

December 4, 1958

Mrs. Barbara Ferland  
British Council  
13, East Street  
KINGSTON.

I return herewith the Beethoven 5th Symphony which made my evening last night and for which I bless you. The recording was most successful.

I also return the Catalogue. If you have a spare one I shall be most grateful to own it, otherwise, I will have to ask you to lend it to me again at a later date for further borrowings.

Here is a list of some other records which I should love to borrow over the week end. I do not necessarily have to have all of them now but would appreciate as many of them if you can spare, over the week end:-

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Beethoven LP | - A-21   |
| "            | " - B- 6 |
| "            | " - C-29 |
| "            | " - C-22 |
| "            | " - C-12 |
| "            | " - D-21 |
| "            | " - D-33 |
| "            | " - F-11 |

Bless you again for bringing some musical sunshine into my life.

Yours ever





37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex. England.

July 7, 1955.

Dear Mr. Ellison,

Friends have suggested that you would be an ideal person to contact about my prospective visit to the U.S. in November of this year.

I hope, subject to little things like getting a visa, to spend at least a month in the U.S. after completing an assignment in the Caribbean at the end of October. This will be my first visit to the States and I am very anxious for it to be as fruitful as possible, 1) with the regard to getting as clear-eyed a picture of the U.S. as possible; 2) with regard to arousing as much interest as possible for the problems of Africa.

I should therefore be very grateful indeed for any ideas you might have about things to see and do, and people to meet. And, of course, I should very much like to meet you though I gather that there is a likelihood of your not being in the States by the time I get there.

With sincere regards.

Cordially yours

Peter Abrahams.

Ralph Ellison, Esq.,  
Random House,  
457, Madison Avenue,  
NEW YORK 22. N.Y.



Phone (401)  
364-9953

P. O. Box 73  
Shamrock R.I.  
U.S.A., July 17, 41

Dear Peter,

We have just read  
A Night of their own, & I wanted  
to let you know just how much  
I enjoyed it, & how good it  
seems to me.

The first time I heard  
you speak - I mean not in  
private - was on the B.B.C. Third  
when you did those wonderful  
short pieces embodying your  
experiences on coming to England  
one was on the top of a bus (in Brighton  
when the conductor threw the tickets  
& the change at you; one was in  
dealing with a communist friend  
or colleague who told you  
something like "You are too simple



(name?) Peter" — because you did not feel able to do to others what you considered wrong — even in a good cause; & because you trusted that the response to goodness would not be wholly bad. A Night of their own, while being a good story & clearly written, still embodies that central concern with all of us who are on this earth, in the human predicament. Excellent, also, to have something about those poor "coolie people." When we went through East Africa in 60/61 we could not help wondering what would be the fate of these people — so visible, so easily the target & the scape-goat once most of the white/pink people left.

I have been hard at research & writing, & keeping the family afloat in this expensive country; we go to India next year when I am to do a special job for U.W.I., then we return home in 66. How is the family? Love to Sophie; Dorothy joins me in sending all the best.

Sincerely, John (Fitzgerald)



P.O. Box 4767,  
Johannesburg  
South Africa  
Sept, 19<sup>th</sup>, 1956.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Greetings! It really gives me great pleasure to write you, first of all hoping this will find you and your good family in excellent health. You might be surprised also to hear from one you don't know - although we met once - the first time you came home, but I doubt to whereas you'll recollect the occasion; it was at the old Drum office in Main Street, and I was introduced to you by an old friend of mine Henry Mnumalo. In fact he gave me your address from the last letter you wrote him last month. The nature of this my letter to you is of course of no great importance except that I'll probably join you people there in another couple months time if I succeed in collecting some cash to get me there - I have just been issued with a passport to the U.K. In fact I have a couple jobs awaiting me in England London, but the snag is that I've to pay my own 'voyage' expenses here to. I believe my <sup>TV</sup> picture 'The 37<sup>th</sup> Bride' where I played the leading role has already been presented here by the Associated-Rediffusion Ltd, I wonder if you saw it. Apart from being a TV-star, I am also a writer, specializing mostly in song lyrics and poetry, and I'm sure I'll be of great help to the musical world here. Introducing myself or giving you a rough picture of myself, I'm a Coloured but so dark that I could easily be classified 'African' in S.A. here. My age is 30 yrs, and am married to a 25 yr old African lady who's now doing her 4<sup>th</sup> year medical course at the University of Natal, and we have one child (a baby girl aged 3 months). My wife hopes to <sup>further</sup> complete her course overseas if all goes well. I'm a teetotaler and play Tennis, being B.M.S. Centre Table-Tennis champ for 2 yrs in succession now, and a former social worker now interested in the screen as an actor. A friend of mine Gene Williams, a singer is also in London. Till I hear from you allow me to pen off with kind regards. Yrs faithfully, A.G. Fish



PAR AVION

AIR MAIL

LUGPOS

AÉROGRAMME  
AIR LETTER  
LUGBRIEF



BESTE

FIGHT



*Mr. Peter Abrahams.*

*Press Club*

*37 Jessel Drive,*

*Water Lane*

*Loughton, Essex.*

*Kingsford, Jamaica*

*England*

*B.W.I.*

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

AS ENIGIETS INGESLUIT WORD, SAL HIERDIE  
BRIEF PER GEWONE POS GESTUUR WORD

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS  
NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER

*Alfred G. Fish*

*P.O. Box 4767*

*Johannesburg, S. Africa*

FIRST FOLD - EERSTE VOU

SECOND FOLD - TWEDE VOU





xxx 4358

31st May, 1961.

Mr. Forbes,  
Anderson & Company Ltd.,  
2A Temple Lane,  
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Forbes,

I am returning one of the little radios you serviced because it has been unsatisfactory since it came back from you. For the first five to ten minutes its reproduction was clear as a bell. After that time it gradually became more blurred as it warmed up so that my daughter had to play it until it was warm and then turned it off to cool again before playing it once more. The result was that she couldn't listen to any programme for more than ten minutes at a time. Last night it finally gave up the ghost altogether after it got warmed.

Please see what you can do about it for me.

Yours faithfully,

PA

Peter Abrahams.

PA/us.



PEANS FARM HOUSE,  
ROBERTSBRIDGE,

TEL. 52.

SUSSEX.

30.7.56.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I was very glad indeed to meet you on Tuesday, and hope that we shall often meet again.

I have been kept so busy during the last week ~~that~~ I had no time to write to Mrs. Moody, but wrote to her this morning giving your her address. I



am pretty sure that she  
has left London for Birmingham  
but 13 Primrose Hill Road,  
London N.W.3. will always  
get her.

