

2793, Pimville,  
Johannesburg.  
3rd. November 1960.

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

At the end of 1929 I submitted *The African Yearly Register MSS* to Messrs R. L. Essons & Co Ltd, Johannesburg, and as a result, an agreement was signed by Mr. Essons and myself. A portion of the letter of quotation is enclosed herein - unfortunately the other part was torn off and lost.

I am also enclosing copies of press reviews of the first edition of the book. You will, I believe agree that they are very good. The 1st edition of 6000 copies was published in 1930, and sold at 17/6 per copy. The following year, the late Dr. Rubusana and the late Mr. Sol. T. Plaatje prevailed on Mr. Essons to publish a cheaper edition, to enable everybody to buy the book. This was done and it sold at 7/6 per copy. By 1934 the book was sold out. Many came and appealed to me for the book, but I could not help them.

On account of the second World war, it became impossible to print another edition. But the demand for the book grew. Time and again progressive Africans and students requested me to revise and print the book. In the meantime R. L. Essons Printing works in Doornfontein was burnt down. In the fire I lost all my blocks, and some of my MSS. Worse still, Mr. Essons, who appreciated the work very much retired from business, and his successor was a man who never wanted the book to be printed by the firm. The demand for the book grew increasingly, until I decided to make an effort to have it printed. It is common knowledge that all Africans who had it, or saw it feel that it is a very necessary book.

I already have fresh matter. I am revising the old book, eliminating less important matter and adding most inspiring and as-authentic-as-possible facts in the new book. In the old book we have 44 biographies of important men from West, East, Central and North Africa including South Africa. It will be the most comprehensive book of its kind.

But I have no means of printing it. I am however satisfied from the experience of the first book, and also the number of advertisements we will get (like the Jewish who's who of Israel) that the cost of production will be nearly covered. Advertising Agencies with whom I have spoken are confident that I will get all the advertisements I need, provided I do not charge more than £50 a page. The circulation will be 10,000 copies.

I would like the book published in February or March 1961. To do this I have to work at top speed right now. I am submitting my case to you. I appeal to you for assistance. I have tried, in the attached appendage to show the importance, which I hope you will consider favourably.

*Particularly Note of high distinction*

favourably. The figure herein do not include the sales of the book, except a Possible 1000 who will forward application forms and remittance. The qualification for appearing in the who's who section, will be merit, achievements, and standard - money will not be the criterion.

I hereby ask the Trust to help me with £504. 10. 0. cash as shown in the attached appendage. The Printers charge £6500 to print 10000 copies of the book. But they are agreed to accept a Bank guarantee of £3500, the balance of £3000. to be paid from the proceeds after the book is published. This, too I shall be happy if the Trust gives it to my printers. I need it only because the printers will not start work without it. But it cannot be tendered before the book is published. When my office is opened we shall commence. The monies will be paid to the Trust or its nominee as stated above.

I realise that the Trust will require security if it grants me a loan. I am willing, even anxious that the one hundred advertisement money which amount to £5000 be paid direct to the Trust. The £3150 from applicants for space in the who's who, too, will be paid to the Trust, until the Trust is covered for all the money it advanced to me.

Whatever expense the Trust uncurs through assisting me, bookkeepers fees, etc. will be paid from the proceeds of the book. I hope it is understood that the Bank guarantee will not be submitted for payment by the printers before the book is published, by which time the money for advertisements and spaces in the who's who section shall have been paid. This I hope will not be later than March 1961. I would like some MSS to be in the press before the end of this month.

Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely yours

T. D. Mveli Skota

# BANTU WELFARE TRUST

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE SECRETARIES  
TELEPHONE 835-1781

TELEGRAMS: "UBUNTU"  
P.O. BOX 97  
JOHANNESBURG

16th November, 1960.

Ref: BWT/AH/2/9

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
2793, PIMVILLE.  
Johannesburg.

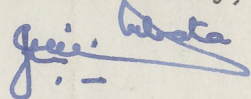
Dear Mr. Skota,

I write to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of the 3rd November in which you apply for financial assistance from the Trust towards the printing of your book the "African Yearly Register".

In order to enable us to submit a full report to the Trustees when placing your application before them, we shall appreciate it if you will call at our offices at 68 de Korte Street, Johannesburg, for a discussion of certain particulars in respect of your project. Please telephone, if possible, to arrange a more specific time of meeting.

We shall be pleased also if you will let us have a copy of either the original or the 1934 edition of your book for showing to the Trustees if they wish to inspect the work.

Yours faithfully,



J.C.M. Mbata (Asst. Secretary),  
pp.S.A.I.R.R.,  
SECRETARIES,  
BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

*copy*

2793, Pimville,  
Johannesburg.  
29th. November 1960

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

It is evident that the budget I sent you together with my application has some shortcomings. It is really because I do not want it to appear exorbitant, but I think the amended copy enclosed herein, is, perhaps more realistic.

