

Robben Island East,

Robben Island.

6th December, 1963.

Dear Mrs Marquard,

Thank you for your letter,
the books and the regular flow of "The Listener."
I enjoyed the "conducted tour"
through Greece very much indeed. When I
was doing Plato's history, we had a section
known as Ancient History in our syllabus. It
dealt with the glorious past of Greece, among
other things. And the Parthenon and the
Acropolis featured prominently; and we
enjoyed their sound! I can therefore,
appreciate your feelings when you saw them
in the flesh, so to speak, well as though they are
And your description of the scene of the blind
boy is most touching. Unfortunately I am not
modern enough yet to be able to forgive
indifference to an act of kindness.

Thank you, also, for the books. I
have finished ^{using} the Leopards. I made the mistake
of reading the critics' comments before reading
the book with the result that when I have come
to the last page I could not but feel, as
some poet ^{felt} ~~said~~ of the Skylark, I think,

"Thou didst not sing to Shelley half so sweet a song, as Shelley sang of thee" - with apologies to the literary figure I quote.

It is very kind of you to offer to send me recreational books, but it won't be necessary just yet. I have over a dozen books here that I haven't read yet and a friend in Johannesburg has written to say that more are on the way. Please believe me when I say that you couldn't have helped me more than by sending me "The Listener".

My wife was here last week with my little boy - the twins. She has gone back to fetch our two elder children who are at school in Sacramento. She'll be arriving back here late next week and will have to return to Johannesburg by the 16th to resume her duties. We spent some pleasant hours together. The twins were seventeen months old when I went to jail. They are five years two months exactly today (6th). I am looking forward to seeing them all next week. Incidentally, I celebrated my 39th birthday yesterday (5th July) - my fourth in jail.

I shall not make this letter a long

one, lest you feel you have to do the same!
 Unfortunately, my wife has not told me
 where she is staying in Nyamija East and I
 cannot, therefore, give you her address. She has
 left the twins with friends in Cape Town.

Wishing you and your family a ~~good~~ blessed
 Christmas,

I am,

Yours sincerely,
 M. S. K. K.

A2618

Robert Sobukwe Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2618-Bd2-14

Document Title:- To Mrs Marquard from Robben Island (3 copies, 2 typed)

Author:- Robert Sobukwe

Document Date:- 06 December 1968