Don't bother to  
acknowledge this hurried  
note.

All the very best,

Yours,

Sandy Fraser



2/2/61

Dear Peter,

I am returning home shortly to start a publishing company - but not to publish my own verse. If you would be interested in joining the venture at any level, don't be afraid to let me know.

Yours Ayre,  
Filmy Frame.

UWI Libraries



BY AIR MAIL

AÉROGRAMME

AIR LETTER

CORRECT ADDRESSING

IS A BLESSING

SAVES US GUESSING



Peter Abraham, Esq.,  
40 "The West Indian Economist"  
164, Harbour Street,  
Kingston,  
Jamaica, W.I.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:

Fitzroy Fraser  
Post Restante,  
Port, Spain P.O.,  
Trinidad, W.I.

To open cut here →

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



Paris, August 20, 1956

Monsieur Peter Abrahams  
37 Jessel Drive  
Loughton.

Dear Peter Abrahams:

Thank you for your telegram received through Mrs. Jane Rouch. It would be a great pleasure for me to meet you in Loughton or in London next week. I shall call upon my arrival unless you tell me otherwise. You can always reach me in Paris through Mrs. Rouch, at 151 rue de Grenelle, INV. 81-13,

If I do not hear from you before Saturday, August 25, I shall send you a telegram to confirm my arrival.

Heartily looking forward to meeting you,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Abdou Gassama*  
Abdou Gassama



Michael Montoye, Jr.  
65 East Kingston, Va.  
Post money  
will receive  
letter follows.  
John

UWI Libraries



D. Parke Gibson

---

204 West 139th Street, New York 30, N. Y.

February 3, 1956

Dear Peter:

I am hoping these few lines will find you well. It was a pleasure to have met you at Langston's party awhile back.

Mary Elizabeth sends her best to you also.

Did you have a pleasant return trip? We are only sorry that we did not have a longer time to spend with you.

Have you had the opportunity to talk with my acquaintance, Marcus Cunliffe, Dept. of American Studies, Manchester University since you returned. Remember I told you he was interested in the Negro in the U.S., and perhaps he would be interested in your reactions?

We would appreciate hearing from you when you have the time.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Danny". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "D" and a trailing flourish that ends in a small triangle.



**JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, LIMITED**

**CABLE ADDRESS: JAMSERVICE**

**P.O. BOX 54**

**KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.**

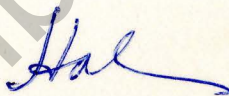
19th September, 1960.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,  
West Indian Economist,  
Harbour Street,  
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I would like very much to introduce our new President, Mr. J. Marshall Hamill, to the senior members of the Press, and in this connection I have arranged a small informal party upstairs the Bath House at Myrtle Bank Hotel for 6.30 p.m. on Friday, 23rd September, 1960. I would be very happy if you could find it possible to join us.

Yours sincerely,



HAL GLAVE.

HLG:HI

*Seen*



37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.

December 2, 1954.

Dear Miss Gordimer,

I hope you will forgive me for being so disgracefully late in writing to thank you for your very charming letter of September 20th.

I went through a brief and devastating spell of basic education that is responsible for my only writing now. I think your letter deserves the full story. Your letter arrived somewhere about the second week in October. Normally I would have replied somewhere about the end of October. But about the 29th October my barbaric son stepped over his own doorway, a couple of inches high, fell down and broke his leg. In the early hours of the morning of the 30th my very genteel eldest daughter woke up in the early hours of the morning screaming at the top of her voice as though an impi of devils were after her. Her temperature was over the 100 mark. The doctor came and discovered tonsillitis. The plaster on the boy's leg was just drying and so he began to howl. At last the night passed and I thought I would rest in the morning. But in the morning my wife started growning and on the afternoon of November 1st a little girl was born and immediately started howling. As you know, the natives in this country refuse to behave like 'natives' and all but the stinkingly rich do their own housework. It all fell to me! And despite the fact that I had a help in, it all fell to me! and it lasted three weeks. When they all got up I went to bed. Now it is all over.... A little dramatised perhaps, but all true; and I am a more educated man now than I was before.

Saying thank you adequately can be very difficult and then, I'm afraid, I go in for waffle such as this letter. But I do appreciate your letter very much indeed. I hope we meet one day, either here or there. And forgive the typing. My first is completely unreadable.

Yours sincerely



37 Jossel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.  
September 21st, 1953.

Dear Mr. Gorox,

I am extremely sorry for the long delay in writing to thank you for your generous letter of July 7th. I left for the Gold Coast a few days before your letter came. My wife sent it after me but by the time it reached Accra I had started on my journey back and it has only just caught up with me!

From my contact with American Negroes like Richard Wright, Dr. DuBois and a host of others I have long felt that they are, as you say, more 'Coloured' than 'Black' psychologically. This feeling was strengthened by my reading of their literature.

When I arrived in the Gold Coast I found Richard Wright there and I found his reactions most revealing. This was his first visit to Africa and I think he had made the journey, sub-consciously at least, as a sort of pilgrimage in search of his own psychological and emotional past. What he found was something much more alien, something with which he had less cultural or emotional affinity than anything in the West. I think this was a very deep disappointment for him because his need 'For a house in the world where the white shadows will not fall' is more driving than in any other American Negro I know. And in spite of his political sympathies with the change he decided, and I think rightly, that he would never be happy in the Gold Coast. Indeed, I too found the Gold Coast not my cup of tea though not for the same reasons as Wright. Though as western as Wright, I'm also African and there is nothing African about him.

The content on non-White education in the Union has been changing over the years. For the Coloureds and Indians it has always been an inferior edition of White education. African education is mainly in the hands of the missionaries who are for the most part people from this country. Their natural inclination has been to teach out of their own backgrounds, as it were, and in the early phases of my schooling (not that I ever had much) I knew more about the history and background of the country of my teachers than I did of my own country. At a later stage when I was taught South African history it was along the lines of 'black barbaric savages v. noble and heroic whites who possessed all virtues'. This can create terrible tensions in the black boy who must pass his exams and yet refuses to believe this version of our history. In other respects I believe our education was and is a deal more sensible than the 'Our ancestor were the Gauls' of the Senegalese. This is possibly due to the fact that the Union is, in spite of its terrible racial differences, more of a nation in the western sense than any other area south of the Sahara. Less of the tribal structure of the Bantu is intact in the Union than elsewhere hence my claim that we are too far along the road to intergration for Bantu to reintroduce tribalism now, one of the things the Nationalists are toying with to get out of their troubles.

Yours sincerely,



22nd August. At sea - off Dakar.