Such items as Letterheads, Statement forms, Application forms will be cheaper because I will print them myself when I have the paper and ink.

After delivering 1000 copies to personality Subscribers (Applicants for space in the book); 100 copies for Advertising Agents - I understand some Agents have as many as three, four, and five branches in other towns, which branches might have found some advertisements for the book; 25 complimentary copies; 15 newspaper review copies, we shall have a balance of 8860 copies for sale at £2. 2. 0. per copy.

It is difficult to say at once, how many copies will be sent overseas. The postage for each copy in the Union will be, according to the weight (4lbs) 1/4 in the Union, and 3/- per copy outside the Union.

If you wish any further information, I shall be only too pleased to let you have it.

Again thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

T. D. Mwali Skota.

*(Sg 27) 20/11/60*

Mr. McIntire

20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1960

From Head Office  
S.F. Institute of R.R.

I had an informal talk with Mr. G. Lawrence of Int'l Co about Mr. Skott's book. Mr. Lawrence feels that he does not have enough information, and in view of the large sums of money involved, he would like to discuss the matter with Mr. Skott. If you can arrange for Mr. Skott to come to the Institute, Mr. Lawrence will be very glad to come round and have a discussion with him. This can be early in the New Year.

Director.

2793 Pimville

Johannesburg.

5<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1961

Dear Mr. Marquard,

Compliments of the season, On the advice of  
Mr Paul Mozalla, of Pimville,  
Johannesburg I wrote to you last  
month, the letter has been returned  
to me. I made a mistake with  
your box number. I wish to  
reproduce the African Register  
early this year. The demand <sup>for the book</sup> is  
wonderfully great. I have collected  
a lot of fresh matter. The book will  
be bigger and better than the ~~pre~~  
last two editions.

must, like its predecessor, cover the whole continent of Africa.

The advertisement pages will realize £5000, we are sure of over 3500 applications for space at a copy of the book the book will sell at £2.2 each

@ £2-3-0 per space. The Bank Guarantee need never be tendered as the adv. charge is payable on publication. The 3500

application, for who's who space must be accompanied by the remittance. All this money I propose must be paid direct to the Trust or its nominee together with interest and whatever fees are to be paid

to a nominee, if the Trust employs such a person. This is not a little elephant - the last two editions were sold out and are today out of print. The present edition comes at the proper time. It is 20 years since the last edition, and progress among the Africans in the whole continent has been double every time.

I hope you agree with the Mrs. Marquand.  
 When I went to see Mrs. Donaldson, the Chairman  
 of the B. & L. Trust Fund, she ~~was~~ phoned by  
 Comins, a Mrs. Donaldson, and told him  
 briefly about my mission and asked if he  
 thought the ask of £6500 was a fair price, Mrs  
 Donaldson the necessity is existing and Compelling  
 the European S. A. who said he thought the  
 price was fair.

If there is anything else you  
 would like to know, I shall be happy  
 to try and explain.



2793, Pimville,

Johannesburg

22nd. February 1961.

Mr. J. C. M. Mbata,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Following our conversation of yesterday, I wish to state that office rent, furniture, stationery, O. O. Box Phone, wages, travelling expense will be about £300. I hope to complete the work in four months. If I could get this sum the balance I would need later.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

T. D. Mveli Skota.

# BANTU WELFARE TRUST

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE SECRETARIES  
TELEPHONE 835-1781

TELEGRAMS: "UBUNTU"  
P.O. BOX 97  
JOHANNESBURG

1st March, 1961.

Ref: BWT/AH/2/9

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
2793 PIMVILLE,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Skota,

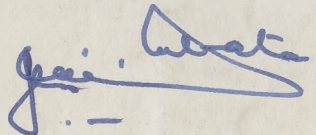
## APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

We enclose a cheque for six hundred rand (R600.00) being a part of the grant which the Trustees of The Bantu Welfare Trust agreed to give you.

The Trustees voted a sum of six hundred pounds (£600)/(R1200.00) to you, but decided that you be paid a portion of this amount to start with, and the remainder on a graded scale afterwards. You were to indicate how you wish the money to be paid to you. At your request, the first payment of £300 (R600.00) is made.

We shall appreciate it if you will let us have your receipt for the amount.

Yours sincerely,



J.C.M. Mbata (Asst. Secretary),  
pp. S.A.I.R.R.,  
SECRETARIES,  
BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

*Friday  
2:30 pm*

2793, Pimville,  
Johannesburg  
9th. March 1961

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herein please find receipt for three hundred pounds received by me on the 1st. March 1961. I understand that at some later date you will allow me a further three hundred in smaller portions. I have opened a banking account with the Chase Manhattan Bank. Due to the group arrears Act, I am finding some difficulty in getting an Office in Town.

