

UNISA DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

**THE PERSONAL PAPERS OF
ZACHARIAH KEODIRELANG MATTHEWS**

Updated by
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March 2010

ZK Matthews biographical information

Zachariah Keodirelang Matthews was born in Kimberley in 1901. After finishing high school, he enrolled for a BA degree at Fort Hare, and completed it in 1923 – thereby becoming the first African to obtain a BA degree at a South African Institution. After private study, Matthews became in 1930, the first African to earn an LL.B. degree in South Africa, and was admitted as an attorney to the Johannesburg bar and the Transvaal division of the Supreme Court. In 1933 he was invited to study at Yale University in the United States, and the following year he completed an MA there. Afterwards he spent a year at the London School of Economics to study anthropology.

He returned to South Africa in 1935, and in 1936 he was appointed lecturer at Fort Hare in Social Anthropology and Native Law and Administration. In 1944 Matthews became head of Fort Hare's department of African Studies, and he was also promoted to professor.

On the political front, Matthews became ANC provincial president for the Cape in June 1949. He proposed the basic idea of the Congress of the People in his presidential address to the Cape annual conference in August 1953. In December 1956, when he was the acting principal of Fort Hare, he became one of the accused in the Treason Trial. On his release from the trial in late 1958, he returned to Fort Hare. In 1962 Matthews moved to Geneva to become secretary of the Africa division of the World Council of Churches. In 1966 he accepted the post of ambassador to the United States and chief United Nations representative for Botswana. He died in the United States in 1968.

Bridging the gap between the old guard and the more militant younger members of the African National Congress in the late 1940's and 1950's, Matthews exercised a major guiding and moderating influence on African political history in its most crucial period. He was at the same time South Africa's, and perhaps the continent's, most distinguished African intellectual.

(Extracted from): *From Protest to Challenge: A documentary history of African politics in South Africa 1882 – 1964*, edited by Thomas Karis and Gwendolen M Carter, 1977.

This collection consists of handwritten manuscripts, letters, pamphlets, photos, typed reports and lectures, with bound and loose leaf pages. 1453 items.

ZK Matthews collection

A RESEARCH ITEMS

- A1 Yale University
- A1.1 - A1.18 Correspondence 30/3/1933 – 20/1/1934
- A1.19 Bantu law and western civilization in South Africa: a study in the clash of cultures. MA thesis, Yale, May 1934
- A2 Barolong research
- A2.1 - A2.16 Correspondence 13/5/1935 – 5/11/1935 with International African Institute, Dr. A Kerr, JD Rheinallt Jones, Dr. I Schapera and others
- A2.17 - A2.35 Field reports and notes
- A2.36 - A2.50 History of the Barolong
- A2.51 - A2.77 Genealogies and regiments
- A2.78 - A2.97 Family life and culture of Barolong
- A2.98 - A2.106 Kinship among Barolong
- A2.107 - A2.133 Miscellaneous notes and notebooks
- A2.134 - A2.146 Praise poems

B POLITICS

- B1 Native Representative Council
- B1.1 - B1.13 Correspondence relating to work of NRC 1942 - 1944
- B1.14 - B1.22 Documents re NRC dispute with Govt. 1946
- B2 African National Congress
- B2.1 - B2.2 Constitution, 1942, Rules and regulations
- B2.3 - B2.25 Conferences 1946 - 1955
- B2.26 Questionnaire re Campaign against Bantu Education Act, 1955
- B2.27 - B2.31 ANC Quarterly Bulletin 1, 1 Sept 1949 - 2, 4 Sept 1951
- B2.32 Summary of ZKM's activities in ANC 1953 - 1956

