks* and *The Big Sea* are the only two volumes of your prose I have. I have some of your poems in various anthologies, including the *Poetry of the Negro* which you and Bontemps edited. And of course, the *Simple* volume which I will try to get as widely read here as possible.

My apologies for the frightful delay in writing you only now after my promised 'in a week or ten day's time.' I've had to do rather more than I bargained for of late.

As you probably know by now, *Drum's* producers are compiling an anthology of short stories by Africans. I don't know how this is likely to fit in with your idea and I don't know whether you would want to work with them. Incidentally, I am tremendously pleased with the impact of *Simple* on the readers of *Africa* and I am now urging (and it doesn't need much doing) that they follow up with the second *Simple* volume as well as *The Big Sea*. There is a fast growing African readership and I am convinced your work would go down with them more successfully than that of any other American writer. Anthony Sampson, editor of *Drum* is in England at the moment and asked me to sound you on the possibility of a visit to Africa, the Union in particular. I don't think they would be willing to carry the costs for this, but they would certainly be interested in chipping in to some extent in exchange for stories and articles. If this interests you and you can get some American paper or papers to foot the bulk of the costs bill I can organise contacts quite widely and *Drum* will be your host. It could be something of tremendous importance for my people and not without importance for yourself. Let me know how you feel and I'll talk it over with Sampson.

About short stories: I'm in touch with two Nigerians some of whose works are good. 1) V.C. Nchami, Public Relations Department, Marketing Section, 20 Campbell Street, Lagos, Nigeria. 2) Cyprian Ekwensi, c/o Andrew Dakers Ltd., 39 Store Street, London WC1. Dakers are just publishing Ekwensi's first novel. Then, still from Nigeria, there is Amos Tutuola who can be reached through Faber and Faber, 24 Russel Square, London WC1. Here in London there is a Sierra Leonean chap, Aaron Cole. I haven't his address but see him often and can pass on a letter from you, if you wish. The South African scene is much richer in talent though not of an exceptionally high standard. But I won't compile a list of those in case you can work through the *Drum* people who are on the spot and therefore in closer touch. But let me know if you don't want to do that and I'll get names and addresses for you. My own plans to visit the States have not yet matured. I'll let you know if and when they do. I'm happy for you over the Anisfield-Wolf Award and can't myself think of any book that more richly deserves it. Please write me before the middle of June about the idea of your going to Africa as Sampson leaves by then.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

* * *

June 28, 1954

PETER ABRAHAMS [LOUGHTON, ESSEX, UK] TO LANGSTON HUGHES [NEW YORK]

Dear Langston,

I've got the blues! I've got the miserable dried up blues! I've been sitting in front of my typewriter all day sucking my blooming English pipe and not a word would come, not a story. And I've got to knock out a couple of stories for you. And my brain's teeming with stuff and nothing would come! I remember vaguely reading where you got the blues in one of your books and going to bed for a fortnight! Trouble is I'd get indigestion if I did it. World looks ugly to me today. Miserable as hell and I feel unfriendly to all men. I'm stuck halfway through a novel and I don't know where the devil to go from here. The world looks real ugly just now. And just at this minute I hate it like I've never hated anything before. I'm the unfriendliest man I know at the moment. Like your Blackfoot Indian friend Simple I wish I had wings. Only if I had wings I'd take off and go so high I wouldn't be able to come down again! Then I'd be a

hoping the public will follow the lead of the reviewers and earn us enough to make that trip so that I can meet you in the flesh and talk.

I'm beginning to feel like a louse about these stories I promised you. I've had three unsuccessful goes and actually written two stories to the end but of such a low uninspired quality that I've scrapped them. I really do seem to have dried up just now. I'm still stuck halfway through my novel (it's been like this for several months now). And so I've let things be and turned my hand to journalism, book reviews etc. I do get patches like these from time to time and then there doesn't seem to be anything I can do but to let them wear themselves out. And then I wake up one morning and find the urge to write all over me again—and also the ability. But I've been in touch with Peggy Harding who is editing the *Drum* anthology and she says she's made an arrangement with my agent to use a self-contained extract from one of my books. I've asked her to share this material with you. Has she been in touch? Believe me I'm not trying to get out from under. I shall feel I owe you a couple of stories until I do in fact send them to you, but I'm dry as a sucked bone at the moment and I do not want you to hold up your plans. I don't know if you ever go dry on yourself but if you do I won't have to ask you to sympathise and forgive. If not, I do ask you.

