

November 1st

Dear Bernth,

Thanks for both your letters. Sorry about the delay in replying. I was in South Africa for five weeks after the ACLALS conference and returned to a very hectic beginning of term. Vacation absences take their revenge pretty quickly around here.

While in South Africa, I finally managed to catch up with Matsemela. So that the much belated answer to your question at the Paris conference as to when the show was being put on is in fact the University of Durban-Westville, Oct.1992 - but with the unexpected addition of a mixed Indian and African cast and an Indian musician. It was a marvellous experience to watch Matsemela actually going through the rehearsal process.

Anyway, the answer to both your questions is of course, 'yes'. I've consulted with the other two editors of the series, Hena Maes-Jelinek and Gordon Collier, and we have agreed that we'd like to have your essay volume. It would be a fine continuation of our African interest after Gérard and Zabus and with a Zimbabwean issue in the pipeline. We're also of course sympathetic to your desire to have the material distributed in Africa in book form, although whether subsidy would be forthcoming from the European end remains to be seen. Could you at some stage give us an idea of when you'd like to submit the book? Let me know too whether you want a written contract from us? You can take it that the editors' ok is sufficient for Rodopi to do the book. I confess, however, that the publisher sometimes displays a certain reluctance to republish material already available, since he thinks libraries tend not to buy it. In the case of your project - and of Gérard's for that matter too, I don't think the reservation applies, since the sources are very widespread and not easily accessible, and your aim is somewhat different. So with our thanks for offering our series your project, please go ahead.

I'd be very happy to do a contribution on Matsemela for your Dictionary of Literary Biography and, touch wood, I think I can meet your deadline this time. The project fits in neatly with what I have been doing recently - and now that I have been persuaded to do a German Habilitation, I shall have to be spending a lot of time on South African literature during the next year or so. As far as additional material is concerned, there will be no problem, as Matsemela is also a visual artist who produces linocuts, oil paintings and also of course designs his own sets and backdrops. I have a collection of photographs of productions as well, many of which are being used for the edition of the plays which is hopefully about to be

printed at last.

I can be contacted at the Institut für Anglistik, RWTH, 51 Aachen, Tel. 0241/806105 (FAX:0241-407712) or at home on 0241/37977.

Matsemela is notoriously difficult to get hold of and is a very infrequent letter writer. He can be contacted at: 975 Zone 3 Extension, Diepkloof 1864, South Africa. Phone is (011) 985-6490. I fancy that might now also function as his Fax number, but I'm not sure.

While you're about sending me the material on presentation, you might include some details about the other volumes which precede this one, so that I can get the dept. to order it and perhaps take one myself.

Many thanks for inviting me to join this project. I hope you will be satisfied with the contribution when it comes.

I appreciated your remark about Jamaican beaches -. especially now that we are moving into November and my early morning jog is beginning to require a bit more commitment! I'd hoped to make it to Guadeloupe but it doesn't look very likely now. A pity - a repeat Caribbean performance sounds very attractive.

Best wishes for your project and many thanks for both your offers.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ged', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.