

January 14, 1994

Fred van der Zee  
Editions Rodopi B.V.  
Keizergracht 302-304  
1016 EX Amsterdam, Holland

Dear Mr. van der Zee,

Thank you for your letter of December 7th.

There appears to have been a misunderstanding or miscommunication about the purchase I wish to make of publications for distribution to African university libraries. I was not offering to purchase the forthcoming South African issue of MATATU for this purpose. Rather, when Rodopi later publishes a book of mine entitled COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO AFRICAN LITERATURES, I would like to purchase copies of that book for distribution in Africa. If your price of \$10 per copy would hold for that book, I would be interested in buying 100 copies. Copies could be posted to me, and I would forward them to the libraries concerned. I understand that an extra charge would be made to cover your postal expenses.

The book may not be published for another year or more, so you need not rush to make a decision about this matter. It can wait until closer to the time of publication.

Sincerely yours,

Bernth Lindfors

Dear Jeff,

Thanks for the Manaka photos. It's good to know that he exists in flesh and blood and not just on paper or as a masked presence offstage. NELM has informed me that the magazine SOUTH has a good portrait photo of him, so I have written off for that as well. However, I may still try to get a cartoon or two made. The Nigerian artist who has been supplying them for other authors is really excellent, with a keen eye for responsible distortion.

The source I have relied on for African university library addresses is Hans Zell's THE AFRICAN BOOK WORLD AND PRESS: A DIRECTORY. I could send you the list we used for RAL distribution purposes, but some of the addresses might now be out of date. You would be better advised to rely on Zell, for he also lists South African university libraries which, given the ALA's previous boycott policy, were off the list of those supplied with RAL.

It sounds as if you are keeping frantically busy. I'm still at work on the update of my critical bibliography, so I empathize mightily with your efforts in that direction but I envy you for having brought your project to completion. I'm beginning to wonder if I'll ever get done with mine. It's ~~beg~~gitting to get in the way of ~~loss~~ of other things I want to do, so I'm ~~beg~~templating extreme measures, ~~inc~~ luding the mass extermination of prolific literary critics who write for obscure journals--a final solution to the bibliographical problem.  
Best wishes,