Fabers are reissuing a short novel I did a dozen years ago next month. As soon as I get copies I [will] dispatch one to you. There might be something in it that you feel that you can use.

Otherwise life is fine and all the family are happy. We are expecting the third (and the last, we hope) of the clan to be born early in November. At the moment my son who is on holiday from his nursery school is making my life impossible with continuous interruptions and questions. He's just come in to ask: 'Daddy, what is life made of?' I'll be glad when he can go back to school and ask other people these hard ones. It'll be fun to hear from you when you can write. *Phylon* will use the 'Culture' thing.¹

Yours ever,

Peter

* * *

March 14, 1955

PETER ABRAHAMS [LOUGHTON, ESSEX, UK] TO LANGSTON HUGHES [NEW YORK]

Dear Langston,

It was good to hear from you again, and I'm glad to know the anthology goes so well and that the Africans have not let you down with stories. I really think that there is a flowering of letters from that part of the world—and it is about time too! I don't know how you feel about it but it might be an idea to let me have a copy of the typescript of your final collection so that I might canvas one or two publishing houses here so that it might appear on both sides of the drink about the same time. One thing I cannot and will not do is negotiate. [. . .]

Yes, I do know Davidson Nicol and a fine chap he is. He's a medical man and as he's qualified a long time ago I expect he's working on some specialist course at Cambridge. I last saw him a couple of years back when we did a broadcast discussion together. I like him a lot. Young John Akar rang me a few days ago. He's a young bachelor, doing quite well, no worries, tall wide and handsome and full of charm.

¹ In 1955 *Phylon* published Abrahams' article "The Conflict of Culture in Africa."

See you in November. Yours,

Peter

* * *

July 24, 1955

PETER ABRAHAMS [LOUGHTON, ESSEX, UK] TO **LANGSTON HUGHES** [NEW YORK]

Dear Langston,

The Corona Library for whom I am making this West Indian trip and for whom I'll do a modern portrait of Jamaica has now worked out an itinerary for me. I enclose a copy herewith.

From this you'll see I have about four hours in New York on my way down on September 3rd. Is there any chance of my seeing you briefly then? It would be most pleasant if it were possible for me to see you then.

The planned part of my journey will end in Kingston about November 17th. I'll then fly up to New York and have a month's break there. I gather from Blanche Knopf who is currently here in London that they plan the usual sort of literary 'do'; then I'd very much like to get around and do a few lectures to pay my way. Could you help by fixing a few for me? I expect to be in New York no later than November 20th. And please, could you fix up somewhere for me to stay that is not too costly? Sorry to be asking so much of you but you know how it is with a stranger in a strange land.

I have one provisional date to speak at the Ford Hall Forum in Boston; but this is for November 20th and I think I'll have to put it back a bit. Apart from this I've nothing planned. I have promised Era Bell Thompson⁴ that I'd go to Chicago and I would also very much like to visit Arna Bontemps at Fisk. You may know he wrote me in February of last year.

When I collected my visa they told me that I would have to get permission to lecture from their local office in N.Y. so I'll get the Sanders agency on to that as soon as possible. Please also, can you let me have a line on the amount of dollars you think I'll need for about a month's stay. This is very much a letter of 'Please can you do this: please can you tell me that....'

By way of appeasement for leaving them for so long I'm taking my family to the seaside in a couple of weeks' time and we'll stay there till the moment of departure so please let me hear from you before then—'then' being August 12. I'm sweating blood at the moment trying to clear my desk of all outstanding jobs before leaving—and I don't like work! Will send a note to Arna Bontemps now. Can't tell you how much I look forward to seeing you.

Yours ever,

Peter

* * *

June 11, 1956

⁴ Era Bell Thompson (1906-1986), editor of *Ebony* magazine. Her autobiography *American Daughter* describes her experiences as an African American growing up in North Dakota.

and 22nd, but as I see I am also supposed to speak it might mean that you don't know anything about it all. Have you been invited? And are you coming? If things work out as I hope they will I hope to be in the West Indies by then. But you never can tell about such things in our trade.

