



PC 111118/20

P. O. ANERLEY,
South Coast,
Natal,
South Africa.

28th October, 1948.

Dear Mrs. Barkham,

I have two letters from you now, one that you wrote from Southampton, which came by sea, and one air-mailed from New York, which came yesterday.

You did not hear from me before you sailed from Capetown because I had no records to send you but it was very good of you to get some yourself. Now I shall tell you what I did myself. I went to see Hugh Tracey who wrote a book on African music and who is regarded as one of the authorities on the music of Southern Africa. He told me not to buy any African records, that they were rubbish. He then offered to have some records made for Mr. Weill and this is now being done at a cost of something like \$8 per record. I do not know if you are knowledgeable about music but Mr. Tracey reckoned that Mr. Weill would recognise the authentic stuff. Of course as you can guess Mr. Weill will attempt to give only the hint of Africa in his own composition but it must be a genuine hint and not just a few tom-toms and drums. (I haven't seen or written to Mr. Weill in my life - I am just translating freely from one of Maxwell Anderson's letters to me). I shall most certainly let Mr. Anderson know that you are in New York and willing to help if you can.

Thank you very much for the cutting from the "New York Times". If you want to see something very laudatory look at the N. Y. Times Book Review, September 19, article by J. Donald Adams.

I don't know if I ever thanked your husband for sending me the "Book-of-the-month News"? It came by sea and I was glad to get it and to see the further paragraph by Bernadine Kielty. There is also another splendid review of the book in the Book Find News, Christmas number. Again thank you both for your continued interest.

The book has sold well in South Africa but the booksellers underestimated it very badly. They ordered 8,000 and within a day or two not one was to be had. That was a month ago and still no more have come. They are, however, expected very shortly.

Kind regards to you both

Yours sincerely,