

PC111216/37

To be Filed

Money sent
20/5/53

P.O.Box 1400
Durban
29th July '53

Dear Mr. Paton,

I do not know what your reaction to my request will be, but I do plead with you to dismiss from your mind any idea that I regard you - metaphorically speaking - as a cow to be milked!

I have received a letter from the British Chief Inspector of Foreign Dividends to say that I am entitled to a refund of £170 odd of British Income Tax. As this includes tax deducted on royalties earned in the present British financial year, which commenced on April 1st last, they are only prepared to send me a cheque if I will assure them in writing that NO FURTHER CLAIM will be made for refund until April 5th 1954.

I have written off to them giving the required undertaking; the cheque may take a couple of weeks to arrive.

The month end has again arrived; would you be generous enough to LEND me £75, to be repaid out of the first monies I receive from England.

Since I am asking you for help, you are entitled to know how the money you paid me was expended. I think I made it clear to you that I am using my British royalties - apart from such things as tax refunds - to liquidate all my liabilities. Out of the last £50 you paid me I had to pay out £30 arrears rent for the small office I have been occupying for the past year. Out of the balance, arrears of house rent of £90 were paid off, so you see the fee you paid me has been used to good purpose.

I appreciate that you are a family man like myself, and you need have no fear that I shall regard you as a famous author who can well afford to wait for repayment - if you are kind enough - and able to - I shall regard the debt as a first call on any funds received.

If you can do this, please post the cheque as soon as possible; I enclose an I.O.U, so that the debt may go on record.

Apart from this request, I am anxious to learn what you thought of my material, and whether it was of any use at all.

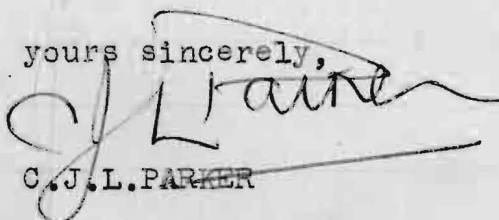
While waiting for your instructions, I have got busy on my book again. In this case I found that a change had proved as good as a rest, and I'm very happy about the progress I'm now making.

I've had a very pleasant letter from Crowell's, saying that I mustn't be impatient or disappointed about American sales, which - they say - always drop off in the hot weather. They are still negotiating with Hollywood, and with Coronet for condensation rights; they failed with Reader's Digest.

I'm quite flattered to learn from them that - excluding yourself - I've had the best sales of any South African author, better indeed than the sales of Doris Lessing's last two novels which were also published by Crowell.

Hoping to hear from you and wishing you bon voyage for your Geneva trip - whenever that is - and with best wishes to your wife and yourself,

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C.J.L. Parker', written over a horizontal line.

C.J.L.PARKER

P.S. If you can't help me, please burn the I.C.U.