



pc 1/1/7/15

# CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

October 29, 1963

Dear Alan:

It was good hearing from you and it's good to hear that the Sponono arrangements are progressing so well. I think Mary Frank is practically a genius to have arranged what she has so far. Incidentally, Irita Van Doren and I were marvelling over her the other night and Irita, who said she hadn't written for some time, asked me to send you both her love. You probably have heard that she retired as editor of the Herald Tribune Sunday book section. She is now editor-emeritus and is an editorial consultant.

Charlie and I are of course very concerned as to how the Hofmeyr biography can be abridged and still retain its essential qualities. We both feel that it is such an important and delicate task that it will take several months of dedicated labor. With this in mind we called in a man who has done excellent work for us in the past and explained the problem to him. Then we asked him to read the manuscript and submit a preliminary report as to how he reckoned the problem could best be handled. I enclose his letter and report which both Charlie and I feel shows a very real understanding of the book and your intentions as well as a great sympathy for the delicateness of the necessary operation. Before proceeding further with Mr. Lunt though, we wanted to hear your reaction to his letter. After all, you must be satisfied as to the skill and understanding of the surgeon who is to operate on your child.

You will note in Paragraph 3 of Mr. Lunt's covering letter that he is worried about the difficulty of submitting work to you as it progresses. Do you anticipate any trouble on that score? I think Charlie told you that we would have to await galleys -- which I gather are in production in Cape Town -- before we could get started on our work here.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. With warmest best wishes to you and Dorrie,

Yours ever,

Mr. Alan Paton  
Lynton Road  
Kloof  
Natal, South Africa