

PC11/19/2/3

CHOICE: Books for College Libraries
Consultant's Evaluation Sheet

AUTHOR: Paton, Alan
TITLE: South African Tragedy; the Life and Times of Jan Hofmeyr.
CONSULTANT: Edward Callan, Western Michigan University (African History)
DATE DUE: December 28, 1965 - (Probable publisher - Feb. or March, 1966.)

PLEASE COMMENT IN YOUR EVALUATION ON AS MANY OF THESE POINTS AS ARE RELEVANT:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Authority of Author | Reference features (index, bibliography etc.) |
| Exact scope of contents | Quality of illustrative material |
| Point of view | New edition. How much revision? |
| Stylistic qualities | Reissue. Still useful, or now superseded? |
| Audience suitable for--Undergraduates? | Translation. Compare literary translation with original. |

Compare with standard work in the field, or recently published work of similar content.

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 100-200 WORDS

Jan Hofmeyr, a South African of Afrikaner parentage, brilliant intellect and liberal race attitudes founded on Christian principles, was Deputy Prime Minister of South Africa prior to the electoral upset of 1948 when Dr. Malan's platform of apartheid triumphed (shortly before Hofmeyr's untimely death at fifty-four). The talented novelist and Liberal Party leader, Alan Paton, has spent almost fifteen years (with unavoidable delays) on this biography. It crowns his achievement as a writer.

The present book, South African Tragedy, is an edition of Paton's Hofmeyr (published, late 1964, in South Africa by the Oxford University Press), specially prepared for American readers. It reduces the original by about one-fifth, combines forty brief chapters into sixteen longer ones with hackneyed titles, and omits footnotes and bibliography. These changes sometimes detract from the artistic wholeness of the biography, e.g., simply to avoid a footnote, the words "one publicist wrote" (p.182) replaces "Blackwell wrote" -- yet Judge Blackwell is a figure in the biography. In return, D.C. Lunt has provided competent and concise Prefatory notes of great value to the general reader.

Unreservedly recommended for undergraduate libraries both for its literary qualities and historical interest. Graduate libraries should acquire both editions. Illustrated. Indexed.