

KEYNES
243 East 53rd Street, New York City 22, USA

Mr. J.C.N. Humphreys

May 22 1954

6 Eastwold Way
Saxonwold

Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Mr. Humphreys:

Yesterday I heard from Dr. Eric Axelson that he had mentioned my having a manuscript, of which I wished to dispose, to you, and that you had said that you would be interested to hear from me about it.

As Dr. Axelson told you, it is of the first official survey of the coast of South and South West Africa and Angola done by H.M.Sloop "Nautilus" in 1786. The title page says:

HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP
NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE PERFORMED IN ~~H.M.S.~~ NAUTILUS,
UNDER MY COMMAND, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING
THE WESTERN COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM LATITUDE
33°0'0" TO 16°0'0" SOUTH.

Under this is the signature: "Tho. Bn. Thompson". Later, Captain Thompson was promoted to Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Boulden Thompson. In 1782 he had been appointed lieutenant on H.M.S. Grampus, on survey work on the coast of S.W. Africa and under the command of his uncle, Edward Thompson, Commodore and celebrated author. On his uncle's death in 1786 he was appointed to the command of H.M.S. Nautilus. Sir Home Riggs Popham, who is mentioned frequently in the ms., acted as his lieutenant.

There are then 43 pages of manuscript, in a scribe's hand, and at the end, Thompson has signed his name once again. Most of the pages are interleaved with blanks, and on several of these are some interesting additions apparently in the hand of Thompson. Following the main narrative appear 12 pages of details concerning the routes followed by the Nautilus, with latitudes, longitudes etc. given as in a log book. The whole ms. is bound in full vellum, in quarto size, and I have had a half-morocco slip-case made for it by Zaehnsdorf of London.

It is entirely legible, and in ~~perx~~ a perfect state of preservation. Dr. Axelson will also undoubtedly have told you that I have two further manuscripts concerning the same survey: one is almost identical with the above, except that it contains eight water-colour drawings signed by Thompson, and lacks all of the 12 pages of Routes followed by the ship. It also lacks the additions of Thompson which the above contains. (I have carefully made a note of all these additions for my own guidance.) The other ms. I have is that of Sir Home Riggs Popham, above mentioned.

Obviously, it is ridiculous that I should keep two similar ms. and I told Dr. Axelson that I would be glad to dispose of the one without the water-colours to a private or public collector in South Africa. You are the main private collector whom he mentioned, so I thought I would offer it to you first.

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

97

this material. I myself am trying to build up a fine assembly of all the books, manuscripts, drawings etc. which concern parts of southern Africa and the surrounding islands (St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodriguez, and Seychelles) which happen to interest me. I have recently been to all the places mentioned with the exception of Tristan da Cunha. My special interests in this collection are South West Africa and Angola.

I recently acquired a marvelous copy of Burchell in the original boards, with paper labels, including the half titles to both volumes, the errata slip and the "Hints to Emigrants".

Yours sincerely, *Quentin Keynes* (Quentin Keynes)

FIRST FOLD

Quentin Keynes
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New York City 22 USA



AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME

MESSAGE MUST APPEAR ON INNER SIDE ONLY
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Mr. J.G.N. Humphreys
6 Eastwood Way
Saxorvoid
JOHANNESBURG
South Africa

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



SECOND FOLD

I presume, if you are interested in this document, that you would not be in a position to pay for it in dollars, but this would be arranged simply, because I intend to come over to South West Africa in mid July (I arrive in Walvis Bay July 10). I would bring the manuscript, as I should be loathe to send it through the mails, with me, and, if I cannot get to Johannesburg, I think it would be safe to send it from S.W.Africa by registered post. The price for the document is £75, which I would be perfectly ^{willing} to accept in South African pounds.

As I leave New York for England on June 16th, perhaps you would be good enough to reply in time for this date?

As there are no other collectors of Africana in the United States (serious ones, I mean) that I have been able to discover, I am very glad to correspond with someone like yourself, who Dr. Arelson says, has a magnificent collection of

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