My dear Peter,

Latterly we seem to have had difficulties in communication. At the moment, as you will observe, I am in the competent but uninspiring hands of Messrs. Elder and Dempster. A placid blue sea, dolphins round the bows, and twelve passengers, female and missionary on the whole. As they and I appear to have few points of contact, including the obvious one, we meet at meal-times: in between I sun-bathe, and swap smut and play poker with the crew.

Until the last minute I was very uncertain whether or not to go back to Accra. I dithered endlessly until I could dither no longer. I had a very pleasant job going in Spain and Greece: in the end it seemed that the three films I am to make this year in the Gold Coast would be better for me professionally than if I stayed in London. That is, it seemed to my Agent, and I hope he is right, because on the whole my inclinations are the other way.

So this letter will have to do in lieu of a handshake. I'd also like to suggest to you the possibility, with your contacts, of getting yourself to the Gold Coast once again for the Independence Celebrations in March, I think. They will definitely be worth observing: a mixture of Nationalism Proudly Emergent and fortnight's Carnival, with a lot of Asiatic, West Indian, and Coloured American top-brass as honoured guests. I am sure the Observer could be talked into letting you go: every big paper with African reportage will certainly be sending men: why don't you have a shot at it? Dear Henry Swanzy is on leave in or around London. If you haven't seen him, I'd contact him anyway: there might be a tie-up there as well.

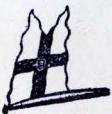
I shall probably be back in March, just after the Independence Celebrations to see the film we will make of it through the editing stages. It will have to be a very rushed job. I shan't be in London for more than a month: enough, however, for us to meet if you are in London at that time.

With my best wishes to Daphne and yourself,

Yours ever,

Sean.

ON BOARD



ELDER DEMPSTER LINES



BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-  
CLOSED THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY  
ORDINARY MAIL.



Peter Abrahams Esq.,  
37 Jessil Drive  
Debden  
Essex  
England



DER DEMPSTER LINES

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To open cut here

Sender's name and address :-

S. Graham,  
P.O. Box 745  
Accra  
Gold Coast.



21 Virginia Street,  
Cape Town.  
15<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1962.

Dear Mr & Mrs Abrahams, You will no  
doubt be surprised to receive a  
letter from me, especially as  
my name is unknown to you.  
My maiden name was LAYNE.  
Do you remember Winston? I  
am his elder sister. I am sending  
you under separate cover an  
issue of Post. I'd like you to read the  
article about Mr Ford & see  
whether it is possible for you to  
contact his brother. As you know  
we're miles from Durban. May I  
ask you too to send me an issue  
of an Jamaican newspaper  
if anyone will do. How do you

find life in Jamaica?  
I read in an issue of the C. Times  
that you were living in  
Jamaica. Have you written  
any new poems?

With kindest regards to  
your wife & yourself  
Winifred Gustafson.



BY AIR MAIL  
PER LUGPOS  
PAR AVION

CAPE TOWN  
15.30  
1-VIII  
1962  
KAAPSTAD

Air Letter  
Lugbrief  
Aerogramme

KINGSTON  
AU 25  
62  
JAMAICA

*Mr. P. Ubra*  
*Editor of ? Newspapers*  
*Kingston*  
*Jamaica*  
*B.W.I.*  
*164 HARBOUR ST.*  
*KINGSTON*

*Not Clearer*

*Send to* ~~*164 Harbour St.*~~

Second fold—Tweede vou

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

DAAR MAG NIKS BY 'N LUGBRIEF  
INGESLUIT WORD NIE; AS ENIGIETS  
WEL INGESLUIT WORD, SAL DIE  
BRIEF BEBOET OF PER LANDPOS  
AANGESTUUR WORD.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS  
NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER

*Mrs. W. Gustafson*  
*21, Virginia Street-*  
*Cape Town*

KINGSTON  
AU \*  
62 9  
JAMAICA

↑ To open cut here—Sny hier oop

← To open cut here—Sny hier oop →



21, Virginia Street  
Cape Town

7<sup>th</sup> August 1962

Dear Mr. Abrahams

Remember I promised  
to post "The Post" to you & asked you to  
do what you could to assist  
Mr. Ford in letting his brother  
know of his need. I would cost me  
80 cents sf. to send "The Post" Airmail  
& sf. surface, as I am not working  
being a paraplegic at present I  
am unable to post so I am  
enclosing the sheet concerned in  
an air mail letter. My congratulations  
to Mr. Mike Ford if you find him  
on Jamaica acquiring freedom  
I'll pray he'll go from strength to  
strength. Less Rum drinking please  
With regards  
Winifred Gustafson



21, Virginia Street  
Cape Town

7<sup>th</sup> August 1962

Dear Mr. Abrahams

Remember I promised  
to post "The Post" to you & asked you to  
do what you could to assist  
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With regards  
Winifred Gustafson



15 Ruthven Rd.  
Halfway Tree, Ja. D.W.I.  
June 9, '56

My dear Peter,

Not that I meant to pay you in your own coin but instead it was procrastination, however here am I, determining not to let the day go by without replying to your letter.

Yes it was a very long time coming so long that I was at the point of giving up hearing from you, this however I must say that when your letter did arrive it made up for the 5 months of silence, it was as if it was Peter himself speaking to Mrs. D. with those large eyes almost completely turned over. Thanks a lot for it. Indeed,

was everybody's letter as it was read by Ted, Grace, Hal & Sissy, we all agreed it was a typical Peter only not in person. You did say you'd be busy on your return, Guess your book took up more time than you expected, hope by this you've got thro' your book & is releasing while awaiting it from the press.

Now for all the news. First, Hal & Sissy will be parents around the end of the year, Will you be here for the christening?

(2) Hal is either giving up or has given up the job he was in when you were here & will be joining the staff of the Ja. Public Service Co. You know of course that A.E.T. Henry is here as Pub. Relations man incidentally he stays with us, his wife is to come out later when



They will set up house-keeping.  
 (3) Grace is to be married to Errol Hill, says to tell you she accepted your suggestion. He goes on a scholarship to Canada, Grace will go to the U.S. in the summer, he'll join her there & join hands & hearts.  
 (4) Fred's temporary job ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> March so he's enjoying rest at home again.  
 (5) Kathleen is still here but Prince's ceased due to indisposition & dress-making. They were tickled over your gift to them & looking forward to seeing you again to say thanks. Euno works for a better pay downtown.  
 (6) Mrs. Imcerarity is still in the U.S. tho' her 6 months have expired directly opposite to what she said at the dinner. Her husband is however quite happy. Glad to know the family is well & you're enjoying them. I look forward to meeting them maybe soon.  
 Fred joins in sending best wishes to you all, regards from Kathleen. Jeff.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED  
 THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT  
 BY ORDINARY MAIL.