But do let me know how things are shaping with you, and please give my warm regards to all friends. Pity my stay was so short: but it was great fun and meeting you was certainly a high point in it.

Yours ever,

Peter

* * *

March 6, 1959

PETER ABRAHAMS [KINGSTON, JAMAICA] TO LANGSTON HUGHES [NEW YORK]

Dear Langston,

I am coming up to the States on the 22nd of this month. I shall be in Washington until the 24th or 25th in connection with *Holiday Magazine's* Seminar on Africa and then I shall fly up to New York to spend a couple of weeks soaking up Harlem for a portrait of it which *Holiday* has commissioned me to do for their issue on New York.

I hope you will be in New York when I am there. I would simply love to see you again. It is hard to think that our last encounter was nearly four years ago. Time does fly daddyo!

Daphne sends her love and says that the trip after this I had better take her with me or else.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Yours ever,

Peter Abrahams

P.S. Leave word for me with either Harold Strauss or Edith Haggard or Curtis Brown. Have no address to go to yet.

Peter Abrahams Letters

Date	Recipient	Word Count
January 14, 1954	Langston Hughes	459
February 20, 1954	Langston Hughes	475
May 25, 1954	Langston Hughes	495
June 28, 1954	Langston Hughes	559
NOT DATED, 1954	Langston Hughes	463
March 14, 1955	Langston Hughes	480
June 27, 1955	Langston Hughes	272
July 24, 1955	Langston Hughes	440
June 11, 1956	Langston Hughes	888
March 6, 1959	Langston Hughes	158
10 Letters	Total:	4689

January 14, 1954

Dear Langston Hughes,

I was very happy indeed to get your letter of the 9th because I have been an admirer of yours for so very long. I still recall most vividly the emotions with which, as a semi-literate youngster in Johannesburg, I first came across your work many years ago in Alain Locke's *New Negro* anthology. That discovery made all the difference in the world to my life because till then literature, like so much else had seemed to me to be 'Reserved for Europeans only' — the sign with which I grew up. I have recorded the impact of that discovery on me in my new book, *Tell Freedom*, which Knopf are bringing out in America this year. In fact, I expect my agent will be contacting you to ask permission for a short poem of yours I quote. So you will see that it is I who should thank you, and not you me. Please tell your fellow American Negroes through your newspaper column how tremendously important their achievements are to the Africans. They are a unique source of inspiration.

I have long wanted to visit the United States and see the life and problems there at first hand, particularly of the Negroes. But I've never been able to afford it. This year there is a chance of my getting one of those foundations of yours to make a grant that will make it possible for me to come over, family and all, to have a good look around. I look forward very much to meeting you if this comes off.

As you can imagine, the idea of visiting the States, of possibly making a home there for a spell, of trying to make a living there, and of what we as a racially mixed family should expect in terms of colour attitudes on both sides of the race fence, has been the point of much discussion and speculation between my wife and myself. Do you think Simple might be interested in putting us straight on some of those problems? But please do not hesitate to ignore this point if you feel there is nothing in it for your *Defender* readers as we do not want to take up too much of your time.

Many thanks for sending me your stories. I look forward to their arrival. *The Ways of White Folks* and *The Big Sea* are the only two volumes of your prose I have. I have some of your poems in various

Dear Langston,

I've got the blues! I've got the miserable dried up blues! I've been sitting in front of my typewriter all day sucking my blooming English pipe and not a word would come, not a story. And I've got to knock out a couple of stories for you. And my brain's teeming with stuff and nothing would come! I remember vaguely reading where you got the blues in one of your books and going to bed for a fortnight! Trouble is I'd get indigestion if I did it. World looks ugly to me today. Miserable as hell and I feel unfriendly to all men. I'm stuck halfway through a novel and I don't know where the devil to go from here. The world looks real ugly just now. And just at this minute I hate it like I've never hated anything before. I'm the unfriendliest man I know at the moment. Like your Blackfoot Indian friend Simple I wish I had wings. Only if I had wings I'd take off and go so high I wouldn't be able to come down again! Then I'd be a blackfoot angel among the whitefoot angels up there. Are there any black angels in heaven? And where in hell is heaven, anyway? I started a story for you and it went like this:

"And he said 'What are you doing?'"

