

21
Pg 11/7/25/23

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

JOHN BROWN *Publisher*

F. L. CANNON *General Manager*
Telegrams: OXONIAN CAPE TOWN
P.O. Box 1141
Telephone: 41-0171



Thibault House
Thibault Square
Cape Town

SOUTHERN AFRICAN BRANCH

Representing: METHUEN & CO. LTD · JONATHAN CAPE LTD · JOHN MURRAY (PUBLISHERS) LTD
MICHAEL JOSEPH LTD · A. & C. BLACK LTD · PICKERING & INGLIS LTD
G. F. RAPKIN LTD · S. BAGSTER & SONS LTD · S.U. & C.S.S.M. · A. ZWEMMER LTD
CHAPMAN & HALL LTD · E. & F. N. SPON LTD · TAVISTOCK PUBLICATIONS

OW/DHP

5/3/65

Mr A. Paton,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF, Natal.

Dear Alan,

Sorry, but I cannot write your speech for you; nor am I likely to be of much help in the way of suggestions. I am afraid this is one of the drawbacks of success! You are out on your own, and what you say we listen to.

If the subject of your talk is Writing in South Africa, it will be almost impossible for you to talk about this as if everything in the garden is lovely - all free and easy and unrestricted. On the other hand, you will not be speaking to an entirely sympathetic audience - sympathetic, that is, to all your political views. Anyway, what can be said is that there is plenty to write about in South Africa at present. You certainly have a big problem on your hands, and I do not envy you your dilemma. You can, of course, resolve it all by talking mostly about how you wrote HOFMEYR. Your audience will no doubt be mellowed by good food and good wine, and would prefer to be entertained rather than enlightened. But I am sure you will also wish to put a bit of iron into your hearers and not leave ~~them~~ ^{us} feeling too complacent.

I look forward to hearing how you resolve it on Wednesday night.

Yours sincerely,

David
D.H. PHILIP