Mr Peter Abrahams,  
 37 Jessel Drive  
 Loughton,  
 Essex,  
 England.

Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

Mrs V. E. Hawley  
 13 Ruthven St

Halfway 11000 h. m. l.

To open cut here →



15th July, 1958.

Mr. Richard Hart,  
70 Barry St.,  
KINGSTON.

Dear Dick,

I am very pleased to enclose herewith two cheques, one for your contribution to the Economist and the other for the little legal service you rendered me. Thank you very much for both.

I am sending you a copy of the Economist under separate cover and hope you like it. I look forward to your next contribution and should your length be greater than it was in this current issue your fee will be raised proportionately.

Yours ever,

Peter Abrahams.



GARTH COTTAGE,  
NORMANDY,  
SURREY.  
NOR. 2240.

17. 8. 56

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

My husband & I will be  
so pleased if you could  
come & pay us a visit.  
I believe the middle part of  
the week suits you best.  
& so I think if you &  
my husband could fix  
a date to suit you  
that would be the easiest  
way - His phone is



As I have been very busy packing a room - need  
the delay.

ABBÉY 2109. The only  
day I can never manage  
is Tuesday as I have  
a clinic then -

I hope you will be able  
to come - I look  
forward to meeting  
you - you already  
know my husband.

Yours sincerely  
Madeline Harvey.

---



Hearney  
"Langley" Mount James  
P.O.  
St. Andrews  
27/8/56

My dear Peter,

All the proper apologies for not writing to you and Daphne before. All regret, but no explanations. There aren't any, except for the familiar classic pattern of the wanderer returned and the state of vegetable mindless well-being that follows, and the good resolution to write friends immediately, and of course, the sudden realization that it is months not weeks that have passed.

Thank you very much for the press cuttings. I have seen a few in the papers out here and stranger might even make a little money, odder things have happened. How is Aldo doing? I read it and thought you had got what you were after, got it dead right and told it beautifully. How are Daphne and the children? Give them my love and say that I'm looking forward to seeing them in Jamaica.

Business first, before gossip. What price house do you want when you come out? Flats and places are sky-high in the corporate area. I've been asking around and Eddie Young is also on the job, but so far the lowest I could promise to try and find (taking size of family into account) is about £2 a month. If that suits write and tell me. I would have a serious shot at having something for you to come into. But remember that's the lowest figure I can promise; it might be a little more.

Since I came out, I've really behaved disgraceful. A mild wanton

whirl of hard liquor, marriage, fishing and easy going. A couple of bits of journalism (one of which, an article on the writer and his world, might be very good).

I've taken up riding again and spend about twelve hours a week in the saddle: damn good for the liver but poor for art. I even attend gymkhanas.

Peeta and I got a beautiful little house up in the hills back of Stony Hill. Its five spine shattering ~~road~~ <sup>miles</sup> up from the good road and every turn takes you higher and deeper into a valley, with big slopes of bamboo and rain forest on either side. All in all it's only about 12 miles from Kingston itself but more remote than the North Coast. We even have a river across the road with a swimming pool that was dammed up to make it deeper. I get up and down by an old, battered, green Oxford I bought for £50. On Sunday revelry and song and liquor sound from early in the morning when chaps come out and up from town to swim. All very idyllic, no doubt, but all too fatal: nice, after four years of the old austere stuff but coming to a halt very soon. I feel quite regenerated though after six months. It's the first time in 10 years that I have ~~not~~ allowed myself to relax for longer than a week at a time and have not bothered thinking about a book, or a poem, or a story. When I got on that damn boat in March, I spent the whole voyage sleeping 17 hours a day and arrived in Jamaica feeling sort of dead as dust; now I feel pretty good. Body and soul I keep stuck



together by teaching and royalties pay  
for the car and a few extras.

Eddie Young sends kind  
messages and looks for you, also. He's  
busy making money most efficiently,  
and gives me gigantic, delicious  
Chinese lunches which I can  
never finish.

The only thing on the writing  
scene which would really interest  
you are Derek Walcott's plays which  
have the quality you only get in a  
few things that a few chaps write.  
Parboosingh the painter has come  
back from New York. He is having  
it very hard trying to live off  
his designs and pictures but  
sticks. He is a very big fellow, if not  
genius at least that level of talent  
where you expect genius to pop out  
any minute. His book jacket for my  
third is quite remarkable and if  
Faber takes it should cause quite  
a stir when it comes to the book-  
stalls next May.

Write soon, will you? And  
tell me a few details about coming  
and what you need to make arrival  
relatively painless. My regards  
to anyone in common acquaintance  
that you might meet.

yours  
John



Peter Abrahams Esq.  
37 Jessel Drive  
Loughton  
Essex  
England

Sender's name and address

Hearne  
'tangley'  
Mount James P.O.  
St. Andrew  
Jamaica B.W.I.

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



(bottom contd): "I Peter Abrahams, do hereby order from Mr. Donald Fitz-Ritson, O.B.E., of Messrs. Samuel & Samuel, solicitors of 31 Duke Street, house as specified in plan, of 3 bedrooms etc., and will deposit on the scheme, on execution of agreement, so much, and will pay interest of seven and one-half percent on balance, etc.."

I have also put on Patterson to Glave, and both have talked over the matter of cleaning the land. Patterson wants to start at Seven Pounds, and after walking the land yesterday, he said it would cost additional money to get in the plants and draw the house site.

Write back immediately, and however attractive other rentals might sound, you would be ill-advised to pass up the one I secured for you. ---- Hemming

2-A Whitehall Avenue,  
Constant Spring P.O.,  
Jamaica, B.W.I.  
September 12, 1956.

Dear Peter:

I have today, secured a nice little cottage at 75-A Red Hills (main Road overlooking the mountains) Road for the "friendly rental" of fifteen pounds monthly. It will be vacant when its present occupant, a doctor, leaves month-end.

It is a new house, cultivated with fruit trees, and fits well, everything you desire. Now do not let me down, because I have ordered it, and will have to pay at least a month's rent, if you fail me. It is in Constant Spring, about three-quarters of a mile off the main road, about eight chains off where Vic Reid used to live with Wyatt Bryce--in the heart of the developed area, having two bedrooms, lawn and land-space for the children, car porch --modern. Please send me five pounds to tie it down.

It stands out alone on over half-acre of ground.