- B2.33 - B2.73 General ANC correspondence (1945 - 1959) - with A Bennie, JA Calata, WS Gawe, JN Hlekani, Alfred Hutchinson, VM Kwinana, TT Letlaka, A Luthuli, TT Makwabe, AP Mda, E Mfana, HJ Simons, WM Sisulu
- B2.74 - B2.115 Correspondence re Defiance Campaign 1952 – 1953 including 18 letters from JG Matthews describing events in South Africa, 28/6/52 – 7/1/53; and the collection of funds for the Campaign in the USA.
- B2.116 Treason Trial 1956 - 1961
- B2.116 - B2.134 Correspondence 10/12/1956 – 1/5/1961
- B2.135 - B2.147 Treason Trial's Defence Fund. Press summaries Feb - Nov 1959.
6, 8 - 13, 16 - 17, 21 - 22
- B2.148 - B2.149 Regina v. Adams and others
- B3 General political correspondence, 1936 - 1967.
Includes letters from: -
- B3.1 - B3.72 M Ballinger, 1938 (1), Dr. EA Gross 1965 (1), George M Houser 1959 (3), Moses Kotane 1950 (2), A Luthuli 1960 (1), JG Matthews 1956, 1957, 1967 (3), Govan Mbeki 1956 (1), PR Mosaka 1959, 1960 (2), HS Msimang 1937 (1), Senator L Rubin 1959 (1), South African National Convention 1961 (15), Helen Suzman 1959 (1), Mrs. V Weinberg 1961 (1) and others
- Includes correspondence with: -
- Canon Collins 1959, Defence and Aid Fund 1961, JS Dey re Multi-Racial Conference 1957, Professor Nic Olivier 1959
- B4 Political articles and statements by ZK Matthews, 1930 - 1967
- B4.1 The political needs of the Bantu. (1930's?)
3p. Incomplete. TS
- B4.2 The Colour problems of South Africa. (Review of the book by EH Brookes. Different to published version, see B4.3.1940) 6p. MS
- B4.3 The Colour problems of South Africa. Review of the book by EH Brookes. Race Relations, 7, 2, 1940, p.35 - 37

- B4.4 The rehabilitation and development of the Reserves. South African Outlook, 75, 895, Nov. 1945, p.166 - 170
- B4.5 Native Laws Inquiry Commission. Statements by Professor ZK Matthews and Dr. M Wilson. 17/10/1946. 9p. Roneod
- B4.6 The Native Laws Amendment Bill. (1957?). 11p. TS
- B4.7 The next twenty-five years in race relations in South Africa. SAIRR 14/6/1948. 3p. Roneod
- B4.8 The political needs of the African. 1948 (Different version to B4.9) p.1 -15, 25 - 27 Incomplete. TS
- B4.9 An African policy for South Africa. SAIRR 30/12/1948. 7p. Roneod
- B4.10 Race relations in South Africa. (1940's?) 16. TS
- B4.11 Untitled incomplete article on politics (1940's?) 6p. MS
- B4.12 (Historical survey of "Non-European" politics in South Africa. 1852 - late 1940's). 32p. MS
- B4.13 Memorial service, Port Elizabeth, May 14, 1950. Incomplete. 5p. TS
- B4.14 (Non-co-operation and co-operation, early 1950's) 7p. MS
- B4.15 The African response to racial laws. Foreign affairs, 30, 1, Oct. 1951. 14p. TS
- B4.16 Africa today and tomorrow. (Inaugural address as Henry W Luce Visiting Professor of World Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, New York), 1952 - 1953. 19p. TS
- B4.17 The African National Congress (1952 - 1953). 5p. TS
- B4.18 Apartheid - another view. Journal of International Affairs, 7, 2, 1953, p. 145 - 150
- B4.19 - B4.21 Untitled speech and articles re the Defiance Campaign and ANC (1952 - 1953) MS and TSS
- B4.22 The Black man's outlook. Saturday Review, 2/5/53. 8p. TS
- B4.23 The challenge of Africa. (1952 - 1953) 4p. MS

- B4.24 The Christian message and the struggle for freedom in South Africa. (1952 - 1953). 4p. MS
- B4.25 The crisis in South Africa. (1952 - 1953) 24p. TS
- B4.26 Emancipation for all - or chaos. Emancipation Day Program. Peoples Baptist Church. 1/1/53. 7p. TS
- B4.27 Gandhi and South Africa. (1952 - 1953) 4p. TS
- B4.28 The ICU (1925 - 1953) 8p. TS
- B4.29 The place of Africa in the world today. (Howard University. 14/4/53). 16p. MS and TS
- B4.30 Racial antagonism (1952 - 1953) 12p. TS
- B4.31 South Africa 1952. 3p. TS
- B4.32 South Africa: a land divided against itself. Yale Review, summer 1953. 13p. TS
- B4.33 The South African elections and after. Written for Life, May 1953, but not published. 4p. TS
- B4.34 To be or not to be - interned. Includes "African and the War" published in Commonsense, 1942. 11p. MS and TS
- B4.35 Miscellaneous notes for speeches on brotherhood. (1952 - 1953) 19p. MS
- B4.36 Civil rights for Africans and the Tomlinson Report. (1956). 28p. TS
- B4.37 Political arrangements in a multi-racial society. Prepared for Multi-Racial Conference, Sept. 1957. 15p. MS
- B4.38 South Africa: alternatives to disaster. The role of Non-White political organizations. Africa today, Nov - Dec. 1957. 4p. TS
- B4.39 A memorandum for the Commission on Penal and Prison Reform (1947?) 3p. TS
- B4.40 The outlook for our generation. (1959?) 16p. TS
- B4.41 Social relations in a common society. (1959?) 11p. MS
- B4.42 Untitled article on general political situation in South Africa. (1959?) p. 19 - 44. Incomplete. TS

