

P.O. Box 32,  
Tshiawelo,  
1818 SOWETO,  
South Africa.

28th July, 1994.

Bernth Lindfors,  
Department of English,  
The University of Texas at Austin,  
PAR 108,  
Austin,  
Texas, USA.

Dear Bernth Lindfors,

I am sending the enclosed photographs on behalf of my mother, MIRIAM TLALI. She asked me to convey her apologies for the delay. She is on a hectic schedule. On her return from Canada, the United States and Europe she left again for Australia to attend an international conference in Melbourne. Right now she is still there to deliver a few seminars in Sydney and Perth. AS you can tell she had alot to attend to over the last few months, in addition to family commitments. So please do bear with her.

Please find enclosed four (4) photographs of hers. She hopes they will meet your needs.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



MOLEBOHENG LEHUTSO-PHOOKO (Ms.)  
for **MIRIAM TLALI**.

*encl.*



Miriam Tlali

**Interviews:**

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BBC Arts and Africa, 549 (1984): 1-5;

Sonia Lee, "Conversation with Miriam Tlali," African Literature

Association Bulletin, 17, no. 3 (1991): 40-42;

Cecily Lockett, "Miriam Tlali," in Between the Lines: Interviews with

Bessie Head, Sheila Roberts, Ellen Kuzwayo, Miriam Tlali, edited by

Craig MacKenzie and Cherry Clayton (Grahamstown, South Africa:

National English Literary Museum, 1989), pp. 69-85;

Hugh Prysor-Jones, "Interview with Miriam Tlali about Her Life and

Writing," BBC Arts and Africa, 267 (1979): 3-6;

Jaki Seroke, "Black Writers in South Africa," Staffrider, 7, 3-4 (1988):

303-309;

Alex Tetteh-Lartey, "Interviews with Bessie Head, Bertha Msora, Flora

Nwapa, Alifa Rifaat and Miriam Tlali about the Experiences of African

Women Writers," BBC Arts and Africa, 640 (1986): 3-5;

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44-45.

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Alvarez-Péreyre, "Alfred Qabula, Miriam Tlali: Two Lives," Isivivane, 2

(1990): 37-38;

Cherry Clayton, "Radical Transformations: Emergent Women's Voices in

South Africa," English in Africa, 17, no. 2 (1990): 25-36;

Huma Ibrahim, "The Autobiographical Content in the Works of South

African Women Writers: The Personal and the Political," in Biography:

East and West, edited by Carol Ramelb (Honolulu: University of Hawaii

Press, 1989), pp. 122-26;

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and Writing in South Africa: A Critical Anthology, edited by Cherry

Clayton (Marshalltown, South Africa: Heinemann Southern Africa,

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Lenta, "Two Women and Their Territories: Sheila Roberts and Miriam Tlali,"

in AUETSA 90: 3-7 July 1990, University of Stellenbosch, Vol 5:

Feminism (Stellenbosch: University of Stellenbosch, n.d.), paper 10.

Lockett, "The Fabric of Experience: A Critical Perspective on the Writing of

- Miriam Tlali," in Women and Writing in South Africa: A Critical Anthology, edited by Cherry Clayton (Marshalltown, South Africa: Heinemann Southern Africa, 1989), pp. 275-286;
- Barbara Loy, "The Destruction of the South African Family by Apartheid Laws as Revealed in Select Works of Tlali and Ngcobo," in African Literature-1988: New Masks, edited by Hal Wylie, Dennis Brutus, and Juris Silenieks (Washington, DC: Three Continents Press and the African Literature Association, 1990), pp. 23-28;
- Rebecca Matlou, "The South African Woman Writer," Awa-Finnaba, 9 (1987): 43-52;
- Njabulo S. Ndebele, Rediscovery of the Ordinary: Essays on South African Literature and Culture (Johannesburg: Congress of South African Writers, 1991);
- Pamela Ryan, "Black Women Do Not Have Time to Dream: the Effect of the Politics of Time and Space on Black Women's Writing in South Africa," in AUETSA 90: 3-7 July 1990, University of Stellenbosch, Vol 5: Feminism (Stellenbosch: University of Stellenbosch, n.d.), paper 12;
- Kelwyn Sole, "The Days of Power: Depictions of Politics and Community in Four Recent South African Novels," Research in African Literatures, 19 (1988): 65-88;

Jane Watts, Black Writers from South Africa: Towards a Discourse of Liberation (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989);

Zoë Wicomb, "To Hear the Variety of Discourses," Current Writing, 2 (1990): 35-44.