I should have written you in reply to yours of August 8. But I had to go thoroughly into the matter of your land and the house project. I have now discussed the whole scheme with my firm of lawyers who are willing to help in financing the project. But the type of structure you desire, is an expensive one, and nowhere could we all find a builder who would take it on for less than £2,700. Finally, I ran into one who stayed put at £2,500. Houses of the kind in the Red Hills district, are erected for £3,500. And when yours is completed, if you decide, it will have a market value of £5,000.

Before proceeding, the lawyer wants to know, how much cash you will have to start with--however little it may be. And he wants a letter-- like this:

(see top)



BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME



Peter Abrahams Esq.  
37, Jessel Drive,  
Haughton, Essex,  
England!

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:

C. B. Semmeling  
2<sup>nd</sup> Whitehall Ave.  
Constant Spring, Jamaica.  
B.W.I.

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

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/IV.



Moneague Training College,  
Moneague P.O.,  
14 th Sept., 1960

Mr. Peter Abrams,  
C/O Radio Jamaica,  
Kingston,

Dear Sir,

I have just entered the above college to be trained as a Primary School teacher. My parents and close relatives ~~have~~ died for many years now.

Under these circumstances I find it very difficult to purchase my books and other articles to help me in my studies. With all these taken into account I solicit your kind help in making a contribution towards my purchasing the necessary articles.

✿ Sir, I do not want the money if donated to be handed to me, but that it be given to the college-principal or committee, to be used only for what it is intended for.

The college course is for one year and the books and so on are needed as early as possible.

Please oblige and reply. Thanks.

I am, sir,

Yours respectfully,

Alvy A. Hibbert (widow)



CABLES:  
SYDWILL

BANKERS:  
BARCLAYS BANK, D.C.O.

# SYDNEY WILLIAMS CONSTRUCTIONS LTD.

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL CONTRACTORS

SYDNEY S. WILLIAMS  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

15 HAGLEY PARK ROAD,  
KINGSTON 10 : JAMAICA, W.I.

TELEPHONES:

68241 & 66233

~~B.F. MENDES, B.Sc. (GLAS.)~~  
~~CHIEF ENGINEER~~

REF.....102 /59.....

13th. August, 19 59

Mr. Peter Abrahams,  
164 Harbour Street,  
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

We have caused the site of the proposed roadway at Red Hills to be inspected and take this opportunity of advising that we are prepared to carry out the work of constructing a 12 ft. wide roadway for the sum of One Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds (£1280). We have quoted this figure on the understanding that we use such stones as are available at the site, and awaiting your esteemed command.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY WILLIAMS CONSTRUCTIONS LTD.?

*J.M. Hippolyte*  
.....  
J.M. HIPPOLYTE.

JMH/oh



Personal File

15th February 1960.

Mrs. Grant,  
B.W.I.A.  
Harbour Street,  
Kingston.

Dear Mrs. Grant;

Herewith Mr. Abrahams' passport, certificates of vaccination and income tax clearance.

Could you kindly let us know the flight number of tomorrow's plane and the time it is due in Puerto Rico. Could you also please let us know the flight number of his return plane on the 26th, the time of departure and the time it is due back in Kingston. We need all these times to arrange for Mr. Abrahams' reception in Puerto Rico and for transport from the airport on his return.

Kindly send the bill for his return passage to this office.

Yours faithfully,

EXK:

(Miss) Elsa Ho Ken  
SECRETARY.

/ehk



33, Meadow Way,  
Old Windsor,  
Berks.

29 May, 1957.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I hope you will forgive another intrusion on your privacy, but you are the only person I know of who can help me.

I have been collecting money for the Treason Trial, and in the course of my activities have had some very interesting discussions about the situation in S. Africa with some W. Indians in this country. But nearly always they come around to the point that they think S. African negroes are cowardly because they don't rise up and throw off the whites, in view of their overwhelming numerical superiority. They say if a million or so were willing to die they could win freedom for the others.



Well, I don't know how to answer this, except to say that I would be very reluctant to die, even for such a cause.

One theory of mine is that they are hamstrung by Christianity, which they believe with naive sincerity, but I'd like to know what you think about it.

You might possibly have a copy of your letter to me of May 30, 1954 (so long ago!), and if so, it might interest you to know that I have now left the Communist Party. I was forced by the events of last year in Russia, and the subsequent behaviour of the CP in this country, to conclude that the ideals of its members had been betrayed. Now I am devoting my energies to the Movement for Colonial Freedom, and frivolous activities like dancing, which I forwent (is there such a word?) in my serious, intense youth.

I often think about you, and admire your achievement. Perhaps I'll have an opportunity to meet you and your family some day.

Best wishes & kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis G. Hogben.



April 10, 1963

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I have just finished your book, Tell Freedom. I was so impressed and excited by it, that I wanted to write and tell you a little of what your book can mean to a White, American girl of 16 living in the large city of Chicago.

I have never in my life been hungry, poor, or deprived. I have never known what it is like to be deprived of rights or acceptance to anything other than <sup>by</sup> my own capabilities and potential. The situation of the Coloureds and Blacks of South Africa (or <sup>Jeunesse des Noirs</sup> the Negroes in my own country) is completely foreign to me. Nevertheless, your book meant something to me and had a certain relevance to my life. You have told me about freedom and non-freedom, about your mother, your sister, Zena, the Father who gave you his overcoat, the school, and that community. Jonathan and your equations are a partial reality to me. For to me your struggle is important and basic, for I, too, feel wronged: as a member of the White community which inflicts such wrongs, as a citizen, and as a human being <sup>x</sup> with the responsibility to



change such situations- in my own country or in any other.

Someday I will come to Africa and see the beauty and power, ugliness and hostility of your country. I hope that by that time the situation will have changed, that the fear and hatred will have disappeared, and that people all over the world will be understood and accepted as human beings on the basis of their qualities alone.

Your friend and admirer,

*Toni Helstein*



May 9, 1955.

from The Priory,  
Rosetonville,  
Johannesburg.

My dear Peter Abrahams -

Your letter and the article from 'Ebony' were forwarded to me at Penhalonga where he been visiting the Mission.

Thank you so very much. I think the article is absolutely first-class and exactly what is needed. It must be doing a power of good in America. Anything more you can do will be of great value. I will try to send you some more photographs when I get back this week to Johannesburg.

Meanwhile (1) we have a first-rate Headmaster, Michael Stern, who saw an article of mine in the London "Observer", offered his services; ditched his job & his future in England & came. He is 33: a Cambridge 'honours' man & just right. So we are safe in that respect till we close. (2) We close in December '56 as things stand at present but I'm trying hard to see what chance there is of establishing a private school, free of Govt. grants. I had hopes that Grace Diers might do: but there are - as usual - snags. The Minister of Nat. Affairs will not say under what conditions a private school may be established, or where. This makes appeals difficult. (3) In the meanwhile C.R. has launched a private day-school (Primary) in its buildings at Sophiatown. So far this is going with a bang - but for how long?

