

RD

May 7, 1984

Dear Kevin:

In the Christian Science Monitor of April 16th, on p.1 extending on last p., I found a most exciting article from So. Africa by a Paul Van Slambrouck about a new Black So. African Publishing Co., org'd. some 15 months ago. The very expression, about due respect for "Shakespeare and people like that" that the Black African writer, Mthobi Mutloatse, uses to distinguish this publishing venture from Scotaville that is interested in writings that "has a purpose"--"promoting the liberation struggle" shows how very new, very revolutionary and very important to follow.

I will turn the CSM article over to Lou and ask him to ~~gt~~ devote the next issue's Black World to it. But I doubt that N&L can be trusted to the mails and ask for an exchange of publications, and of course pay for sub. I thought that you might write to them, send to them your AT review and since that would only be put onto a regular envelope and simply ask to subscribe, enclosing a donation, you might stand a better chance of getting a copy either of some book or the magazine they are trying to publish (Classic, which has already been banned).

The chairman of their board of governors is Es'kia Mphahlele who, you no doubt, know was the editor of Africa Today for a few years. I saw him at the 1st Africanist Congress in Boston, and how different his speech was there when in speaking of his novel Second Avenue, and against the French Negritude writers in Presence Africaine, he insisted that, precisely because South Africa is so totally apartheid, he is not so much for isolation, but, etc. etc. Now however --and I ~~imagined~~ suspected ever since he gave up "comfortable" Am. exile to return to South Africa--he writes: "Life for an oppressed person is one long, protracted, agonizing compromise." But he discovered, after 20 yrs. in USA, how imperative was his need to return homeland: "as long as I cannot remember a place by its smells and the texture of its life, I cannot create a sustained literary work out of it."

Do get the issue of CSM & formulate your letter accordingly. The name of their publishing co. was in honor of T.D. Mveli Skota, an early sec'y. of the ANC. I imagine somewhere or another of the many things of my past I do not have I have had something about it as I followed ANC and the various breakaways to the left since the early 1930s and have some history from the 1920s.

Hurriedly, have to prepare for REB tomorrow where we'll finally present the full 1949-50 pamphlet plus a report of latest on move to Chi plus the main N&L report by Eugen)

Yrs, *Rupa*

15963

May 8, 1984

Dear Allen:

Raya asked me to send you the enclosed carbon of the letter she just wrote to Kevin about an exciting article she found in Christian Science Monitor concerning a new (15 months old) Skotaville Publishing house -- as an independent Black publishing group in South Africa. As you will see from her note to Kevin, she has asked Lou to take it up for the next issue, and Kevin to try to find how we can subscribe to it and get some of their material. (There was no address listed in the CSM article.)

She wants to find some more about T.D. Nweli Skota for whom they named Skotaville. As a pioneer Black writer and one of the founders of the ANC Newspaper Abantu-Batho, she is sure he must be included in the ^{3rd} Volume From Protest to Challenge: Documents of African Politics in South Africa, 1882-1964 by Kariis and Carter -- but she has only Volume 2 (1935-1952) and Skota is not included in that volume. She believes it would be in volume 1 that you might find some material for her.

Would you check, and if there is any information you think she might find useful please either xerox those pages, or just summarize it, as you think best. Thanks much.

Give my best to everyone there -- especially a warm hello to Lillian. Hope her health is fine these days.

Warmly,

Oeja

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