I am indeed deeply grateful to you for the keen interest you have shown in my effort to get the cash required to print and publish the African Register, and I thank you very very much. I will at all times keep you informed of the progress I am making, and will not hesitate to come to you for advice whenever I need it, again thanking you,

Sincerely Yours,

T. D. Mveli Skota

P. O. Box 3210.

Macosa House,  
109, First Floor,  
17, Commissioner Street,  
Johannesburg.  
29th. June 1961.

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Inclosed herein please find a report showing how the £300 you were good enough to give me has been spent. I shall be very happy if you would kindly let me have some more money from the money that you said had been voted for me. My rent is due on Monday. Wages, office expense etc., and some money towards the purchase price of the Ferifax I told you about.

The work is getting on well, and from next week the African Press will have some articles about it.

I thank you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

T. D. Mveli Skota

*T. D. Mveli Skota*

AFRICAN REGISTER

EXPENDITURE

March 1961 to June 1961

	<u>Rent.</u>	<u>Furniture.</u>	<u>Stationery.</u>	<u>Stamps.</u>	<u>Travelling.</u>	<u>Clark &amp; Agent</u>	<u>Skot</u>
March	£II	2 Desks £14.	Envelopes)	£32.	£10	£54	£100
April	£II	3 Desk-	Paper )				
May	£II	chairs£7.10.	Pen and )				
June	£II	2 Type-	Pencils, )				
	£45.	writers£22.	Rules & ) £8.10.				
		Cartage £2.15.	Rubbers )				
		£ 46.5.	Dairy )				
			<u>Paper</u> £5. 10.				
			£14.0.				

£.	s.	d.
45.	0.	5.
46.	5.	0.
8.	10.	0.
5.	10.	0.
32.	0.	0.
10.	0.	0.
54.	0.	0.
100.	0.	0.
<u>£301.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>5.</u>

Since the beginning of May 2569 letters, Circular letters, and questionnaires have been sent all over the Country.

# BANTU WELFARE TRUST

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE SECRETARIES  
TELEPHONE 835-1781

TELEGRAMS: "UBUNTU"  
P.O. BOX 97  
JOHANNESBURG

Ref: BWT/AH/2/9.

//th July, 1961.

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
109, First Floor,  
Macosa House,  
17, Commissioner Street,  
J O H A N N E S B U R G.

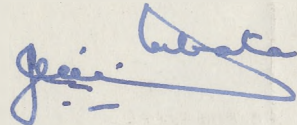
Dear Mr. Skota,

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

We enclose a cheque for two hundred rand (R200), being a further instalment of the grant made available to you by the Trust.

We shall appreciate it if you will let us have your receipt for the amount.

Yours sincerely,



pp J.C.M. Mbata, (Assistant Secretary.)  
S.A.I.R.R.  
SECRETARIES,  
BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

2nd. August 1961.

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Fund,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Financial Assistance.

Herein please receive a receipt for the cheque of the amount of two hundred rand (R200-00) made out in my favour by the Bantu Welfare Fund, for which I thank you. I have only just discovered that I had not made out the receipt, please forgive me for the error.

Yours sincerely,

  
T. D. Mveli Skota

3rd. November 1961

Mr. Q. White,  
Director, S.A.I.R.R.,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

I write in the hope that you have returned and that your health, as a result of the change and rest, has much improved. It would be wrong for me to burden you with my affairs just now, when I know your time is taken up with many important matters that have accumulated during your unavoidable absence. I have therefore posted some papers to Mr. Mbata, who will, when there is an opportunity, show them to you. I informed Mr. Mbata, that Mr. Chocho, Field Officer of the Afamal Advertisement Agency of the Schlesinger Organisation, told me that his office said - "If Mr. White will write them a letter about the African Register, along the lines of a letter by Mr. Walton, they would undertake to get the Advertisements for the book. The letter by Mr. Walton referred to is enclosed in papers I sent to Mr. Mbata.

Mr. Pogrund, a reporter of the Rand Daily Mail was here a few days ago. He told me that one of the responsible men of the Rand Daily Mail told him that they will take a full page for advertisement in the African Register. He further told me that this gentleman was anxious to see me, and that on his return from a short trip he is taking, Mr. Pogrund would have to take me to him as he wishes to discuss the publication of the book. He may be back next week. I will let you know.

I have sent in a statement showing how the last instalment you so kindly gave me has been spent. May I have a further instalment please. Above all else, my rent is worrying me. Richard Currie is very quick with his order of ejection when rents have not been paid by the 7th. of each month. It is therefore very urgent. I hope to complete the compilation before the end of Decemoer. Thanking you for past favours and wishing you the best of health, I am, dear Sir,  
Sincerely yours,

T. D. Mweli Skota



- letter from
1. U.S.A. information office
  2. United Kingdom - "
  3. Bishop Zulu
  4. Teacher on 20 Sept papers
  5. Manager of org. who has account for book

3rd. November 1961.