"And I said 'Nothing.'"

"And he said 'What do you mean, nothing?'"

"And I said 'Just that, nothing.'"

"And he said 'Trying to be smart?'"

"And I said 'What d'you mean, smart?'"

"And then he hit me. And after a while I picked myself up.

And again he said 'What are you doing?'"

And again I said 'Nothing.'

And he had a smile that told he was going to hit me again. It was then I decided."

"Decided what," I asked.

"To kill him. You see, he did hit me again and he said:

'I like you people when you're smart.'

'But I'm not smart' I said and got up again."

"And then?" I said. "Did you kill him?"

"No. I walked away and he came after me and hit me again. And then I told him. I said:

'I'm going to kill you tomorrow night. Come to this room here and I'll kill you' and he didn't hit me again after that."

"You're mad to think he'll come," I said.

"He'll come because he's afraid, and afraid of his fear."

Crazy, isn't it? But it's started a train of thought and as soon as these miseries leave me I'll have a story for you. Better set myself a deadline and say you must have a couple of stories not later than the middle of July. Might use the piece *Drum's* using for their anthology. Ask them. It's supposed to be midsummer in this benighted country and the sky is dark and it's cold and there is no sun shining. I guess I'm humanity's enemy today.

The world is old
And the world is cold
The day is dark

* * *

March 14, 1955

Dear Langston,

It was good to hear from you again, and I'm glad to know the anthology goes so well and that the Africans have not let you down with stories. I really think that there is a flowering of letters from that part of the world—and it is about time too! I don't know how you feel about it but it might be an idea to let me have a copy of the typescript of your final collection so that I might canvas one or two publishing houses here so that it might appear on both sides of the drink about the same time. One thing I cannot and will not do is negotiate. [. . .]

Yes, I do know Davidson Nicol and a fine chap he is. He's a medical man and as he's qualified a long time ago I expect he's working on some specialist course at Cambridge. I last saw him a couple of years back when we did a broadcast discussion together. I like him a lot. Young John Akar rang me a few days ago. He's a young bachelor, doing quite well, no worries, tall wide and handsome and full of charm. You'd say nothing to worry about there yet the lad's in hospital with duodenal ulcers. I can't make it out. I thought it was an aging anxiety ailment. He was very bucked with your letter to him and says you're a great man. I'll ask the *Herald* to send you copies of the stuff I did on the West Indians. And thanks a lot for the *First Book of Jazz*. I'm trying to collect those 100 records. It was certainly an education to me. I'm hard at it on a novel at last. It's just beginning to pick up nicely and I'm feeling quite good. Hope to have it done by September and then to pay you that visit. Money is the root of all this delaying. Also, I don't want to leave Daphne till the baby's a little older. The big kids have just come in for lunch from school. They're flourishing. My son still thinks the banks just give you money for the asking. He's going to a bank to ask for money, he says, lots and lots of it so that he can buy ice cream and chocs to eat until he's sick. They argue with me like nobody's business. But then, this is an arguing family. I say one thing and get a dozen back. But they're great fun. Talking about cullud cars, I travelled on a mammy truck in the Gold Coast. If that Ibadan trip was on a mammy truck it should be sidesplitting. *Ebony* is running something of mine in May. All for now. I must go and eat. My daughter says will you send her a picture one day.

As ever,

Peter

* * *

June 27, 1955

Dear Langston,

It was good to hear from you again, and very many thanks for the clippings on *Mine Boy*. I didn't expect them to be so kind to a very old and young book. But you never can tell about these things. I am delighted with your own news. You certainly seem to have worked awfully hard this year, what with editing an anthology, your book on jazz (which I think I told you was quite an education to me)

By way of appeasement for leaving them for so long I'm taking my family to the seaside in a couple of weeks' time and we'll stay there till the moment of departure so please let me hear from you before then—'then' being August 12. I'm sweating blood at the moment trying to clear my desk of all outstanding jobs before leaving—and I don't like work! Will send a note to Arna Bontemps now. Can't tell you how much I look forward to seeing you.