I'll write again at length -

But this is to thank you ever so much.

Sincerely  
Trevor Kuddleston C.R.



BY AIR MAIL

## AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED  
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT  
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Peter Abrahamus Esp.

37 Jessel Drive,

LOUGHTON,

ESSEX

ENGLAND.

Second fold here

Sender's name and address :-

To open cut here →

← To open cut here



EAST WING, HORTON HALL,  
CHIPPING SODBURY,

GLOS.

TEL. 2113.

As from

Bucklesbury House

London E.C.4.

29.8.60

Dear Peter,

I'm asking Charles Michelin to let you have a note on mechanization at Mougins, which we propose to introduce for next crop. As you very strongly pointed out when we met in June, our ready acceptance of the Commission's recommendations implied that we should have to mechanize if we didn't recover our former profit level, and we haven't. In June I couldn't



so further than hint, because I didn't  
have Board approval for the Capital  
Expenditure involved, but I now have,  
and Charlie Michelin will be seeing  
the Unions later this week to advise  
them. We shall, of course, be as  
generous in ex gratia compensation as  
we can afford to be, & he can let you  
know about that too.

I can't ask you to comment favourably  
on what we are doing, but I know that  
you are always keen to have the facts,  
& hope that what Charlie will tell  
you will be of some help. Please  
excuse this scrawl written while on  
leave. Best wishes,  
Yours sincerely  
Tom Huggill



March 6th, 1959

Mr. Langston Hughes  
20 East 127th Street  
New York 35  
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 daddy!

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

PA/bid

P.S.

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

P.A.



LANGSTON HUGHES

20 EAST 127TH STREET

NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

July 31, 1955

Mr. Peter Abrahams,  
37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton, Essex, Eng.

Dear Peter, I trust this will reach you before you depart for the seashore, in case the information herein may be of some use to you. Regarding lectures: FISK, so a note from Arna Bontemps tells me, is already set for you. I suggest that en route to, or returning from Fisk, you try to book HOWARD UNIVERSITY in Washington, HAMPTON in Virginia, and ATLANTA in Georgia---then you'd have four of the major Negro colleges. In New York I suggest trying the TOWN HALL FORUM, the COMMUNITY CHURCH, and Harlem's CHURCH OF THE MASTER. If you get six paying dates during the short period you'll be here, that wouldn't be bad, and would leave you some time for other things, too.....I suggest that you ask Knopf to put you in touch with the Colston Leigh Agency or some other lecture agent to make these and other bookings for you. Booking lectures takes quite a lot of doing---unfortunately, much more work and letter writing than I have the facilities for doing myself at the moment, having only a part-time secretary and two fall book contracts on my hands to complete, plus about 300 unanswered letters piled in front of me on which I'm weeks behind. So best I can offer to do is to drop a few notes to the colored colleges in question as to your being here in November, and suggest they write you c/o Knopf. But it would be better to have an agent or Knopf write them suggesting dates and a fee.....There are two factors against arranging dates at this time of year---1st: College folks are mostly away on vacation, and may not be back before opening of classes in late September or October. 2nd: Most of the larger colleges and forums already have their autumn programs booked---so would have to be persuaded to take you on as an extra special lecture, which no doubt some of them would do if an evening is vacant. 3rd: November is running pretty close to the Christmas holidays, when some colleges close in mid-December, or are having quarterly examinations. 4th: November is the very middle and end of the football season, homecoming games, etc., which occupy more time and attention in the U.S often than intellectual activities in the fall. I simply tell you all this so you'll realize the obstacles to booking lecture dates this late on so short a notice for the autumn season. But still, I think you should be able to get at least a half dozen, if someone works hard at it between now and then---I mean that many that pay enough for you to clear several hundred dollars. Free dates or at low fees wouldn't be any problem at all.....I'd say you'd need \$300 for a month in and around New York. More wouldn't do any harm---according to what you want to do.....As to a place to live, I just called Ralph Ellison to see if his apartment would be available, since he's going to Rome for a year, but he says he's sublet it already. Personally, I think for all around convenience, a small hotel in the midtown (not Harlem) area, near Times Square and the theatres and publishers, would probably be most convenient, and not too expensive---from maybe \$15 a week up, or one of the bigger and better hotels from \$5 a day up with phone and all.....What airport do you come into? Is it British Overseas Airways you're coming on? The Editor of OUR WORLD says he'd like to meet you. Probably for pictures, when you go through. Maybe I can get out to airport, too, if not up in country where I'm working off and on with a photo compiler on a BIG Photo History of the Negro to be done by Nov. 1. At any rate, I'll see you in November. With only four hours between planes, probably you won't come into the city on your way to Jamaica....Be sure to meet John Searchwell at Cornwall College in Montego Bay, who was here once and in London. Nice guy. And Philip Sterling at the Univ. of W. I. in Kingston. And Andrew Pearse, Ed. of CARIBBEAN QUARTERLY in Port au Spain who knows a LOT about Trinidad. All nice folks, too.....Best regards,

Langston



37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.

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 off jazz ( which I think I told you was quite an education to me) and now 583 pages of autobiography! That's real highpowered working to me. I shall look forward eagerly to reading the second volume of your story.

When next you see Lanning say hello to him for me and tell him his friend Boris at the Mandrake Club asks after him.

I'm flying out to the West Indies on an assignment at the start of September. I shall be there for two months - mostly in Jamaica. Then I plan to spend November in the U.S. keeping that long put off promise of visit. I shall write you about the question of places to live nearer the time. Really, this is just to let you know I'm still alive and kicking and have also just finished a new book. A novel this time but only 384 pages. Now I must settle down ~~the~~ to the dreary task of revising which I don't like one little bit...What's happened to your anthology? The sun is shining here and I hate working when that happens. And my daughter still asks for that picture to pin up, please, Mr. Hughes! See you in November.



LANGSTON HUGHES

20 EAST 127TH STREET

NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

June 14, 1955

Dear Peter:

I should have written when I first got your note concerning Miss Lebona from South Africa. I phoned the YWCA in Brooklyn where she was staying immediately, but she had just left a few days before for a trip through the South and on to California and did not leave any forwarding address, so I could not deliver your message to her, and I was unable to find out whether she was coming back to New York before sailing for England or not. But at any rate she has your address and I hope she will get in touch with you when she gets to London.