Mr. J. C. M. Mbata,  
Assistant Secretary, S.A.I.R.R.,  
Secretaries, Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Mbata,

I hope you are well. I wonder if Mr. White has return, if he has, I hope his health has improved. If you will be good enough, will you kindly acquaint him that I have not quite completed the MMS of the African Register - due to the unrest in the Rhodesias, Nyasaland and other Countries up north. Correspondence has not come in as it should. Some letters have been opened. But there is a big improvement since last month. I hope to close the compilation before the end of December.

You will see from a sheet of paper enclosed herein how the cheque you so kindly gave me has been used. I am now out of pocket and my rent is the most urgent thing I have to settle, so please be so good and ask Mr. White to help me once more. If possible, please let me have it early next week, certainly not later than the 7th. inst.

I am sending you some of the matter that is being sent in just to show you the type of matter we get. Please let me have them back, I have taken them out of the files.

Mr. Chocho, who is doing responsible work for the Afamal (Schlesinger Organisation) informs me that his office told him that if Mr. White would write them a letter along the lines of the enclosed letter by Mr. Walton, they would get the required advertisements for the Register. They saw Mr. Walton's letter.

Mr. Pogrand of the Rand Daily Mail, came to the office and informed me that he was told by a top man in the Rand Daily Mail that they are going to take a full page Advertisement in the book. What is more, he ask Mr. Pogrand to arrange to bring over when he returns possibly next week or the following week, to discuss about the publication of the Register. Mr. Pogrand would not tell me more, but he said he sure there is something good waiting for me. I said I would not decide without first informing Mr. White.

Please

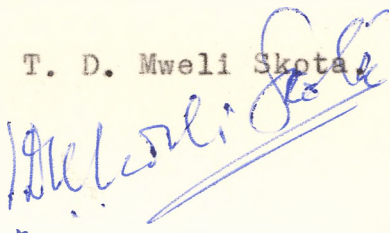
2.

please Mr. Mbata, do let me have the papers I am now sending you. I would not be able to replace them if they are lost. I mean the papers I took out of the files.

Please ask Mr. White to help me as soon as possible, the rent people (Richard Currie) will not wait. I thank you in advance,

Sincerely yours.

T. D. Mveli Skota



# African Reporter

DEPARTMENTAL BUREAU OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

BEING AN ILLUSTRATED NATIONAL WHOSE WHO OF THE BLACKFOUR

11 Commissioner Street  
Johannesburg

2nd. May 1962.

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Re loan of R12000

To date I have received from the Bantu Welfare Trust sums of money as follows:-

March to June 1961	.	.	.	.	R600. 00.
July to Oct ..	.	.	.	.	200. 00.
Nov. to Jan. 1962	.	.	.	.	200. 00.
Jan. to April ..	.	.	.	.	30. 00.
					<u>R1030. 00.</u>

As I am at the tail-end of my work here, the main thing now is to prepare for the printing of the book, therefore for the next month or two I will require only office rent. Office expense I think, I will manage. As my rent is due already I shall be much obliged to you if you will be good enough and let me have a further sum of R30. 00. If, however there is no satisfactory way of printing the book., I will be obliged to hand it to a firm of publishers. Thanks in advance,

Yours sincerely

T. D. Mveli Skota

# African Register

Copy

25th. April 1962.

Mr. Quintin Whyte, Secretary,  
Bantu Trust Fund,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Last statement I sent you was in October. I am preparing one which you will have soon. But I understand from Mr. Mbata that you are having a meeting of the Bantu Trust Fund on the 26th. in which you wish to report on my progress. I am therefore sending you this letter.

In 1961 I applied to the Bantu Trust Fund for a loan to enable me to compile and edit the third edition of the African Register. The Bantu Trust Fund very kindly and generously allowed me one thousand two hundred rands. The first cheque of six hundred rands I received in March 1961. In July I received R200.00, In November I received R200.00, In January 1962 I received R60, so that of the One thousand two hundred rands, I have received in all one thousand and sixty rands, leaving to my credit one hundred and forty rands.

I opened and furnished an Office in Macosa House, Commissioner Street in March 1961. Since then 7500 letters have been posted to people throughout the Republic of South Africa; British South African Territories; the Rhodesian Federation; North, East, West and central Africa; England, France, Belgium and the United States of America.

In many cases, on account of the change of addresses, I have had to send to new addresses. Some letters have been returned marked "left or dead" I employed men to visit likely subscribers. But shortly after the publication of the second edition of the African Register (1932), there was a racket in which certain people (whites, Africans and Indians) at different times, went about collecting money for a "Who's who" that never appeared, naturally people became suspicious. We had no connection with these opportunists who went collecting money. When would-be subscribers were told that we do not collect money before the book is published, they became interested and co-operative.

