

January 27, 1964

Dear Alan,

My last letter must have sounded very depressing. Well, I was most depressed. Since then, a slimpse of a silver lining has appeared through the black clouds. It seems that Mary Frank is going through with the project. We have decided to publish a souvenir booklet, presenting "Sponono" within the broader horizons of South African theatre and culture. Therefore, we need an article from you.

After a long discussion with Ben Washer, the press agent of the New York production, we have decided which topic we would like ~~ix~~ you to write. We would appreciate your reminscences of your reformatory days. I have heard ~~ex~~ you speak of those days in such REAL terms that I know such an article by you would prepare the audience for the play. We want you to avoid writing an article about the play, ~~ix~~ because if --- as a playwright --- you write an article about your own play, it gives the appearance that you are on the defensive. So many playwrights have ~~subscribed to this error~~ hung themselves by committing this error.

~~ix~~ In the article, if you want to mention indirectly how this experience provided you with material for the play, ~~ix~~ as well as your short stories, -- or if you want to make a clarification that this is not a biographical play --- it would be permissable. But, I feel it would be more wise to communicate the ~~rich~~ rich experiences you had as ~~superintendent~~ superintendent (within the ~~ix~~ framework of your religious convictions. ) Please excuse my presumption on telling you what to write. I know you will understand.

Alan, you had written a poem on Ha'Penny's death which was published in an anthology. May we have your permission to republish it? And, may we have a copy of it?

We have decided on including your biography. We have thought of asking Father Huddleston or Bishop Reeves to write a biographical ~~ix~~ profile to be included in the souvenir. Or, do you have any suggestions? Whom would you recommend? We have not as yet contacted anyone. Please let us know.

Please give my kindest regards to Dore,

Affectionately,

*W. M. W.*