



University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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MR ISAACSON
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The Library
Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, South Africa

Mr. Alan Paton
23 Lynton Road
Kloof
Natal.

COPY

Our Ref:
II/EMH

Date
17th August, 1966.

Dear Mr. Paton,

You will be interested to hear what progress I have made in extending our collection of Hofmeyr letters.

From Mr. Secretan we have received 21 original letters over the period 1916-1947.

The Bodleian Library has sent about 75 xerox copies of letters from Hofmeyr to Albert King, 1938-1948.

Mrs. P. Goodwin has been unable to find any Hofmeyr letters among the papers of her late uncle, C. Underhill; but has promised to send them if they come to light, and Professor T.J. Haarhoff will be sending some letters he has preserved, next time he is in Johannesburg.

I have never received from you the Hofmeyr letters to Mr. Pearse which you said you would be sending. Can I still expect to receive these?

May I also take this opportunity to ask what connection there was between Hofmeyr and J.H.Morley, and why there are so many notebooks containing press cuttings about Morley among the Hofmeyr papers?

Yours sincerely

I. Isaacson
Deputy Librarian.

Replied 20/9/66 saying cannot understand mystery of Underhill letters. Am sending Hofmeyr letters. Confess complete ignorance about Morley.

al
20/9/66

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University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg



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The Library

Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, South Africa

Telephone 724-1311

Mr. Alan Paton
23 Lynton Road
Kloof
Natal.

Your reference

Our reference

Date

II/EMH

26th October, 1966.

Dear Mr. Paton,

I have still to acknowledge your letter of the 18th September and to thank you for the file of 24 letters from Hofmeyr to R. Pearse. I was very glad indeed to have these and am grateful to you for your efforts to obtain them for the collection.

I can throw no further light on the Morley press cuttings books and wonder if they originally formed part of the collection at all. They are not included in the typed contents lists of 11 boxes (Ribbink's inventory), but there is a mention of "11 volumes newspaper cuttings about J.H. Morley" in another list of notebooks and miscellaneous material, in the Hofmeyr file.

One mystery, however, which I have cleared up is the whereabouts of the Underhill letters which had gone astray. In tidying up our Strong Room, I came across a cardboard box containing about 100 letters from Hofmeyr to Underhill over the period 1928-1948. Somehow or other they had ~~had~~ got separated from the rest of the collection but at all events they are now back again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I. Isaacson".

I. Isaacson,
Deputy Librarian.

23 Lynton Road,
Kloof,
Natal.

3rd November, 1966.

Mr. I. Isaacson,
Deputy Librarian,
University of the Witwatersrand,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Isaacson,

Thank you for your letter of October 26th. I must say I am relieved to hear that you have found the Underhill letters. I can only suppose that I handed the letters over to the University after having made copies of them all. I must have done this at Mr. Underhill's request. I assume that you will write to his niece and tell her that the letters have been found.

I am still puzzling over the Morley press cuttings and books. It would appear that they were not originally part of the collection and it may be that Mrs. Hofmeyr had them send later to the University and that they were then entered in the Hofmeyr file. Is it possible that the collection was started by Onze Jan and carried on by the young Hofmeyr? This seems quite possible because Onze Jan was a contemporary of Morley and in those days members of the Cape Parliament looked much more to British politicians than we do now.

Yours sincerely,

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