My MSS are almost complete, but I am expecting some very important matter from up North. I hope to be ready to go to press in two months, certainly not later than three months.

I have, however, one great worry. It is the production of the book. The Rand Daily Mail informed me that publishers would on a Royalty give me only 10% on books sold. So that even if 10,000 copies are sold, I would get not much more than R2000.00. I have therefore ruled out the publishers, because when the book is published / I must

I must get enough money to pay back the loan, and have enough money to print following editions.

Printers quotations to print 10,000 copies of the book are too high. The cheapest quoted me R13,400.00. This is a first class printer.

I approached two firms that sell Litho. Printing machines. They both told me that the book could be printed on their machines as good as on any other good machine. Each firm offered me a first class European operator from their firms. One firm sells their machines at R3700, the other sells at R4944. The operator could complete the printing of the book in one month at a wage of R240. The machines do not take much space. They are a little bigger than an office desk. Mr. Kruger, one of the best bookbinders in Johannesburg quoted me R2000 for binding 10,000 copies of the book. The quotation of these machines include full maintenance contract (four quarterly service). These machines are British made.

I would like you to know these people, and see if business could be done with them.

From the beginning my desire has always been to have as many advertisements as possible, so that I could be able, quite apart from the sales of the book, to pay back the loan, and be in a financial position to pay for the fourth and later editions without having to raise a loan again.

Mr. Walton of the Rand Daily Mail, and a Mr. Kruger, one of the chief men of the Afamal Advertising Contractors agreed that 100 rands a page, would be a reasonable figure. I decided that 100 pages be reserved for advertisements. The Afamal is one of Mr. Schlesinger's concern. I have been told that they are willing to canvass for all the advertisements, if they could get a few letters written somewhat like a letter that Mr. Walton sent me. I presume these letters are needed to convince their clients. I may mention that the machines mentioned above are sold to some of the biggest Printers in Johannesburg and the Government Printers in Pretoria.

I have asked, and am expecting the letters required, from Mrs. Ballenger, Mrs. MacPherson, ex Johannesburg Mayor, Dr. Webb and a few others.

I would be much relieved if you would be good enough and allow me a further R30, though this is not enough to cover my office rent which is R22.00 and office expense. I hope, however to be able in future to devise means that should enable me to carry on without having to worry you for money.

The time is at hand when you will realise that in giving me this wonderful assistance, you are doing a great service to the whole of Africa, as I verily believe the African Register will be a mighty monument and an indispensable source of valuable information, believe me, Sir,

Sincerely yours,

T.D.Mweli Skota



# African Register

AN ILLUSTRATED NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY (WHO'S WHO) OF AFRICANS IN AFRICA

109, FIRST FLOOR  
MACOSA HOUSE.  
17, COMMISSIONER STR.,  
JOHANNESBURG  
SOUTH AFRICA

Extracts taken from Press reviews of the first edition of this book.  
RAND DAILY MAIL, FRIDAY 30th. OCTOBER 1931

An amazing book--amazing is the only word for it - has just appeared in Johannesburg. It is called "The African Yearly Register, a sober title for a fascinating, factful, instructive, pathetic and often amusing volume, which is sub-entitled "National Biographical Dictionary (Who's who) of the Black Folk of Africa. The interest of the book is as compelling and continuous as a crime thriller. We read of Dr. Wilmot Blayden, a West African author who was deeply versed in English, French, German, Italian, Arabic, Latin, Hebrew, and Greek; of Veldtman Bikitshe who for his service to the British was promoted Captain, and who saved an Officer from a wounded lion by catching it by the tail, overpowering and killing it. There is, too, the story of Samuel Adjai Crowther, a slave boy once sold for a case of tobacco, who became the first African Bishop of the Church of England, for whose consecration in Canterbury Cathedral special trains were run to take the crowds of spectators from London. Proud mention is made of a large number of Solicitors, Teachers, Ministers and others. The life of one of these, Dr. A. B. Xuma of Johannesburg is an astonishing and inspiring record of determination. To get money to continue his studies and pay the fees he owed, he worked at furnaces in coal yards, stables, and milking cows, grooming horses, as a waiter and a builders hand. He holds the degrees M.D., B.Sc., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., etc., He became the vice-President of the All African Convention, and later President of the African National Congress (now Banned)

DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER 10th. NOVEMBER 1931.

