

C. J. O. MOORHOUSE

199

Kelvin Grove Hotel,
Rosebank,
Johannesburg.

13th March, 1960

Dear Mr. Paton,

I was very pleased to meet you and Mrs. Paton the other day and to have the opportunity of discussing the literary venture I have in mind.

I have now made out a tentative list of the subjects which might comprise the book and would be most grateful for any comments and suggestions you may have time to make before I approach a publisher. Nothing is settled, of course, and in particular I am very conscious that the choice of authors needs further careful consideration. I intend to show my list to one or two friends here in Johannesburg within the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

James Moorhouse

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

16th March, 1960.

Dear Mr. Moorhouse,

Thanks for your letter of March 13. It is very hard to criticise your list of subjects. You are not attempting a comprehensive survey, therefore the list must be, I think, your own creation. I would just like to raise the following points:-

1. Should I write a commentary or a conclusion?
2. Perhaps I may write neither, because strangely enough, I have just written a portrait of an Afrikaner. Would you like to see it?
3. I do not really like Maphahlele's writing about white people. He has been hurt, and so he wants to hurt. I don't think he is a big enough person to undertake a job of this magnitude. Have you considered Professor Matthews? He is big enough for it.

Write again if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

PROPOSAL TO PUBLISH A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS
ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF
SOUTH AFRICA.

Title - not yet decided.

Suggested subjects and authors:

- 1. Commentary Alan Paton
- 2. Smuts - how great a man was he? Prof. Kirkwood or Sir Keith Hancock or
- 3. How able and how intelligent is the black man in South Africa? How does he compare with, say, the West African?
- 4. Portrait of an Afrikaner
- 5. The Church - is it so identified with white supremacy in the eyes of the African that it will cease to have any appeal for him? Archbishop Joost de Blank or Father Huddleston or Rt. Rev. Joe Webb or an African priest or
- 6. The white man through African eyes Ezekiel Mphahlele or
- 7. Britain - her contribution to South African economics Harry Oppenheimer or Sir Edmund Hall-Patch or
- 8. South Africa - a young ~~South~~ English South African's viewpoint Russell Denoon-Duncan or
- 9. What the rest of the world thinks

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