- B4.43 Bantu aspirations. (1950's). 12p. MS
- B4.44 The Emergency regulations 1960. 11p. Incomplete. TS
- B4.45 Social relations in a common South African society. Supplement to Optima, March, 1961. 30p. MS
- B4.46 Southern Africa and its implications for American Foreign policy. 1/3/1967. 11p. TS
- B4.47 Crime and the African in South Africa. No date. 3p. TS
- B5. Political miscellany
- Articles etc. by others
- B5.1 Linington, PA. A summary of the reports of certain pre-Union Commissions on Native Affairs March 1924. Incomplete. 27p. Roneod
- B5.2 (NUSAS Survey of Transkei 1947?) 26p. Incomplete. TS
- B5.3 Ntloko, CS. The report of the Native Laws Commission, 1946 - 1948; a review. 7p. TS
- B5.4 Warner, HS. South Africa: who provoked the riots? The Nation, 21/2/1953, p. 167 - 169
- B5.5 Booth, AR. Memorandum to W. C. C. colleagues re: Policy on South Africa. July 1964. 6p. TS
- B5.6 African General Workers' Union. Constitution. No date. 5p. Roneod
- B6.1 - B6.55 Political newspaper clippings re NRC, ANC, Treason Trial etc.
- C** **EDUCATION**
- C1.1 - C1.6 Adams College
- C2 Correspondence on education matters
- C2.1 - C2.97 University College of Fort Hare 1935 - 1958 with Sir Fulque Agnew, Dr. EH Brookes, CP Dent, Professor LJ du Plessis, Professor AS Galloway, Professor DDT Jabavu, AC Jordan, Dr. A Kerr Professor JD Krige, CT Loram, GIM Mzamane, SB Ngcobo, MOM Seboni, P Ka I Seme, Donald Stuart, WM Tsotsi, A Vilakazi, Quintin Whyte, and others

- C2.98 - C2.262 1959 - 1961 contains correspondence re resignation from Fort Hare, including advice, congratulations etc. from JA Calata, WS Gawe, A Luthuli, Govan Mbeki, JS Moroka and others; and various offers of other positions eg. from Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., New School of Social Research, New York, Union Theological Seminary, University of Cape Town etc.
- C2.263 - C2.299 Union Theological Seminary 1952 - 1953
- C3 Lecture notes
University College of Fort Hare
- C3.1 - C3.54 Native Law - general and delicts
- C3.55 - C3.81 Public Administration - Native Administration and labour
- C3.82 - C3.86 Miscellaneous
- C3.87 - C3.95 Union Theological Seminary
- C4 Articles and statements on education, university apartheid etc. 1930's - 1968
- C4.1 (Native education. late 1930's) 5p. MS
- C4.2 South African African Teachers Federation. Presidential address, Dec, 1940. 14p. MS (Published in *The Good Shepherd*, 13, 26, March 1941)
- C4.3 Comments on the letter by Dr. Wolheim on the appointment of Africans as principals of Native Secondary Schools. (1941?) 8p. MS
- C4.4 Untitled article on Native Education. (1947?) 3p. MS
- C4.5 African music in South Africa (1940's) 5p. TS
- C4.6 The aims of Native Education (1940's) 3p. TS
- C4.7 Higher education for the Bantu in South Africa (1940's) 13p. TS
- C4.8 Native Education in the Union (1940's) 10p. MS
- C4.9 Native high schools in Natal (1940's) 4p. MS
- C4.10 Recent developments in Native education (1940's) 11p. Incomplete. MS

