

PC 1/1/13/2/136

FROM THE BISHOP OF STEPNEY
The Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, C.R

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LONDON, E.1



Telephone: 01-790 4382

12th March, 1971.

My dear Alan,

I was delighted to have two of your letters, both delayed owing to our postal strike, the first dated January 21st, the second February 17th. I only received them yesterday.

Let me say at once how delighted and a little astonished I am to hear that you are to receive a D.D. at Edinburgh on November 27th! That, indeed, will be a great day! I look back fifteen years to the moment when I also received a doctorate (a long, long time ago, of course) for my own work, at the sister University of Aberdeen. It is true, of course, that the University of Edinburgh is particularly celebrated for its Medical School, but you are to be a Doctor of Divinity... Aberdeen, as you probably know, has an outstanding reputation for Religious Philosophy and, although I would not in any way wish to compare the two Degrees, I cannot help but feel that there is something to be said for having the dour red and purple hood of Aberdeen!

Seriously, I am so delighted that things are going so well with the book on Geoffrey. Let me be absolutely clear, when I used the phrase "love-hate relationship" I was certainly not meaning that there was any real hatred. It is just a phrase which one hears very often in these parts to describe a kind of strange situation in which the people one most admires can become for that very reason the objects of one's almost passionate disapproval. But this is a very different thing from hatred. Like you, I would find it totally impossible ever to hate Geoffrey - or, indeed, anyone else that I can think of. I am not quite so sure how he found me in this regard, but I suspect that he found me pretty tiresome - and with good reason.

As to the letter that you quote from, I think it must have been written late in 1949 - St. Andrew's Day, as you know, is November 30th, and I certainly left Sophiatown on that day, as I well remember. Therefore I imagine that I was writing to Geoffrey already at Cape Town. I think I told you that I was one of the Chaplains at Ambrose Reeves' Consecration in Cape Town Cathedral; but of course it's difficult to remember at this long date exactly when I wrote that letter. However, it certainly could not have been late 1948. It must have been just before I left Sophiatown in 1949.

If there is anything else you want to know or any way in which I can help you, you know you have only to ask.

I am off to Jamaica tomorrow for a short trip of three weeks, because I think it is important, as I have so many West Indiansimmigrant families in my Diocese, to have a look at their background. I think it should be interesting.

With my love and prayers as always - and don't get too cocky about that D.D. from Edinburgh! -

Yours ever,

+ Trevor C.R.