The book reflect credit on editor and contributors alike. The book should serve two useful purposes. In the first place it will hearten the natives its narrative of what men of their own blood are doing and have done. In the second it will impress on European opinion the "urge" for education and culture and their cheerful acceptance of heavy sacrifices to attain their ambition of service to their kind. Mr. Skota's preface makes a good point of the inclination of the many historians to record the "very Worst" of the Africans they deal with. The result is obvious. "Young children reading in their school books that their Kings and Ancestors were murders, traitors, theives, are tempted to feel ashamed of them". The Register will do something to counteract this inferiority complex - more especially the unsigned article of the present King of Nigeria" which contains the following suggestive passage: When Alexander the Great was adding victory upon victory, and sweeping through Babylon, Cadul, Chaeronia and Gaza, and learning the rudiments of Government at the feet of Aristotle, the Philosopher; when the Western world was only beginning to find its feet and commencing to mould a civilisation for the first time, Ethiopia was in its glory and had reached such perfection in its civilisation that its culture flourished and dominated the world 450 yeras before.

SUNDAY TIMES, NOVEMBER 1931

That Tshaka, like William the Conqueror, was a great man nobody can doubt, and to state that he was a cruel King is to pay a man who broke virgin ground and founded a nation the poorest compliment. This is one of nasty knocks at schoolbook notions of South African history contained in a remarkable volume just published in Johannesburg. The book is "The African Yearly Register," a combined who was who, who's who and Directory of the Black people of the Continent of Africa, written entirely by themselves. No one who is concerned as to the solution of South Africas most urgent problem, the native question, can afford not to read this book. It is a revelation and every bit as engrossing as a novel.

14th. August 1962.

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

On the 1st. March 1961 your Trust granted me a loan of R1200.00 which it proposed to give me in instalments, thus the first instalment of R600.00 was handed to me the same day. In July I received R200.00, in November I received R200.00. In January of this year 1962 I received R30.00, in May I received a further instalment of R30.00. Thereafter I have not received any money.

The above money has been spent in the execution of the work of compiling the African Register in the following manner:-

Office Rent from March 1961 to May 1962 @ R22 per month	R 330.
Office furniture	R 92.
Mr. Maqupu, Agent - clerk	R 120.
Other service	R 60.
Travelling, Transvaal, O.F.S. and Basutoland	R 74.
Letterheads, Stationery, papers, Stamps	R 114.
Self (allowance)	R 230.
Petty cash	R 10.
	<u>R 1030.00</u>

I am gratified by the amount of matter I have been able to get in, but I never knew it would take so long. I am not through yet because I am expecting a list from all the new sovereign States in the north, showing their Cabinets. I am therefore embarking on a Provincial publication that will be out shortly. I am making all the necessary arrangements for it. I hope to get money from it to pay back the loan you so graciously allowed me. I will continue compiling the African Register, but I just must have money, especially as I have to get together the R14000.00 to print the Register. All publishers I have approached say that if they were to take over the

2.

the Manuscripts for printing, I would be entitled to a Royalty of only 10%. To this I cannot agree, as I would not have enough money from the book to continue my work. Hence I am moving heaven and earth to be in a position of handing the manuscripts to a printer and pay him his money. I have every hope of succeeding, and I promise to give you more information soon. But the loan is the first thing I must pay, and that soon, very soon. Believe me,

Sincerely yours

T. D. Mwelí Skota



- COPY -

12th Oct., 1962.

Ref: BWT/AH/2/9.

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
P.O. Box 3210,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Skota,

The Trustees of the Bantu Welfare Trust will appreciate it if you will call at the offices of the Chairman, Mr. E.J. Donaldson, 310 Standard Bank Chambers, 46 Marshall Street, cor. Ferreira Street, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, 16th October, 1962, at 2.30 p.m., to discuss your "Africa Register" project.

Please be prepared to make available all the information you have on the progress made up to now.

Yours sincerely,

J.C.M. Mbata (Asst. Secretary),  
p.p. S.A.I.E.R.  
SECRETARIES,  
BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

AN ILLUSTRATED NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY (WHO'S WHO) OF THE  
BLACK FOLKS OF THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA

**A F R I C A N R E G I S T E R**

TELEPHONE:  
P.O. BOX 3210.  
JOHANNESBURG.

EDITORIAL OFFICES:  
ROOM 109,  
FIRST FLOOR, MACOSA HOUSE,  
17, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

17th. October 1962.

Mr. J. C. M. Mbata,  
Asst. Secretary S.A.I.R.R.,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Mbata,

I received your letter of the 12th. inst. in which you advised that I see Mr. Donaldson at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday the 16th. with all information on the progress I have made up to now. At this time I was still busy with the Afamal and Mr. Cope of Price Brothers, who were introduced to me by Dr. Steyfler when he was here last. Knowing that I would not be able to place before Mr. Donaldson a complete report, I phoned him and informed him of your letter. I asked him to postpone the interview for a week, so that I could have everything in hand, he agreed and asked me to inform you, and to phone as soon as I am ready. I then phoned you to say I had asked Mr. Donaldson to postpone the interview .

I am hoping that next week I shall be able to inform both you and Mr. Donaldson.