Yours ever,

Peter

* * *

June 11, 1956

Dear Langston,

I am so ashamed of myself that only shame at my shame now makes me dare write this note to you. It is a full six months since you made me feel so very much at home in N.Y. and it is terrible to be only now saying thank you. But thank you all the same for a very wonderful visit—if you will accept my thanks this late! Really of course, you must blame it on writing and the acts of God. As you know, I had to do a book on Jamaica the script of which I had to deliver by the end of April. Well, I got back here in time for Christmas and had a high old time over Christmas and New Year. This town is full of Jamaicans and so we can now get a really good Jamaican rum. And so I carried on as I had carried on in Jamaica and—to a lesser extent—in the States. I pretended that sleep was something only needed by sissies—which is true in Jamaica when you are spending only a few months there. I'd forgotten the English climate was riddled with prejudice against us culluds and that you can't behave like you are in Jamaica when you are not in Jamaica so I behaved like I was in Jamaica when I was not in Jamaica. The result was that when I turned to the book about mid-January I went all upstage and got sick. I got the whole works—stomach upsets, headaches, spots in front of my eyes, knocked-knees and all. So Daphne called in the doctor who said I was exhausted or some such thing and that I wasn't to do any work for a month or else. . . (You know how they threaten you!) He said I had a choice of either spending a month in hospital or else going away and doing nothing except sleep and eat. And when I tried to make the man understand I had a deadline to meet the man made like if to wash his hands like Pilate and looked at Daphne and shook his head and she looked at me and I had to go to Cornwall where they fed me poison that made me eat and sleep and sleep and eat and when I came to they said you're a nice boy and you can go home now and when I looked at the calendar it was mid-February (I think) and I hadn't written a word. . . . I finished the book at the end of May. Now I need another rest again after working 12-16 hours every day, seven days a week. That, in short, is why I'm only writing now to say thank you. If you see Henry Winslow and Peri and Danny Gibson please say a good word for me. I owe them all letters. Say the bum's a bum because he couldn't help it. Incidentally, Henry Winslow put his address on the envelope of the letter but not on the letter itself and the envelope has been thrown away so I haven't his address. Could you please help? And thank you for that card from California which is a place I still have to get to.

How are things with you? Tell your aunt I haven't forgotten that picture and will mail it before so long. And do I apologise for inscribing the controversial *Udomo* to you? I hope not? It's had a very

Vauxhall Secondary Modern School

Correspondent:
Rev. DOUGLAS R. MILLER,
3, Fernandez Road,
Kingston 16.

Headmaster:
R. C. TAVARES,
Telephone - Office 81047
Home 83208

49, Windward Road,
Kingston 2,
Jamaica, W.I.

14th December, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
164, Harbour Street,
KINGSTON.

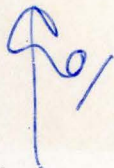
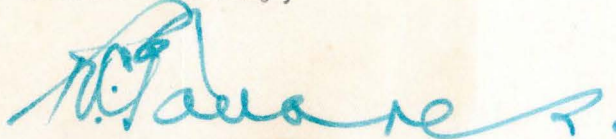
Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Following on our informal conversation on the 7th of this month, and the arrangements made then, I now extend to you on behalf of the Parent Teacher Association connected with this school, the formal invitation to address that body on Monday, the 30th January, 1961, beginning at 7.00 o'clock in the evening.

I am to remind you that we had decided on the topic "Behaviour Among Our Teenagers". Please be assured that a right hearty welcome awaits you, and that everything will be done to make sure that this appropriation of your most valuable time will be of the greatest possible benefit to the community.

With every good wish for a truly happy Christmas and a New Year of even greater service to this country,

Yours faithfully,



RCT/br

~~Vauxhall Secondary~~ ^{SENIOR} Modern School Parent Teachers' Assn.,

SECRETARY:

WINDWARD ROAD,
KINGSTON.

B.P. HARRIS

P.O. BOX 18.,
KINGSTON 16.

25th October, 1960.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Officers and Members of the above named Association to invite you to be our "GUEST SPEAKER" at our next meeting. This meeting will take place in the school's auditorium on Sunday the 30th October, 1960, at 5.00 P.M.

Anticipating a favourable
reply,

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

B.P. Harris

B.P. HARRIS
SECRETARY.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o Radio Jamaica,
No. 32 Lyndhurst Road,
Kingston 5.,
ST. ANDREW.