# RAL

*Research in African Literatures*  
*Editor, Bernth Lindfors*

Box 7457  
Austin, Texas 78713

January 14, 1994

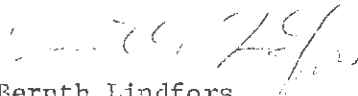
Miriam Tlali  
P.O. Box 32  
Tshiaweto  
1318 Soweto, South Africa

Dear Miriam Tlali,

Late this year or early next year the Dictionary of Literary Biography will be publishing a volume on African and Caribbean authors edited by Reinhard Sander and me that contains an excellent essay on your work by Laaretta Ngcobo. The DLB volumes are handsomely illustrated with photos, reproductions of book jackets, and copies of manuscript pages from an author's work. We have a few good photos of you, and we have plenty of book jackets to choose from, but I am writing to you to ask if you could supply additional photos (old or new) and photocopies of a page or two of manuscript material. The photos will be returned to you after the publisher has made a selection for the volume. Please indicate who took the photos and who holds rights to them, if they are not from your own family collection.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

  
Bernth Lindfors

June 14, 1993

Lauretta Ngcobo  
31 Wellmeadow Road  
Hither Green  
London SE 13 6SY, England

Dear Lauretta,

This is a note to acknowledge with thanks your prompt delivery of the DLB entry on Miriam Tlali. Don't worry about the computer glitches. The typescript is legible, and that's all that counts as far as the typesetters are concerned. I'll put some instructions in the margins.

Hope you are successful in establishing contact with Miriam. If you want to add substantial new information to your essay later on, you may do so, so long as the changes reach the publishers before proofs are prepared. Small changes can be made anytime in the production cycle.

I'll be back in touch with you again as the book approaches the production stage. I'm still waiting for a few tardy essays to come in.

Hope all is going well for you. Have a good summer. And thanks again for agreeing to take on this assignment. I appreciate the hard work you have put into it.

Best wishes,

Bernth Lindfors



25th May, 1993.

Dear Bernth,

I just hope this will reach you in time on the 1st of June. I also sincerely hope that I have done what was required of me, and that I have not botched the job. I'm ~~is~~ writing in a desperate hurry. Please forgive the scribbles. I am going to pursue Miriam wherever she is. I'm sorry about my failure to catch up with her so far. It's taken exactly 6 months.

Yrs,  
Lauritta.

P/s. I am very sorry about some of the pages like 4 + 13 + 18 where the font kept slipping off. My little machine is not doing well. I tried to do it over again, but it did not work. I'm sorry.

Lauritta.

Bookshop  
Lestwood Hall  
Valerio  
Gelson

31 Wellmeadow Road,  
Hithe Green,  
London SE13 6SY.

4th March, 1993.

081-698-7179

Dear Bernth Lindfors,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th of February. I do hope, by now, you have received my letter accepting to do the piece on Miriam Tialo. I am very happy to see that you are able to give me several reviews and criticisms of Miriam's work. I hope you will not think me too demanding if I ask for as many on the list as you can possibly give me. As I indicated in my last letter, there is hardly anything on our writers in our libraries here. I certainly have not seen any of it. I suppose I could have tried to find the ones in INDEX ON CENSORSHIP if I had known about them. But please send me everything. I shall look forward to the criticisms published after 1986 as well. I shall also request you please to send all this as soon as possible because I will be going to Spain ~~at the~~ on the 20th of this month. On my return I shall go to South Africa up to the 20th of April. This would give me the opportunity to do all my reading + note making while I'm travelling. So, please, can I have everything before the 20th.

I'm certainly aware of the deadline of the 1st of June. I shall do all I can to keep to it.

Yours sincerely,  
Lauretta Ngebo.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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May 20, 1993

TO: LAURETTA NGCOBO,

Dear Laurretta,

Your questions have me stumped. I have checked various reference books, and all I have learnt is that Tlali was born in 1933. I think only Tlali herself can answer some of your questions, and I would encourage you to continue your efforts to contact her, perhaps by directing letters to her through her publishers or through Staffrider. The royalties dept. of one of these organizations ought to have an up-to-date address for her.

I suggest that you send me your essay without the biographical details you are seeking. If you succeed in establishing contact with Tlali, the personal information can be inserted later, possibly even at the proof stage. So 5000 words will do for now, leaving space for later additions.

The DLB cannot cover postal or faxing expenses. Those will have to come out of your own pocket. You'll be paid for the essay when the volume is published next year.

Best wishes,

Bentley Zinfors

31 Wellmeadow Road  
Hither Green  
London SE 6SY  
25th February 1993

Bernth Lindfors  
English Dept. Univ. Texas  
Austin.

