

278 Cato Manor Road,
Mayville,
DURBAN.

27th September, 1963.

Dearest Nat,

Classic is classic! Have just been able to obtain
a copy and I cannot express just how happy I am that it
is here with us.

I am absolutely certain that it is here to stay.
Keep up the great work.

Posted a story to Athol Fougaard to hand over
to you, but I don't seem to know what has happened.

Anyway I am sending some stuff for publication, and I hope
you will like it (2 poems and a short story).

I have very little time to revise the short
story. Am working here on a newspaper where I am editor,
sub-editor, everything.

Will be in Joburg probably in a month's
time and I hope to see you.

Your pal,

BENNIE BUNSEE.

October 7, 1963

Dear Bennie,

You can't imagine how good I felt when I got your letter last week! Didn't want to write back before reading your stuff and showing it to at least one of my advisers.

My feeling is that your story has quite a lot in and to it. Unfortunately, I also feel that it needs further development. It seems to have got stuck somewhere around the prostitutes troubles. And the symbol of the lonely cat ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ is a burden to the story. Otherwise, I think you could work on it again ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the result could be really worthwhile. If you disagree, please send me another one because I'm very anxious to publish something from you. I'm afraid I didn't like the poems at all. Please find all three pieces herewith.

Did anybody tell you how hard I looked for you when I was in Durban some months ago? I wish we had met because there is a lot to talk about. Your ~~XXXXXX~~ comments ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ about the paper were most heartening. Just to keep you informed, here's what's in the second issue: Short stories by Arthur Maimane, Douglas Boet, Doris Lessing and Barney Simon; Poems by Jenny Joseph, President Senghor of Senegal, Enver Docratt; part of Athol's new play, some books reviews and an art supplement with photographs of paintings by a Johannesburg fellow. There will be a few other odd things.

It's good to learn that you now have a job. It seems everybody is getting on reasonably well nowadays. Just seen Bloke's book (quite nice). Lewis, I learn, ~~ix~~ may be off to the Southern States to write up Jim Crow there for the Observer; Arthur Maimane has just sent through a novel to be looked at by Nadine Gordimer.

~~Atxxx~~ Are you in touch with anybody who is writing in Durban at all? If you are, please don't forget to mention from time to time that we are looking for stuff this end. I'll be sending you a copy of our second issue when it is ready. Just now the printers are setting it.

Best wishes,

Yours ever,

P.S. Will be sending you the other story which Athol passed on to me.

Nathaniel Nakasa

278 Calo Manor Road,
Mayville,
Durban.
28th October, 1963.

Dearest Max,

Thank you for your comments on my short story. I quite agree with them, more especially the bit about the car. The fact was that I had no time to revise it and sent it down to you. Don't agree with you with one of the poems though. I was about "Black Man Listen."

I am enclosing herein a short story and a poem, & I hope you will like them.

Glad to know that Ernie Doozer has already sent you something & that you will be publishing his poem.

Like to know what was basically wrong with the short story that Athol gave you. Comment will be deeply appreciated.

When will Athol's play come on. He's told me about it, & I think that if he clicks it, it will be better than his "Blood Cur."

Am trying to gather some stuff for you here. But there are not many people writing here in sleepy Durban. But I will still keep a look out.

With best wishes,

Yours lovingly,
Bennie Bruce

Collection Number: A2696

Collection Name: Nat Nakasa Papers, 1962-2014

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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