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Flat 1
7a Bird St.
Port Elizabeth.

Dear Nat,

An immediate reply to your letter to correct the quite erroneous interpretation you put upon my silence. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am delighted with your handling of my play. The only criticism I have to make — and I make it knowing that you want it — is that I would have appreciated some indication of the position of the extract in the whole play — i.e. that it is the second [and complete] scene in the 1st Act. A small point I know but I do feel it would have helped orientate the reader.

For the rest — Well Done Man! and I really mean this. A friend of ours down here whose opinion I think counts for a lot rates The Classic as the most exciting and significant quarterly on the S.A. literary scene. After reading your copy he sent away a subscription immediately.

I am sure you would be interested in the gist of his praise for your effort. Firstly it was surprise that material — poems and stories — of the calibre published in Classic were being written in this country — I think by this he meant the matured and objective "looking at ourselves" reflected in the pages of The Classic. But he was possibly even more surprised to see that this material had found an appreciative editor — a feather in your cap.

1.
We are now planning our next production
Wayzack by George Buchner. This is going to be
it! If I can realize the images forming in my
mind we will present some thing unlike anything
G.A has ever seen. I'm using a 'Jazz' combo
in this production — in fact it will most
probably be more of a musical than a straight
play.

Do keep in touch Nat. I think P.E.
is ready for some thing — and should figure in the
pages of The Classic.

To repeat — go ahead and print your excerpt(s)
from my new play.

Attal.

Mr. Athol Fugard,
Flat Number 1,
7(a) Bird Street,
Port Elizabeth.

29th August, 1963

Dear Athol,

For a very long time now I have hoped that you would make an appearance here in Johannesburg, but it seems you have no such intention. Apart from generally wanting to see you I wanted to discuss various ideas in connection with The Classic.

I gathered from one or two people that you have seen The Classic that you are not too disgusted with it. This bit of information has prompted me to presume that I can take a few liberties on you. For one thing we have intended to publish excerpts from your new play. As I have just realised, however, that nobody has bothered to contact you to get your permission for this sort of thing I am now doing so. We now have only a few days before we go to press. I wonder if you would be kind enough to write back to me saying whether you have any objection to me publishing an excerpt or two from your play "People Are Living There". A letter or telegram stating your attitude to this matter within the next nine days would be greatly appreciated.

This part of the letter should really be read by your wife, Shiela. I remember that a long time ago in your flat in Hillbrow, Shiela showed Lewis and I a draft copy of a novel which sounded very worthwhile. Apparently she had not completed writing this novel but intended to do so. Whether she has finished writing this novel or not I should be very pleased to see parts or all of whatever she has done so far, with a view to publishing that in the second issue of The Classic which is due out in September. Should she only have one copy of the script I would gladly undertake to pay the cost which she may incur for having it typed out in P.E. before it is sent up here. This way we could avoid the risk of the original copy of the manuscript going astray on its way here.

Needless to say, if Shiela or yourself have material other than what I have asked for here which you would like to contribute to The Classic, I shall be very glad to see it. I am afraid I must cut this letter short as I have to get to the Printers quickly. Can you please treat this as something of an SOS. Best wishes,

Part Elizabethan.
Flat 1
7a Bird St.

Dear Nat,

Under the circumstances — unless I wanted to be a real bastard — there is nothing for me to say except: Go ahead and print. In truth I am delighted that an excerpt from the play is to appear in *The Classic*. Your magazine has my most fervent moral support. I would however have appreciated a earlier notice of your intentions. Which section of the play do you intend printing? Could you drop me a line and let me know? I'm very interested.

Could you also forward me a copy of the last and new issue of *The Classic*? None of the bookshops down here — including the C.N.A. — stocked your last issue. I know this for a fact because Sheila tried very hard to get a copy locally but without success. You should really do some thing about this. I'm sure you'd sell copies locally.

Sheila will definitely respond to your request for a contribution. She is just in the point of finishing a second and I think better novel. So expect some thing from her in the course of the next few weeks.

The enclosed cutting will tell you some thing of my activity down here. I spend my ~~night~~ ^{days} writing but at night I work with the New Brighton group mentioned in the crit.

2.

Please take all this gushing praise very seriously. The man (and myself) merit it. Incidentally he is himself a writer of merit [unpublished] and it might be in The Classic's best interest to drop him a line - that is if you are looking for material. I have urged him to submit to you, but he's rather reticent. He is the lecturer in psychology at the local branch of Rhodes University.

P. Du.PREEZ

Dept. Psychology.

Rhodes Univ.

P.E Branch

Bird St.

Port Elizabeth.

One other point. The Classic is quite obviously being read abroad. An American [Broadway] producer has written asking to send a full copy of People Are Living There - mentioning that his interest had been aroused by the extract he'd read in your magazine.

So there. Give me a week to shake off these depressing Christmas & New Year festivities when I will write again.

At that.

P.S.
What I have in mind is this. I have
promised Professor Mahood [English Dept]
of the University College Dar Es Salaam
a monograph reviewing the S.A. theatre
scene. If you were interested I could
send you the carbon copy.

Anyway. Good luck again.

Atthal

P.P.S.

The cheque [I almost forget]

A God send.

Biggest thank you of the lot

A.

Mr. Athol Fugard,
Flat Number 1,
7(a) Bird Street,
Port Elizabeth.

13th September, 1963

Dear Athol,

Thank you very much for allowing me to use part of your play.

I am very sorry that I have taken so long to write back and answer your question as to which part of the play I want to publish. It is still not clear in my mind just which part I want, because this is a difficult matter to decide upon. I shall, however, try and pick a part which can more or less stand on its own without being out of context. If you have any suggestions in this regard they will, ofcourse, be welcome.

We have had to postpone our going to press for various reasons, among them that there are still a few outstanding contributions which I am waiting for. If by any chance Sheila has anything ready in the next few days, please ask her to send it this way.

I shall write to you properly soon giving you an idea as to what our next issue will contain.

Thank you very much.

Flat 1,

Regina Mansions,

7A, Bird Street,

PORT ELIZABETH.

15th Sep. 1963.

Dear Nat,

Enclosed please find two extracts with introduction and linking passage between the sections.

I cannot part with the whole novel at the moment as I'm still working on certain sections. It's still really not finished, and I think, will need another draft. The sections I have sent you are fairly well worked on, and will be kept the same for the final MS.

If you are at all interested in what I have sent you, and would like to use part or the whole, please check with me beforehand. I would not like either of the sections to be broken up, though I would not mind either of them being used separately.

Should you use the material it must appear under my maiden name - SHEILA MEIRING.

Also - this is important. Please send a copy of your first issue. Athol saw a copy in Johannesburg some months ago, but I have never set eyes on your magazine. It is just not sold in P.E. Also a few copies please of your forthcoming issue with Athol's new play in it. Both he and I are interested to see it. We will pay for all copies received.

Kind regards from us both,

Sincerely,


SHEILA FUGARD.

Nov. 28, 1963

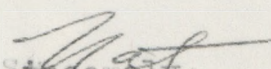
Dear Sheila,

This is a dreadful moment for me. I had hoped to publish something from you because I feel quite certain that you once showed Lewis and I some good stuff you wrote in Hillbrow.

I went through the extracts from "A Time Between Tides" and, somehow, failed to like them.

As a result, I am sending them back to you herewith and hope you may find something else in your bag and send it to us.

I am also sending you two copies of our second issue as requested. Please let me know how you feel about this issue because, heaven knows, we need criticism desperately.


Sincerely,

Nathaniel Akasa

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