Please forgive me for being so long in writing you but I have been trying to make a deadline on the 15th of June with my new book, the second volume of my life story, I WONDER AS I WANDER, and I just finished it last night, so I am now turning to my correspondence which has piled up like a mountain.

I will be writing you again soon but this is simply to let you know about Miss Lebona.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Langston*  
Langston Hughes

LH/g



37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.  
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. All I can do is interest them in the book and then leave it up to you and/or your agents to do the rest. Collins, Gollancz and my own Fabers would, I know, be deeply interested in your collection. Oh, yes, and there's one point before I forget. Knopf have now decided to bring out *MINE BOY* over there in a paperback edition, in June I think. So it might be an idea to clear your selection with either Strauss or the Saunders Agency who deals for me over there.

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 Indian. 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 icecream and choos 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



LANGSTON HUGHES

20 EAST 127TH STREET  
NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

February 28, 1955

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

Dear Peter, One of the bad things about being <sup>a writer</sup> is, I reckon, that it seems to inspire so many other people to want to be writers! (You're guilty, too! Almost everybody that writes to me from Africa mentions you.).....Anyhow, I've been just about inundated with Africa lately-----two or three hundred letters since summer, and well over a hundred manuscripts! And never having been a very good or very prompt letter-writer myself, well, you can imagine! But I'm gradually getting out from under now, having answered just about everybody.....Certainly, my appeal for short stories has been gratifying beyond all expectations---happily so---and out of the mass of bad material I've received, I've garnered some very good things, too---some thirty odd stories from which to make a final selection for the anthology which is now in process of being typed up for consultation with the publishers, with whom I'll do the cutting down.....Thanks so much for your other books. I've selected from MINE BOY that beautiful section about the fellow walking about on Saturday night and seeing the man fall off the roof and break his arm and going with him to the doctors. It stands up very well alone as a complete incident in itself.....The South Africans will be the best represented---along with the Nigerians. And their differences are interesting: the Nigerians having a lot of humor in their writing, and the South Africans a lot of sadness and poetry---Dyke Sentso, Richard Rive, Peter Kumalo, etc.....From England have come interesting stories from John Akar, Aaron Cole, and Davidson Nicol. Nicol, I think, writes very well indeed. Do you know him? He's studying at Cambridge and is, I gather, from Sierra Leone, although one of his stories is about Kenya. Ekwensi sent some very good things, too.....And from Nigeria Nchami sent several that I liked, thanks to your good offices.....Amos Tutuho sent an amazing fantasy, and said he would send more when I send money. Wise boy!.....I wrote DRUM offering to collaborate with them, but heard nothing in that regard. However, I've again judged a contest for them, and get friendly letters from their office all the time. But I guess they wish to go their own way with their compilation. No harm done. And since I imagine they'll be publishing in England, we won't be competition for each other. Besides, there being nothing of that nature now, there's no reason why there should not be two anthologies, or more, if anybody has the energy to gather them together. It's a lots of work, I'm telling you! I didn't dream it when I started! Wow! But the results, I think, will be worth it.....How is the new baby? And those other beautiful children of yours? And what happened to your idea of possibly visiting us over here in the U.S.A.?.....Somebody wrote me about a good series of articles on the West Indians in England you've been doing. Wish I could see them. Louise Bennett (that most amusing woman) spent a year or so here, got married, and just recently departed for her native Jamaica leaving behind with me a copy of her hilarious poem, COLONIZING IN REVERSE, and her delightful record of Jamaican songs made here where she was really quite a hit in clubs and TV.....Well, I will now sign off and write to a few Gold Coast folks, and Adeboye Babalola in Nigeria who sent the biggest lot of stories of all, descriptively wonderful, but more sketches than stories, unfortunately, but I've worked hard on a couple of them to try to include them in the book and think they'll make it. One of his about a trip by car from Ibadan to Lagos is so like cullud car trips here with everything breaking down on the way that I can't help but love it, even though nothing happens but tires blowing out, etc. Most Negro cars must behave the same way everywhere! Av, pobre Lucumi, as the Cubans say---where cars break down most of all! Sincerely,

x He's  
in the S.  
now,  
clown.

Langston



LANGSTON HUGHES

20 EAST 127TH STREET

NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

July 16, 1954

Dear Peter Abrahams:

Please forgive me for not writing sooner ~~for~~ thank you for the kind gifts of your two books. I am delighted to have them both, and look forward to reading RETURN TO GOLGI soon. As you know, I have already read TELL FREEDOM, but am now happy to have both the English and American editions. Knopf certainly made a beautifully looking book for you, and I hope it will have wide success in this country.

I have received a long, amusing, handwritten story from Amos Tutuola, as well as several other pieces from writers in West and South Africa. So it looks like that shortly I shall have a sizable collection of stories for the anthology. I look forward to the time when mood and moment coincide for you to send me something of yours. I thought you already had some stories previously written, but if not, naturally it would be wonderful to have something brand new. Your letter indicated that you have gotten a good start on one, anyway. It seems that a new book about Africa is coming out here everyday, so I think that if I can gather 12 or 15 really good stories, there will be no difficulty in achieving publication of an anthology of fiction by non-white African writers.

I have recently received a copy of BRONZE, the colored magazine published in London, which I find very interesting. I shall be on the lookout for reviews of your TELL FREEDOM, and will clip and send them to you whenever I see one. My continued good wishes to you, as ever.

Sincerely yours,

*Langston*  
Langston Hughes

Mr. Peter Abrahams  
37 Jessel Drive  
Loughton, Essex, England

lh-hs



LANGSTON HUGHES  
20 EAST 127TH STREET  
NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

May 30, 1954

Mr. Peter Abrahams,  
37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton, Essex,  
England.