Yours sincerely,

T. D. Mwelí Skota

# BANTU WELFARE TRUST

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE SECRETARIES  
TELEPHONE 835-1781

TELEGRAMS: "UBUNTU"  
P.O. BOX 97  
JOHANNESBURG

Ref: BWT/AH/2/9.

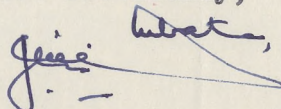
21st November, 1962.

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
P.O. Box 3210,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Skota,

This is to remind you that you undertook to let the Chairman and the Secretaries of the Trust know as soon as you were ready to report on the progress you have made with the "African Register".

Yours faithfully,



J.C.M. Mbata (Asst. Secretary)  
p.p. S.A.I.R.R.,  
SECRETARIES,  
BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

3rd. January 1964

The Secretary,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

I have just received a Summons issued by the Robert Shapiro Trust for Bantu Health and Training, through Attorney Solomon Aronsohn. You had not asked me to return your money, and I have not refused to pay it back. Summons or no Summons, I shall pay it back as soon as my book is published. Your kind deed I shall never forget. I have no intentions of not returning your money.

It has been very difficult to find a suitable printer and publisher. That has caused the delay.

believe me, yours truly

T. D. Mveli Skota

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT AND UNDERTAKING

I, the undersigned,

T.D. MWELI SKOTA

care of "African Register", 109 First Floor,  
Macosa House, 17 Commissioner Street, JOHANNESBURG,

do hereby acknowledge myself to be truly and lawfully indebted unto and in favour of the Bantu Welfare Trust of Johannesburg in an amount of R934-75 (Nine hundred and thirty-four Rand seventy-five Cents) being the balance due by me in respect of monies lent and advanced to me by the said Bantu Welfare Trust.

I hereby agree and undertake to pay the aforesaid sum of R934-75 in the manner and subject to the conditions stated below :-

- (a) Payment of the sum of R50-00 (Fifty Rand) on the 7th day of May, 1964.
- (b) Payment of the sum of R100-00 (One Hundred Rand) on the 7th day of June, 1964.
- (c) Payment of the sum of R784-75 (Seven Hundred and Eighty-Four Rand Seventy-Five Cents) on the 7th day of July, 1964.
- (d) In addition to the aforesaid sum of R934-75 I hereby agree and undertake to pay the collection charges in respect thereof amounting to the sum of R28-50 (Twenty-Eight Rand and Fifty Cents) on the 7th day of July, 1964.
- (e) I hereby choose as my "domicilium citandi et executandi" for all purposes the address set out above.
- (f) All payments due hereunder are to be made at the offices of William Aronohn, Attorneys of Johannesburg.
- (g) It is a term and condition hereof that should any of such instalments not be forthcoming on due date the full balance owing hereunder as at the date of such default and from whatsoever cause arising shall immediately become due and payable without notice.

DATED at JOHANNESBURG this 9th day of MARCH, 1964.

AS WITNESSES :

1.

2.

William Aronsohn

W. ARONSOHN  
S. ARONSOHN  
A. E. B. GOODMAN

P. O. BOX 3831

PHONE 33-5241

ST. ANDREW'S BUILDING.

o/o COMMISSIONER & RISSIK STREETS.

Johannesburg

10th June, 1964.

SOLICITORS  
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

TEL. ADDRESS: "KENTARON"

OUR REF. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. A. Goodman/CS.

YOUR REF. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. T.D. Mveli Skota,  
c/o Messrs. African Register,  
109, First Floor,  
Macosa House,  
17 Commissioner Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

re: THE BANTU WELFARE TRUST versus YOURSELF.

With reference to our interview of the 20th ultimo we have to advise you that our clients are prepared to put forward the commencing date of the payment to be made by you to the 7th day of July, 1964, subject to the following terms and conditions :-

- (a) that you call at our offices within a period of seven (7) days from the date hereof for the purpose of signing a new Acknowledgment of Debt and Undertaking;
- (b) that the costs of such new Acknowledgment of Debt and Undertaking together with the stamp duty payable thereon be borne by you. Such costs to be in addition to any other costs for which you have previously accepted liability.

Kindly treat this matter as urgent.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM ARONSOHN

per: 

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT AND UNDERTAKING.

I, the undersigned,

T.D. MWELI SKOTA

care of "African Register", 109 First Floor,  
Macosa House, 17 Commissioner Street, JOHANNESBURG,

do hereby acknowledge myself to be truly and lawfully indebted unto and in favour of the Bantu Welfare Trust of Johannesburg in an amount of R934-75 (Nine hundred and thirty-four Rand seventy-five Cents) being the balance due by me in respect of monies lent and advanced to me by the said Bantu Welfare Trust.