^{1/2}₆₀ Mrs. Ducker of Walmers Girls School, wants
to know if you will be able speak at
Parents Teachers Assn. on either 21st
or 29th Oct:

Regret-
Sorry unable to give

File



AGE QUOD AGIS

WOLMER'S GIRLS' SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary's Telephone:

Office - 5466
Home - 62134

11 Enman Avenue,
Kingston 8.

19th September, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o The West Indian Review,
44 East St.,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The Managing Committee of the
Wolmer's Girls' School Parent-Teachers Association
has instructed me to ascertain from you whether you
would be good enough to give an address to parents,
on a subject which in your opinion would be of
interest to parents.

It would be appreciated if this
lecture could be not later than the middle of October
at 8.00 p.m. on a week day, with preference for
Wednesday.

Looking forward to an early reply

Yours faithfully,

E. Watson

SECRETARY

Handwritten signature/initials



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Yours faithfully,

E. Watson

SECRETARY

hld



WOLMER'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
CROSS ROADS,
JAMAICA, W.I.
TELEPHONE 4084

AGE QUOD AGIS

HEADMISTRESS

MRS. E. C. SKEMPTON, B.A.

May 30th 1960

Dear Mr Abrahams,

Thank you very much
indeed for promising to come to the History
Teachers' Association meeting at 5.p.m.
on Saturday June 4th. We shall look forward
to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Duncker.

Acting Secretary History Teachers' Association

Welmer's Girls' School,
Kings Hill.

May 11th 1960.

Dear Mr Abrahams,

I am writing to ask if you would be good enough to speak at the annual general meeting of the History Teachers' Association. The meeting is scheduled for the 4th of June at the above school at 4.p.m. We propose having the business at 4.p.m. and tea at 4.30.p.m. We should be glad if you would join us for tea at 4.30 and speak to us at 5.p.m. for half an hour or so. As regards subject, we had thought something about the West Indian novel, but if you would consent to come, we would be very glad if you would speak on that or any other topic you liked.

I do hope you may find it possible to come. There would probably be about twenty teachers.

On behalf of the committee,
Your truly,

Sheila Duncker.

Acting Secretary History
Teachers' Association.

✓ 23/5/60.

July 8, 1960.

Mrs. R.V. Russell
Secretary
Women's Federation
Belfield School
BELFIELD P.O.

Dear Mrs. Russell:

I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the Silver Tree Concert being given by the Women's Federation on Sunday, August 14th and to preside as Chairman but regret that owing to previous engagements I shall be unable to accept.

Thanking you and wishing your function every success.

Yours faithfully

PA
Peter Abrahams.

Belfield School,
Belfield P.O.,
July 4, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Rock Hall,
C/o Radio Ja.
32 Lyndhurst Rd.,
Kingston 5.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by this branch of
the women's Federation to invite you to their
Silver Tree Concert to be held on Sunday
14th August, commencing at 3.30 p.m.

They also ask that you preside at this
function as "chairman".

Kindly be good enough to send an
early reply.

With thanks.

I am,

yours faithfully
(Mrs) B. D. Russell (Secty)

Cortland

State University of New York College at Cortland

■ History Department

December 13, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Enclosed is a check from our local independent bookseller, Mando Books, for \$39.00, which is 10 per cent of the revenue the bookstore owner took in from selling 26 reproduced copies of your book, *Wild Conquest*, at \$14.95 per copy. As I suspected, the book greatly engaged the good students in 19th-century South African history and led us into a healthy, broad discussion of issues ranging from race to war. Again, I am grateful for your allowing me to have the book reproduced for use in this course.

This gives me another opportunity to tell you how much use I have made of your several books for providing understanding of Africans and African history. In addition to *Wild Conquest* and *Tell Freedom*, my students have benefitted from the way *A Wreath for Udomo* takes them into the complex and fast-moving times of the movement for African nationalism and toward independence. Your fiction has been an important part of many students' education, and because my college trains many teachers for New York State public schools, I am confident that they have passed along much of what they have learned to younger generations.

Once more, thank you, and please accept all best wishes for the end of this year and the start of next.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Wright
Distinguished Teaching Professor