

Feb. 23, 1993

Jack Turner  
Bruccoli Clark Layman, Inc.  
2006 Sumter St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Jack,

I am enclosing a list of entries on Abioseh Nicol 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

*Some to Tom*

June 14, 1993

Geoffrey Davis  
Institut für Anglistik  
Reinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen  
51 Aachen, Germany

Dear Geoff,

This is to remind you that I am looking forward to receiving your DLB entry on Matsemela Manaka, which was due June 1st. If you have run into a snag and now anticipate that you will not be able to deliver the essay by the middle of next month at the latest, please let me know immediately so I can start searching for a replacement for you. Otherwise it may prove impossible to include an essay on Manaka in the book.

Sincerely,

Bernth Lindfors

# BRUCCOLI CLARK LAYMAN, INC.

2006 Sumter Street Columbia, S.C. 29201-2157  
(803) 771-4642  
Fax (803) 799-6953

17 June 1993

Bernth Lindfors  
English  
PAR 108  
Univ. of Texas  
Austin, TX 78712-1164

Dear Bernth,

I received your letter of 14 June and wanted to let you know what is going on with the Nicol entry. Since our book is not on next year's projected schedule and will likely be published, therefore, in 1995, I have been concentrating on other projects. I am looking forward to writing the entry, and because of the schedule I will have plenty of time to read all his works and do a thorough job of research with no rushing. Some interlibrary loans will be necessary, and there is some other reading I need to catch up on as well. So, that said, all I can promise is that I will do the job and do a good one. When I can get the finished product to you I don't know, but I'll try to work on it this summer and fall and have it done by the end of the year. That way, if the volume is somehow needed to fill a gap next year, the entry will be ready in time anyway.

Thanks for the opportunity to write the article, and I hope my indefinite timetable doesn't bother you too much. If it would make you feel better to reassign it, I would not perceive that as an insult in any way, but I hope you will just let me take my time in producing it. Please convey my best wishes to Reinhard.

Sincerely,



Jack Turner

November 15, 1993

Jack Turner  
Brucoli Clark Layman, Inc.  
2006 Sumter St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Jack,

Thank you for agreeing to prepare an entry on Abioseh Nicol 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. I trust you don't need 3 and 4 so I'm not enclosing them.



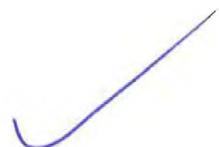
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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January 17, 1994

Dr. Bernth Lindfors  
Department of English  
University of Texas at Austin  
PAR 108  
Austin, TX 78712-1164



Dear Ben:

My good friend and former colleague, Davidson Nicol, has asked me to forward this to you.

His current address is:

28 Victoria Street  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone

1/19

Sincerely,

Mark W. DeLancey  
Professor and Chair

MWD/sh

*Requested by  
mid-August 94*

R.D. 2, Box 184C  
Milton, DE 19968  
31 January 1994

Bernth Lindfors  
Dept. of English  
Univ. of Texas  
PAR 108  
Austin, TX 78712-1164

Dear Professor Lindfors,

Thanks so much for the autobiography of Nicol. Naturally it will help me a great deal. After I quit my job at BCL and moved up here to rural Delaware, where I now teach at Delaware Tech in Georgetown, I found it damned difficult to do the project for you. I also work in radio in order to pay all my bills, so I work a six-day week and have only had the Christmas holidays off to visit my folks in Tennessee. The nearest significant library is in D.C., which is two hours away, and I have been reluctant to spend a whole Sunday over there, assuming their hours would be conducive to my getting some work done. At any rate, my plan now--and I appreciate your patience--is to write the entry in the summer, since the book will not be published until sometime in 1995. Please accept my apologies for the delay; I had hoped things would be different.