Dear Bernth,

Thanks for your letter of the 13th. Yes, I am prepared to write the article on Mirriam Tladi, even though I'm terribly busy. My problem is that I've lost touch with her, having lost my address book last year. It's a terrible inconvenience. I need to get in touch with her again in order to obtain her biographical details. I have just written to Pandora Press, the publishers of SOWETO STORIES.

Another problem is that we have already sent off most of our books back to South Africa. Which means that I don't have a single copy of any of her books. However, I hope to be able to borrow from local libraries. Should I fail to get any of them, perhaps you would be able to lend me any copies of her books that I might request you for. I shall also appreciate your sending me any critical articles to do with her works. That would make my work very much easier. Here in Great Britain, it is very hard to find critical works of Black writers, especially Africans. I very much look forward to meeting you in the next few weeks when you come over here. You will then explain to me what you really mean by 'contributor's style sheet'. You indicated that it was enclosed here, but I don't see it. If, by any chance you did not send it on, even though you said it was enclosed, please sent it or bring it along with you when you come. Also, you did not send me a sample essay from the first volume in the series as suggested in your letter. Please make sure I get those two as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,



Laurretta Ngcobo.

Feb. 24, 1993

Lauretta Ngcobo  
31 Wellmeadow Road  
Hither Green  
London SE13 6SY England

Dear Lauretta,

I am enclosing a list of entries on Miriam Tlali taken from three successive volumes of my bibliography, Black African Literature in English. If some of these materials are not available to you, send me a list of the item numbers preceding the essays you need, and I'll try to supply as many as I can. Nothing published after 1986 is listed, but I am currently working on a 1987-1991 update of the bibliography and will send you a list of more recent scholarship soon.

I trust that your writing is going well. Please remember that our deadline is June 1st. Earlier submissions are of course welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Bernth Lindfors

P.S. I haven't yet received your response to my most recent letter, but I'm assuming you're still interested in doing the essay on Tlali, so I'm sending the little bit of information I have on her in my file. I'm sure there was much more criticism on her in the 1987-1991 years, and I'll try to get that to you as soon as possible. If you decide not to do the essay, there is no need to return these materials to me.

Feb. 13, 1993

Dear Laaretta,

Thanks for your phone call. I was out of town and have only just returned. I'm enclosing (on the reverse) a copy of the letter that was sent to you after the ASA conference and fresh copies of the contract and address sheet. Please fill out the latter and return them to me as soon as possible. I trust you are still interested in doing the essay. If not, please let me know right away so I can try to find a substitute. I don't want Tlali to be left out of the volume.

Sorry to hear you have been ill. Hope you are better now.

I'll be in London from the 14th to the 29th of March and will be happy to discuss the essay with you then if you'll be there during those weeks. I can be reached at Fellowship House (071-837-8888, ext. 4415).

Best wishes,

Bernth Lindfors

*Bernth Lindfors  
English Dept. Univ. Texas  
Austin, TX 78712*

November 30, 1992

Lauretta Ngcobo  
31 Wellmeadow Road  
Hither Green  
London SE 13 6SY England

Dear Lauretta,

Thank you for agreeing to consider preparing an entry on Miriam Tlali for the third volume of the Dictionary of Literary Biography's Twentieth-Century Caribbean and Black African Writers. Please note that the entry should run between 6000 and 6500 words instead of between 4000 and 5000 words as previously stated. The publisher has given us more space for each of the entries in this volume so you will be able to deal with your author in greater detail.

I am enclosing:

1. a memorandum of agreement which you should sign, address and date;
2. a contributor's questionnaire which you should fill out with your addresses, phone numbers, and fax number;
3. a contributor's style sheet;
4. a sample essay from the first volume in the series.

Please return items 1 and 2 to me at your earliest convenience. If any questions arise while you are preparing your entry for the volume, do not hesitate to contact me at the address above or by phone at 512-472-4712 (home) or 512-471-5522 (office) or by fax at 512-471-4909. Please keep in mind that our deadline is 1 June 1993.

Thanks again for offering to join us in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Bernth Lindfors

P.S. If you decide you can't do the entry, please let me know before the beginning of the new year, using my home address (1501 Gaston Ave., Austin, Texas 78703). I'll try to line up someone else, but I would prefer to have a creative writer (and a South African) to write about her work. Feel free to expand on the remarks you made about her writing in your introduction to Soweto Stories, adding more biographical details and further analyses of her works. I trust you have copies of all her books. I may be able to supply you with a list of critical articles devoted to her, but I'll have to send this later on. I have to finish off the term first.