- C4.11 The educational needs of the African (1952 - 1953)
3p. Incomplete. TS
- C4.12 Transvaal African Teachers' Association Jubilee
Conference. Address. 1956. 11p. TS and MS
- C4.13 The University College of Fort Hare. Reprint from South
African Outlook, April - May 1957. 35p.
- C4.14 Memorandum on separate university education 1957.
19p. TS
- C4.15 Natal University Convocation. Address on history of
Fort Hare. (June 1959) 14p. MS
- C4.16 The crisis in university education in South Africa.
(1959?) 18p. TS
- C4.17 The education of the African: the road ahead. (1959?)
31p. TS
- C4.18 Africans in the Union: education. (1950's) 19p. MS
- C4.19 (African education. 1960). 7p. MS
- C4.20 African awakening and the universities. TB Davie
Memorial Lecture 1961. 35p. MS
- C4.21 Education for nationhood. 1968. 6p. TS
- C4.22 The University in a multi-racial society. No date. 5p. MS
- C4.23 - C4.24 Notes on education. No date. 3p. MS
- C5.1 - C5.32 Newspaper clippings on education, university apartheid

D

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1937 - 1960

- D1 - D94 Contains very general matters such as invitations to
attend conferences or to give talks or write articles eg. for
Optima. Other matters include correspondence re the
African Horizon Insurance Company, 1957, and
correspondence re obtaining a passport for Matthews' son,
John Knox, to study medicine in the UK, etc.

E	EVENTS DURING 1961 - 1968
E1	General correspondence 1961 - 1968
E1.1 - E1.112	Contains similar material to Section D, but includes for example correspondence re receiving an honorary LLD degree from Rhodes University in 1961, the delivery of the third TB Davie Memorial Lecture at the University of Cape Town in 1961, and the series of articles called 'Our Heritage' from Imvo Zabantsundu
E2	World Council of Churches
E2.1 - E2.22	World Council of Churches Consultation, Cottesloe, Johannesburg, 7 - 14 Dec. 1960
E2.23 - E2.51	Correspondence, 1961 - 1966
E2.52 - E2.55	Miscellany
E3	Botswana
E3.1 - E3.43	Early political contacts 1935 - 1960, including documents re dispute over Proclamations 74 and 75 of 1934; dispute between Tshekedi and Seretse Khama, 1950; Tshekedi Khama's death, 1959
E3.44 - E3.56	Various educational projects, April - June 1966
E3.57 - E3.81	Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations
E4	Condolences and Tributes
E4.1 - E4.50	Selection of letters telegrams etc. sent after the death of ZK Matthews
E4.51 - E4.54	Degree certificates (copies)
E4.55 - E4.61	Articles about ZK Matthews
E4.62 - E4.80	Biographical newspaper clippings
F	MISCELLANEOUS
F1	Miscellaneous articles by ZK Matthews
F1.1	The ever-widening - ever-narrowing world. Undated. 26p. TS
F1.2	Problems of Bantu youth; a study in culture contacts. Undated. 12p. TS

- F1.3 The South-Eastern Bantu: the Zulu-Xosa group. Undated. 16p. TS
- F1.4 Professor DDT Jabavu of Fort Hare. Obituary, 1959. 5p. TS 1
- F1.5 Outline of chapters on South Africa. (of D72) 3p. TS
- F1.6 - F1.31 Our Heritage. A series of biographical articles written for Imvo Zabantsundu, 1961. TS
- F2 Miscellaneous articles by others
- F2.1 Pitje, GM. Some notes on marriage custom among the Pedi and cognate tribes. Undated. 30p. TS
- F2.2 On the teaching of law. Undated, incomplete. 21p. TS
- F3 Miscellaneous documents
- F3.1 Union of South Africa. Department of Native Affairs. Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the social, health and economic conditions of urban Natives. 1942. 30p.
- F3.2 Ciskeian General Council. Proceedings at special sessions. 1945. 22p.
- F3.3 Ciskeian Missionary Council. Resolutions ... of 14th February 1945 on the Report of the National Health Services Commission in so far as it affects missionary work. 1p. TS
- F3.4 - F3.5 African Horizon Insurance Co. Ltd. Specimen premium receipt book and policy declaration. (1957)
- F3.6 African Horizon Insurance Co. Ltd. Memo on deposit receiving institution for Africans (1957). 2p. TS
- F3.7 African Horizon Insurance Co. Ltd. Names and addresses. 1p. MS
- F3.8 South African Institute of Race Relations. The logic of economic integration. 1952. 15p. Roneod
- F3.9 National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA Information Service. 20/6/1953. South Africa: is racial separation possible? 8p.
- F3.10 A survey of Southern Africa. The Economist 7.8.1965. 30p