Dear Peter,

Knopf sent me your book to read and I think it's wonderful! (As you can see from the statement I sent in). Where you lived as a kid sounds about like 18th and Vine in Kansas City where I lived! I hope you'll continue it on with London and all. I am hoping to spend the summer writing the second part of my autobiography---have a contract for it. Lots to put in it which I hope will be as readable as THE BIG SEA. (By the way, error in spelling in your English sheets---it's Sterling Brown---with an e not an i). That business about your first going to school---and the market lady---and the Bantu center---and school teaching at the Cape---and the dung hunting---and the kaiffir boy and the African kings---is wonderful! And the old preacher! And the humor of that prayer! But it's all wonderful! Great! I love that book! So alive and immediate and real and moving! From your pictures you don't look like you can write like that. But who does---in a picture! I don't think authors ought to have pictures on books. I try to keep mine off, but not much luck. Anyhow, I'll be doing a column about TELL FREEDOM in my paper I write for when it comes out.....I met Alan Patton last week at a big colored party for him, Ralph Bunche and all there. He spoke most effectively.....Thanks a lot for those addresses of African writers. I'd already written several folks in South Africa, Liberia, Gold Coast, etc., and to my college mate, Ben Agikiwe whom I'll see here next week, so hope to be getting quite a few stories soon. Have a few already. Have a publisher interested, so kindly send me your stories, too, soon, if you can. Knopf won't mind you being anthologized. Good publicity for your books, as anthologies go in lots of libraries and schools that a book may not, unless it's a classic, or something similar. If your short stories are anywhere as near as good as that autobiography, they ought to be great. LEMME SEE!.....I'm glad to hear DRUM is planning an anthology (which I didn't know) and will be happy to collaborate with them in any way they wish, sharing my material with them or/and vice versa, or working with them, or however they desire---the main thing being to get an anthology published here, too, in the U.S.A.---so please tell Sampson that for me. And I shall write the same to Nxumala. Usual American custom is to allot a set sum for anthology payments, and pro rata a flat sum to each of the contributors, depending on the number and amount of each person's work. Example: from the recent ESQUIRE anthology I received a payment of \$75.00 for my story used therein.....I'm delighted, of course, that AFRICA is running parts of "Simple". They're welcome to use it all, if they wish, from both books. And I'd be happy to see them use the BIG SEA or other work of mine, too providing it's OKed through my agent or publishers, since I'm not free to grant the rights myself.....About going to South Africa, naturally, I'm pleased no end to be invited. But can't even think about going for a year or two---I'm tied up with a play in the works for next season, and three book contracts (the autobioggraphy being one, a rather big job) and none of them even started in the writing---so I have about 15 months of steady work ahead of me. But if I see my way clear a year or so from now, I might take my friends there in Johannesburg up on it. I want to go to that bioscope you went to!! But right now I'm a literary sharecropper tied to a publisher's plantation.....I met a man at the Patton party who knows you, Daniels of the U.N., and told me quite a bit about you that I reckon will be in your memoires No. II.....I know how hard it is to write letters---and books, too, so you don't have to answer right back this year---JUST SEND THE STORIES. With gratitude, as ever

Sincerely,

Langston



37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton, Essex.  
England.

May 25, 1954.

Dear Langston,

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 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 W.C.1. Dakers are just publishing Ekwensi's first novel. Then, still from Nigerian, there is Amos Tatuolo who can be reached through Faber and Faber, 24, Russell Square, London W.C.1. Here in London there is a Searra Leone 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,

Pete Abraham



LANGSTON HUGHES  
20 EAST 127TH STREET  
NEW YORK 35, N. Y.  
February 1, 1954

Mr. Peter Abrahams  
37 Jessel Drive  
Loughton, Essex, England

20/2/54

On Wednesday, February 17, at 20.15-21.45 P.M. (8:15 to 9:45 P.M.) Radio VARA, Hilversum, Holland, will broadcast over wave length 402 meters, my opera, THE BARRIER, libretto by Langston Hughes, and score by Jan Meyerowitz, with leading Dutch opera stars, actors, and a full symphony orchestra, a full length performance of this work for the first time in Europe. I hope you will be able to listen to it. Please let me know if you hear it or not, and what you think of it.

How nice it will be to see you in the U.S.! You and your family will get along fine---at least in the North. New York is racially almost like London. And you can lecture at the colleges here, various, and the Negro ones in the South. I've already told you you might be coming.....Recently I've judged a short story contest for DRUM (Johannesburg) and liked some of the stories very much. I think I could get an anthology of African Negro short stories published (by Negro in U.S. we mean Colored, too) in this country. Do you yourself have any short stories which might be included in such an anthology? Could you give me the addresses of any other good South African (or any African) writers of color whom I might ask to submit material, either in Africa or in England? I'd appreciate this immensely, and would undertake to edit such a book if I can find 10 or 12 more good stories.....Well, I am off tonight for lecture trip to Virginia for a week, so will close with continued best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Langston Hughes  
Langston Hughes



37 Jessel Drive,  
Loughton,  
Essex.

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 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 these 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 FOLK 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 wife joins me in sending our very best wishes.  
Sincerely,

Peto Abrahamson



LANGSTON HUGHES  
20 EAST 127TH STREET  
NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

January 9, 1954

Mr. Peter Abrahams  
37 Jessel Drive  
Loughton, Essex, England

14/1/54

Dear Peter Abrahams:

We here in this country admire your work a great deal, and so it made me very happy indeed to receive from Victor Gollancz, Ltd., a copy of the very kind and generous letter which you wrote to Mrs. Sheila Hodges regarding SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE. I am so glad you like SIMPLE and greatly appreciate your taking the time and trouble to say so.

I have received many fine letters from readers in South Africa, some of whom have mentioned you in very high terms, particularly the folks who work on DRUM magazine, and Sylvia Jacobs in Capetown.

I do not know whether you are familiar with my short stories or not, and so I am taking the liberty of sending you copies of them by ordinary mail.

I wish you continued success and a very happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

*Langston Hughes*  
Langston Hughes

lh-hs



# JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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October 1, 1982.

Mr. Peter Abrahams  
Coyaba  
P.O. Box 20  
Red Hill P.O.  
St. Andrew.

Dear Sir,

Kindly see attached receipt for Seven Dollars and eight cents (\$7.08) for the book Militarism which is published by the World Council of Churches.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely,

*Yvonne Huie*  
Yvonne Huie  
Office Secretary

ED/yh

cc: World Council of Churches.





THE JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*With the Kind Regards*

*of*

*The General Secretary*

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# THE IMPERIAL LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

D. HOLLAND  
BRANCH MANAGER

49 DUKE STREET  
KINGSTON JAMAICA B.W.I.

REGISTERED MAIL

20th January, 1961

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

Dear Peter,

May I once again thank you for remembering me when you contemplated increasing your Life Insurance, a gesture of this nature means a tremendous amount in the life of an Underwriter and I am deeply grateful.

Following on your request, I give below particulars regarding changing your two premiums from a monthly basis to an annual:

|                   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Annual</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Policy No.561 282 | £10.19.4.      | £124.2.6.     |
| Policy No.561 283 | 5.18.4.        | 67.0.0.       |

The change can be effected in March, the anniversary date of the policies, so please let me know if you wish to have this done.

As I am writing to you your new policy has just arrived so I am enclosing it herewith.

Sincerely,

  
T. B. Hylton

Encl:1  
TBH:GL