I hereby agree and undertake to pay the full amount of R934-75 to the said Bantu Welfare Trust on the 28th day of February, 1965, subject to the conditions stated below :-

- (a) In addition to the aforesaid sum of R934-75 I hereby agree and undertake to pay the collection charges in respect thereof amounting to the sum of R28-50 (Twenty-Eight Rand and Fifty Cents) on the 28th day of February, 1965;
- (b) The remission of any instalment or grant of any concession or condonation of any breach of the terms and conditions hereof or any other act of relaxation, indulgence or grace on the part of the Bantu Welfare Trust shall not be deemed to be a waiver by the said Bantu Welfare Trust of any of its rights hereunder or be construed as a novation hereof and shall be without prejudice to any of the said Bantu Welfare Trust's rights hereunder;
- (c) I hereby choose as my "domicilium citandi et executandi" for all purposes the address set out above;
- (d) All payments due hereunder are to be made at the offices of William Aronschn, Attorneys of Johannesburg;
- (e) It is a term and condition hereof that should any of such instalments not be forthcoming on due date the full balance owing hereunder as at the date of such default and from whatsoever cause arising shall immediately become due and payable without notice.

DATED at JOHANNESBURG this 18th day of NOVEMBER, 1964.

AS WITNESSES :

1.

---

2.

# SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

HEAD OFFICE: AUDEN HOUSE, 68 DE KORTE STREET, JOHANNESBURG 2001

REGIONAL OFFICES AND BRANCHES IN

CAPE TOWN, DURBAN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON, GRAHAMSTOWN, PIETERMARITZBURG AND QUEENSTOWN

PRESIDENT: DR. BERNARD FRIEDMAN  
DIRECTOR: F.J. VAN WYK

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE DIRECTOR.

P.O. BOX 97,  
JOHANNESBURG. 2000  
TELEGRAMS: UBUNTU  
TELEPHONE: 724-4441/5

BY HAND

22 Sunvalley,  
P.O. Klipspruit,  
SOWETO.  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Skota,

Reuben Denge has just returned from visiting you. He tells me that you have asked him to return tomorrow (today) in order that you might visit your ~~niece~~ <sup>together</sup>. I believe that you would like to meet ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> in order to straighten out some of the problems concerning the reproduction of photographs from your invaluable book. I would like very much indeed to meet you, not only to straighten out any difficulties with the photographs but also to have a general discussion with you. I hope that such a meeting will be possible in the near future but I am afraid I cannot meet you tomorrow as I have meetings from 1,00 p.m. to about 3,00 p.m. and cannot therefore meet you with Reuben tomorrow between 12,00 p.m. and 2,00 p.m. I am sorry about this but if you would suggest a convenient time next week I shall make sure that I come.

In the meantime, may I assure you that none of the photographs we would like to use from your book, will be used without your permission. We made ~~a~~ copy of the group photographs only ~~to~~ assist us in identifying the individuals in the photographs. The reproduction will not be used for any purpose, other than identifying individuals, without your permission.

Please be assured of that.

Yours sincerely,



Jeanette Curtis,  
ARCHIVIST.



# SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

HEAD OFFICE: AUDEN HOUSE, 68 DE KORTE STREET, JOHANNESBURG 2001

REGIONAL OFFICES AND BRANCHES IN

CAPE TOWN, DURBAN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON, GRAHAMSTOWN, PIETERMARITZBURG AND QUEENSTOWN

PRESIDENT: DR. BERNARD FRIEDMAN  
DIRECTOR: F.J. VAN WYK

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE DIRECTOR.

P.O. BOX 97,  
JOHANNESBURG. 2000  
TELEGRAMS: UBUNTU  
TELEPHONE: 724-4441/5

BY HAND

20th August, 1975.

Mr. M. Skota,  
22 Sunvalley,  
P.O. Klipspruit,  
Pimville,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Skota,


Two weeks ago, my assistant, Reuben Denge, contacted you about the photographs in your excellent book, 'Africa Who's Who'. We have been co-operating with Gwendolyn Carter of Northwestern University, United States of America, in attempting to compile an up-to-date biographical collection of African leaders in South Africa. It is intended that this book should form the fourth volume in the series 'From Protest to Challenge: Documents of African Politics in South Africa, 1882-1964'.

A photographer has indicated that he will be prepared to reproduce photographs from the 1966 edition of your book but we obviously cannot go ahead without your permission to reproduce the photographs and it is for this reason that I am now writing to you.

Clearly, if your permission is received to reproduce the photographs, all the photographs used would be acknowledged. In addition, Professor Carter who is editing the 'From Protest to Challenge' series would like to present you with the full series.

If you do wish to give your consent to this request, could you let us have written permission very soon as we are very pressed for time at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jeanette Curtis,  
ARCHIVIST.

**Collection Number: A1618**

**Collection Name: T.D. Mveli SKOTA Papers, 1930-1974**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive

*Location:* Johannesburg

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