

Received
13/3/67.

Robben Island Gaol,
Robben Island.

1st March, 1967.

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,
804 Doornbos,
Van der Merwe Street,
Kilbrow,
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

I am not yet using
the "executive-type" fountain pen
you sent me. I want to get my
money's worth out of this contraption
that American high-pressure
salesmanship has foisted on us.

Mrs Marquard wrote to me a
few weeks ago and told me she
had had a visit from you. She

2

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was obviously most favourably impressed (as I had expected) and spoke warmly not only of you as a person but also of our friendship.

Helen Snyman visited me here, too, as you know, and she greeted me with the words "I was with your friend, Benjie, yesterday." I was forcibly struck by the inadequacy if not the incongruity of the term. I have friends, of course, of whom I am very fond, and high on the list are Mrs. Maynard and Prof. Wellington, but I have long passed the stage of even thinking of you as a friend. I don't want to be sentimental about this. So I suggest that you and I stick to simple Bob and Benjie in our dealings with each other, in the

1/3

same way as my biological brother, Charles and I stick to our nicknames.

Thank you, on Miliswa's behalf, for the mattress. She is growing ~~into~~^{into} a glorious Watusi woman.

Thank you for the arrangements with Stutterfords. I was expecting word that you had fixed (or is it "clinched"?) matters with the management. I shall still, however, be obliged to ask you to do the buying of clothes and such like, as colour, texture and price are things that require an "inspection in loco". I am appending quite a list.

Two weeks or so after my wife had left, my oldest brother dropped in on a Friday afternoon. He is an Anglican priest, as you know and the

humour of the situation is that that very morning I had written to stop all visits by priests and padres: in their official capacity, that is. He is a very good man but has always had certain prejudices and biases that I do not share. He thinks I am annoyingly stubborn!

You will remember I said my mother and my sister-in-law would be visiting me in April. Well, they are doing it either this WEEK or next week, according to a telegram I received last week. As I had heard from Helen that you were around, I asked Mrs Marquard to contact you and inform you about these changed arrangements. I should very much like for you to meet. They'll be staying with friends in one of the locations

this acute pain, a straining of the nerves of the heart, as Mozart plays music upon music? "Why is all lovely thought a pain?" asks Walter de la Mare.

I haven't received the other three records you mentioned: Barber, Sandberg and Moore. I haven't received any of your book-reviews, either, that is, if you've sent any.

Thank you for news about Jimmy. I have heard of your frustrating experiences. Just you be true to yourself. She has the love, all of it, you have for her. She'll grow up, Benjie, and she'll choose to be decent like her father.

I am attaching the list of my requirements but if my sister-in-law meets you before you've received the letter, she'll give her the list to hand

but they'll let you know where they are
as soon as I have met them.

Your last batch of reading books was
really outstanding. I have enjoyed the
plays and the short stories and two
or three novels. Taylor's History of Germany
Hans. History of Russia (on the serious
side) make delightful reading. Thanks
a lot. ~~?~~

I have just seen the card you
enclosed. My thanks to Margie. As I
had said to you I love her even in
absentia. I subsequently saw her
~~photograph~~^{picture} in the papers and got my wife's
report. I loved what I saw and heard.

I have received the six records
from Beodra. Please thank my friends
for me. I can never tire of the music
of these fellows, Benji. Have you experienced

over to you.

Love to Margie, Jenny
and all my friends.

Yours affectionately,
Bob.

List:-

- 3 pairs pyjamas, size 42: dark preferably.
- 2 charcoal or black shirts: collar 16½:
casual like the "Bronzoni" you sent me
- 1 casual wear shirt to go with the
brown trousers you sent.
- 2 pairs coloured or striped sheets
- 1 pair rough pig-skin shoes as before or
rougher still (size 9½).
- 1 Khakhi shirt and trousers (trousers 5½)
- 1 slop pail.

ps.

Thanks

- 1 balaclava cap: black or grey. for a large
head (7¼ hgt.)

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