In the meantime, could you please send me more info on the autobiography? When will it be published and by whom? Will there be other volumes? Do you know exactly what Nicol is doing now and where he is living? Do you have his current phone number? I seem to remember having his address and number somewhere, but I don't know if they're still the same. Thanks for all your help, and say hello to Reinhard for me. I look forward to working with you both again. By the way, I've put on my editor's hat again and will be doing the British Literary Biographers DLB for Dr. Bruccoli on a free-lance basis--just for fun, of course.

Sincerely,



Jack Turner

9 Academy St., Apt. A  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
31 July 1994

Bernth Lindfors  
English Dept.  
U. of Texas  
Austin, TX 78712

Dear Dr. Lindfors,

Again, please accept my apologies for the delay in completing the Nicol entry. This summer has been both hectic and lazy by turns. I changed jobs, got married, moved to a new address (above), and have been taking it easy for a while to sort of recuperate. However, after checking with Julie Frick at B.C.L., I know that the volume is not the first one on the 1995 schedule; therefore, I will have the entry done in plenty of time for its inclusion in the book. Having edited about twenty DLB's and having done a lengthy entry on American poet Michael Waters, I am well aware of what goes into a good entry and will be able to produce one that requires very little editing, so please don't worry about it. I know I've let you down on this project, but I've always felt that it was better not to rush anything when one is writing for publication. I accepted the responsibility and will come through with a good job eventually. Please try to be patient (though I understand how I have tried your patience over the past year or so).

If you hear anything about the publication of Nicol's autobiography, please let me know immediately. Thank you.

Sincerely,

8/13



Jack Turner

Dear Mr. Turner,

True, it's disappointing that all we've had from you so far are promises, especially inasmuch as the final deadline Bruscoli has given us for this volume is September 1<sup>st</sup>. We intend to send him everything we've got by then and not ask for further extensions to accommodate tardy contributors. Nicol has sent us nine excellent photos and two book jackets, and I'm sure it would be a great disappointment to him as well if no essay appeared on his work. I'll forward these illustrations to Sander (who will forward them to Bruscoli) in the hope that you'll be able to produce something very soon.

Sincerely,  
Bernth Lindfors

↳ I have heard nothing of this, but I did notice a piece by him in a recent issue of West Africa (copy enclosed), and the title suggests that an earlier essay by him on the same subject appeared in the same magazine. I trust you have seen his essay in Présence Africaine, no. 130 (1984): 132-47.

9 Academy St., Apt. A  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
24 August 1994

Bernth Lindfors  
English Dept.  
U. of Texas  
Austin, TX 78712

Dr. Lindfors:

Because of an unexpected drop in enrollment, I will not be teaching at DelTech this semester; therefore, I do not have full access to the library's resources and will not be able to complete the Nicol project. Moreover, the combination of my working in radio for six days a week while teaching part-time during the past year and your taking pedantic, disrespectful potshots at me from your ivory tower have gradually eroded my interest and enthusiasm for the project anyway. You took altogether the wrong approach with me almost from the beginning; I do not respond well to insults and petulance.



Jack Turner

8/29/94

Dear Dr. Turner,

Sorry to have hurt your feelings. As deadlines approach, I tend to get mean and brutish. Sunder and I had so many disappointments and delays with the first volume we put together that I felt a heavier hand was needed this time around. You're right. It was the wrong approach. Sorry your essay on Nicol will not be in the volume.

cc: B.G.L.

Best wishes,

Bernth Lindfors

To:

From: Bernth Lindfors

RE: DLB Vol. 157

Date: February 5, 1996

I am pleased to report that the third Caribbean and African volume of the Dictionary of Literary Biography is now out. The publishers, having had some difficulty in the past in sending volumes to Africa (mainly Nigeria), have sent your copy to me, asking me to find a way to pass it on to you. Since I do not share their concern about the reliability of the post in your corner of the continent, I am shipping your volume to you today by sea mail. When it arrives, please write to me and acknowledge receiving it.

I hope you are pleased with the volume. I think it's another very useful reference work, and I wish to thank you again for having contributed to it