

P. O. Box 16
Kini Berkeley
7th Feb/46

Dear Col. Hunt

I was very pleased to hear from you after so many years as I had not forgotten your kindness, & help, during my stay with you at Schoonoord in 1929, in appreciation of which, I am sending you my Pedi publication. My last work in the field was in 1939, when war was declared, I was at a place called Spungabera Portuguese East Africa, as you will note from the enclosed press cutting, I am still hoping to make one last trip. My work among the Southern Tribes of Southern Africa is fairly complete, comprising as it does, the Zulus, Swazis, Bechuanas, Basuto, Ba Peki, Amantelate, Bavencla, Shengans of the N. Transvaal, & P. E. Africa, Ka Chopi

↳ VaKhoka P.E.A., Makbele & Mashona
S. Rhodesia, Southern Natal Tribes (6)
Nlubi, Xesibes, Bhacas, Ponds,
Pondomises, Sikas, Scalekas, Thembus,
Kunjos, Bomvanas, (Gwambos, ^{S. West} Hesenos,
Barotse, BaIla, Malunda, Balovale, &
Baluchazi N. Rhodesia, as well as
many Bushmen & Koranas.

The Tongas of Kaputa land adjoining
P.E.A. have also been photographed.
My chance meeting your daughter
at the Aerodrome was indeed
a welcome surprise, & so delightful,
inasmuch that she remembered me,
& my stay with you.

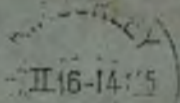
With kind regards to your wife

Yours sincerely
A. M. Duggan - Cronin

P.S. See 2nd page Pict. book for my
signature & photo.



SEND 53



Col. M. D. R. Hart

White Tables

Black Bridge

Maritzburg

Natal

Henry



Q 1655/ab7

5th Jan 45

Bantu Gallery Creator Plans "Last Trip"

Mr. Duggan-Cronin To Take His Camera To Belgian Congo

His dream of a complete photographic record of the Bantu tribes of Southern Africa realised, Mr. A. M. Duggan-Cronin, creator of the Bantu Gallery, which almost vies with the diamond industry in making Kimberley famous throughout the world, is determined to break entirely new ground in what he expects will be his last trip—this time to the Belgian Congo.

Mr. Cronin expressed this determination when interviewed yesterday by a representative of the Diamond Fields Advertiser.

Asked whether the tribes of the Belgian Congo would provide any special attraction, Mr. Cronin shrugged his shoulders and said he could not say what features would prove of especial value until he had visited the tribes there.

Apparently some of his friends had tried to persuade Mr. Cronin to tour Tanganyika territory in preference to the Belgian Congo. Mr. Cronin's mind, however, made up. In any case, he said, the roads are better in the Belgian Congo.

Photographing the tribes of the Belgian Congo would represent a new departure for Mr. Cronin, as up to 1919, when he made his last trip, he had photographed only the tribes of the Union and the Rhodesias. The native peoples of the Belgian Congo are central Africans rather than southern.

NO SUBSIDY

Mr. Cronin has been told that a trip out of the Union would not be subsidised by the Union Government. He will therefore have to finance the expedition himself. This he is quite prepared to do.

He was on the point of visiting the Belgian Congo at the outbreak of the war, but had to abandon his plans. He is now waiting for petrol and photographic supplies to return to normal.

Asked if he would use the same car that has taken him to out-of-the-way places throughout the Union, Mr. Cronin said he would in all probability have to secure a closed-in safari van for the trip.

"I must get away," he said. "During the war my only trips have been fund-raising efforts." The way Mr. Cronin spoke made it clear just what he meant by the word "effort."

SUCCESSFUL PARTIES

During the war Mr. Cronin's "efforts" to raise funds for various war-time organisations were particularly successful. Single-handed, he raised a total of £600 by his annual birthday parties at the Gallery and in addition raised other sums at exhibitions held in various parts of the Union.

In the meantime the Bantu Gallery, in its beautiful surroundings, remains one of the focal points of interest to visitors and to the world. It is noteworthy that a widely-circulated American geographical magazine has recently secured, through the Director of the Union Bureau of Information, 18 of Mr. Cronin's bushman studies for publication. The "African World" has also secured publishing rights over certain pictures in his collection.

The appearance of pictures like these in overseas magazines, and in the publications of the Cambridge University Press that deal exhaustively with Mr. Cronin's work, all serves to keep Kimberley's name in the eye of the world, and on the tourist map of the "globe-trotter."

A total of 18,395 people have signed the visitors' books at the Gallery since October of 1937. While the bulk of these visitors gave South Africa as their country of origin, hundreds said they were from Europe, the United States or other parts of the world.

Of interest is the fact that on an average of 2,000 people sign Mr. Cronin's visitors' book every year. In 1945, the total was 2,382, slightly less than the previous year's total which was record.

Naturally all visitors do not sign their names, nor do people sign when they pay a second, third or fourth visit.

WORLD TRAVELLERS

During 1945 there were visitors from Tristan da Cunha, Canada, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Northern Rhodesia, Portuguese East Africa, Namaqualand, Italy, British Angola, Jerusalem, South-West Africa, South America, East Africa, India, China, Eire, Switzerland, United States, Holland and Australia.

Mr. Cronin was asked during the interview to give an outline of the most outstanding features of the Gallery's activities during the year.

"My birthday party, held on May 17, in aid of the Air Force Drive, raised £151 7s.," he said with pride. "Several lectures have been held, notably one on the Bantu tribes given to the 'Three Arts Club'."

He had held an exhibition of Bantu studies in the Technical College Hall in Pretoria, and had addressed members of the South African Cultural Association. Two lectures had been given at the Gallery, one by Mr. Crutse on Bantu music, and one by Mr. Malunga on Bantu literature. Both lecturers were members of the Gore-Brown Native Training Institution staff.

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