

✓

From: Benjamin Pogrand,
304 Dorosa,
Van der Merwe Street,
Hillbros,
J. HANDBOOKING.

20th December, 1966.

REGISTERED

Mr Robert M. Sobukwe,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gaol,
Robben Island,
VIA CAPE TOWN.

My dear Bob,

I was in Cape Town briefly over the past weekend, and my thoughts were much with you. I drove to Sea Point on Saturday afternoon, and from De Waal Drive looked across at the Island, wondering how you were and what you were doing. I so much wished that I could see you again. With the New Year coming, you have, however, a great deal of joy to look forward to with the arrival of your entire family in Cape Town. I know that it will be a happy trip for everyone.

With the aid of Ernie and Jill and a number of other friends, I shall be sending to your wife and children this week an assortment of gifts to brighten Xmas day. I thought you would like to know this.

Since last writing to you I have posted to you another batch of study books:

Taylor: The course of German history
Pares: A history of Russia
Trevelyan: English social history, Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4.

I have been advised that Whyte: Evolution of modern Italy, is being sent to me shortly, but that Pascal: Growth of modern Germany is out of print.

Will you please let me know whether there are any other study books which you need?

Also sent off last week, via Recordia of Johannesburg, was a batch of six records, which come to you from me, Jill and Ernie and other friends. As you will see, they are a selection of Beethoven, Bach, Mozart and Haydn. These are all records which I like, so I have naturally assumed that they will be to your taste also. Will you let me know whether you want more in the same strain? I hope,

by the way, that your record player is still in good shape and that it gives you reasonable reproduction of all this music.

I took down with me to Cape Town some other things for you, but I was there so briefly that I was unable to deliver them to the Island ferry boat. I shall be flying down again on December 28, remaining there until January 15, and will deliver the goods then. They are:

Books:

Thompson: Not as a stranger
Coward: Seven stories
Devenport: Of Lena Geyer
Marshall: The south of the falling leaves
Wilson: Jazz
Dodd: Principles of world business
Wiley: John Barroughs' America
Brooks: The seven fat years
Melville: Short novels
Dana: Two years before the mast
Bulfinch: The age of fable
Bliss: Marketing and the behavioural sciences
Bittle: The boy in the pool
Dye, Moore and Holly: Economics
Argosy short story magazine: 8 issues.

As always, a very mixed bag, some of which at least I hope will be to your taste. I have been sending down numbers of Argosy magazine without knowing whether you really like them. I find them ideal light reading, just the thing to use as a break inbetween doing some work. Let me know, will you, whether you also enjoy them and I'll put aside the copy I got each month to send on to you.

Also waiting in Cape Town at the moment for delivery to you next week are another three records: Samuel Barber, Symphony No 1, etc; Carl Sandburg; Cowboy songs and spirituals; Douglas Moore: The devil and Daniel Webster.

Before taking the records along, I listened briefly to the first two and I can't say that they appealed all that much to me. But I thought it was worth trying them out on you in case they struck some responsive ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ chord within you!

I have just received Jessy's end-of-year report from her nursery school, and can proudly report that, during the last three months, she gained one and a quarter inches in height and is now a whopping 44 ins. In the same time, she put on 2 lb. in weight. And if you will forgive me again for being the proud father, the

report says: "On the whole Jenny presents the picture of a bright outgoing child with good intellectual potential."

I am so eager to be with her, and will be having her stay with me for five full days from December 29. I get terribly resentful at having to ask for the opportunity to be with my own daughter and those brief periods we have together are deeply happy ones for both of us -- which makes parting from her at the end of these times even more dreadful for me.

Your letter of November 23 reached me safely and I thank you for it. I haven't yet heard from Hilisua, so I suppose that her shyness has overcome her. When you see her next month, you can tell her that when she returns to school next year she will have a foam rubber mattress on which to sleep, and will be able to take this away with her when she finally leaves the school.

About your reference to the book by Jacobs of Johannesburg: I think you have his origins mixed up....there are two ways in which to pronounce the name, you know. And why "Afro-American"? While I'm on the subject of labels, do you perhaps know the origin of the name "Azania"? I first saw it quite recently in some political stuff, as apparently some characters believe that this is what Africa should be called. They gave a rather confused description of the origin of the name, going back to pre-Roman times. I dismissed it as nonsense, and was surprised recently to come across a reference to a reputable scientific research society in East Africa -- in Kenya, I think it was -- which actually issued a publication called "Azania" which is devoted to studies on Africa.

And while I am throwing questions at you, did you ever have a chance to read the Bonhoeffer book which I sent to you some time ago? If so, I would be most interested to get your views on it.

I get the London "Sunday Times" every week and it often has Eng-class material in its supplement. For example, they have run the extracts from Schlesinger's book on Kennedy, Macmillan's book and Charlie Chaplin's autobiography. I'll send down batches of these supplements to you in the future, and will you let me know if they get through to you all right, and if so, if they interest you? They also contain excellent book reviews.

Do you remember that old friend of 2k years, the one with the thick beard who always wore a long overcoat? I've just had a letter from him and the poor man is pretty destitute. One of his requests to me, which I think indicates how he is living, was for a 1967 calendar. I have organised some help for him.

All for now, my friend. I hope your celebration of Xmas will be fortifying your spirit, and I pray for your welfare in the New Year.

Affectionately,

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Ba4-84**

Document Title:- **Letter (registerd) to Sobukwe, Robben Island (copy) and transcript**

Author:- **Benjamin Pogrund**

Document Date:- **20 December 1966**