MIRIAM TLALI -- 1987-1991

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- Lockett, Cecily. "The Fabric of Experience: A Critical Perspective on the Writing of Miriam Tlali." In Clayton, , pp. 275-286.
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- Ngcobo, Lauretta. "Introduction." *SOWETO STORIES*. London, Sydney, Wellington: Pandora Press, 1989. Rpt. as *FOOTPRINTS IN THE QUAG: STORIES AND DIALOGUES FROM SOWETO*. Cape Town and Johannesburg: David Philip, 1989. Pp. ix-xx.
- Seroke, Jaki. "Black Writers in South Africa." *STAFFRIDER*, 7, 3-4 (1988), 303-309.  
Discussion with Mutloatse, Sepamla, Tlali. Rpt. of BALE 3390.
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Mzamane, Sepamla, Serote, Tlali, et al.

- Sole, Kelwyn. "The Days of Power: Depictions of Politics and Community in Four Recent South African Novels." *RAL*, 19 (1988), 65-88.

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Abrahams, Boetie, Head, Hutchinson, Jabavu, La Guma, Manganyi, Matshikiza, Modisane, Mphahlele, Mzamane, Nkosi, Rive, Sepamla, Serote, Tlali, et al.

Conducted 3 November 1980 in Ocean View Township, Cape Peninsula, South Africa.

*Criticism:* See 6386.

**THORPE, VICTOR**

*Criticism:* See 7930, 7941.

**TIMPUNZA-MVULA, ENOCH**

*Biography:* See 6255.

*Criticism*

11864. Makama, Agnes. "Critical Appreciation: 'Vital Spark' by E.S. Timpunza." *SOCHE CEDAR*, 1 [1971], [11-12].

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**TINDIMWEBWA, ENOCH**

*Criticism:* See 8824.

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*Biography and Autobiography*

6100. Marquard, Jean. "Profile: Miriam Tlali." *INDEX ON CENSORSHIP*, 9, 5 (1980), 30-31.

11865.\* Rolfes, Chloe. "Miriam Tlali: Writing On Regardless." *FAIR LADY*, 17, 4 (1981), 62-66.

11866. Tlali, Miriam. "In Search of Books." In Chapman, 7525, pp. 44-45.

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11867. -----, MIHLOTI. Introd. Richard Rive. Braamfontein: Skotaville Publishers, 1984.

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11868.\* -----, "Detour into Detention." *FAIR LADY*, 26 June 1985, pp. 84-85, 87, 101, 105-07.

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See also 6194, 6196, 9247.

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11871. Schipper, Mineke. "Interview with Miriam Tlali." In Schipper, 6651, pp. 59-68.

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See also 6244, 6269.

*Criticism*

11872. Davis, Christina. "La Plume noire de Miriam Tlali." *AFRIQUE-ASIE*, 383 (1986), 53.

See also 6324, 6371, 6386, 6532, 6870, 6964, 6989.

**TOWEET, TAAITTA**

*Biography and Autobiography*

11873. Toweet, Taaitta. *AN AFRICAN'S YEAR IN ENGLAND*. Nairobi: Kenya Literature Bureau, 1983.

See also 10691.

*Interview:* See 8578.

**TSARO-WIWA, KEN.** See **SARO-WIWA, KEN.**

**TSHABANGU, MANGO**

*Criticism;* See 1090.

**TSODZO, T.K.**

*Criticism:* See 7492.

**TULYA-MUHIKA, SAM**

*Biography;* See 58.

*Criticism;* See 194.

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6196. Adey, David, Ridley Beeton, Michael Chapman, and Ernest Pereira, comps. *COMPANION TO SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH LITERATURE*. Craighall, South Africa: Donker, 1986.
9247. Herzig, Michéle. "Rencontre avec des écrivains sud-africains." *AGECOP LIAISON*, 85 (1986), 24-25.

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3390. Seroke, Jaki. "Black Writers in South Africa." *STAFFRIDER*, 4, 3 (1981), 41-42.
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6269. Tetteh-Lartey, Alex. "[Interviews with Bessie Head, Bertha Msora, Flora Nwapa, Alifa Rifaat and Miriam Tlali about the Experiences of African Women Writers]." *BBCAA*, 640 (1986), 3-5.

## (Criticism)

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6964. Taiwo, Oladele. *FEMALE NOVELISTS OF MODERN AFRICA*. London and Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1984.
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9247. Herzig, Michèle. "Rencontre avec des écrivains sud-africains." *AGECOP LIAISON*, 85 (1986), 24-25.
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## (Interviews)

3390. Seroke, Jaki. "Black Writers in South Africa." *STAFFRIDER*, 4, 3 (1981), 41-42.
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## (Criticism)

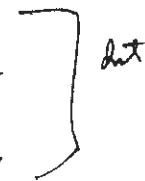
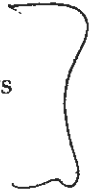
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