## Descriptive Metadata sheet for the Achival Material ZK Matthews Collection

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## YALE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

28 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut

March 30, 1933

Mr. K. Matthews, Amanzimtoti Institute, Adams Mission Station, Natal, South Africa.

Dear Mr. Matthews: -

I was glad to receive your letter of February 27 and to learn that you had decided to accept the scholarship at Yale University.

By this time you will, no doubt, have learned that this scholarship is not a Carnegie grant, but is an amount of \$1000 provided jointly by Yale University and the Phelps Stokes Fund. The Carnegie Corporation kindly undertook the cable expenses and by an oversight the cable was signed "Carneorp", rather than "Loram".

I realize that it will not be easy for you to raise the money for the support of your family while you are away, but many of us in our search for education have had to make as great, or even greater, sacrifices than will be necessary in your case. While I have put the figure of \$1000 as the proper amount needed for your year at Yale, something can be saved on this by the exercise of economy. In my recent letter to Principal Kerr I have had in mind living arrangements at Yale which would enable you to enjoy the social life of the University while at a low figure. Everything will, of course, depend on your own personal tastes, but many graduate students manage on less than \$1000 a year.

I think it will be necessary for you to make up your mind in which of the three fields - law, anthropology, and education - you wish to specialize. In this country post-graduate work is specialized work and at Yale University the courses are so exacting that I am sure you will not be able to undertake more than one of these courses. In my arrangements hitherto I have assumed that you would register in the Department of Education, and I have already made provision for your reception in this Department. Should you prefer to register in the Department of Anthropology, it will be necessary for you to make application at once to Professor E. Sapir. I cannot say at the moment if the Department of Social Anthropology would accept

you as a graduate student hoping to complete the M.A. work within a year. Your knowledge of African languages and cultures would be, of course, more than adequate, but it may be that the Department of Anthropology would require you to have completed certain formal courses in anthropology before allowing you to write the M.A. essay.

I do not think it necessary to make any reference to the School of Law, for that department does not give the M.A. degree and offers courses more directly intended for students who will practice law in this country.

I appreciate, of course, your desire to see as many phases of university work as possible, and there is no reason why you should not make application to sit in as an auditor at other courses, but, as a rule, auditors do not profit very much, because of the intense nature of the work undertaken. You might, however, consider the advisability of remaining in the United States for the months of July and August, 1934. If you did this, you could either take certain courses at the summer school of Columbia University or register as a student in the special seminar at Yale University, when a considerable amount of time will be given to work in social anthropology. I hope to be able to send you a special announcement regarding this course, within the next month or so.

What I should like to emphasize particularly is the very high standard of specialized work you will have to achieve in either education or anthropology, if you are to make application to take the M.A. degree in a year, for, as I think I have told you, most students at Yale stay two years for the M.A. course. If, for exemple, you register in the Department of Education you will be required to give from one-half to two-thirds of your time to the work of the General Seminar, which meets four hours a week with seven professors and goes very deeply into the fundamental aspects of the subject.

In addition to this General Seminar, you would, no doubt, wish to take my special seminar in "The Introduction of Western Civilization to Non-Western Peoples", which involves a considerable emount of reading in social anthropology, followed by a detailed study of the types of educational institutions which would make the culture contacts as little disturbing as possible.

I am asking the University to forward you a copy of the Graduate School bulletin, in which you will see the various courses offered by the University to the 2500 students in residence here.

I do not think it will be necessary for you to bring any text-books, for Yale has probably the best university library in the United States, and every facility for independent study is offered as part of the ordinary work of the institution. The only books, pamphlets, etc., which it would be necessary for you to bring with you are those dealing with the special subject which you propose to write on for your M.A. essay. This essay is a very important part of the program, being generally a volume of from 100 to 150 typewritten pages, properly documented.

I do not know if you have yet thought of a subject, but let me indicate the types of essays which I have read, dealing with subjects in your field.

Miss Lavinia Scott wrote a very satisfactory essay on "The Changing Position of Bentu Women in Southeastern Africa", and it might be well worth your while to study this essay before you come. Mr. Peter Cook of Columbia has written a very acceptable dissertation on "The Education of the Bomvana", and Mr. H.C. Catlin is writing his essay on "The Negro County Training School". Casting my mind back to conditions in South Africa, the following are subjects which, I think, need careful investigation and study:

- 1. Sub-Primary Native Schools of Natal.
- 2. The Native School as a Community Center.
- 3. The Curriculum of the Native High School in South Africa.
- 4. Identical or Separate Syllabuses for European and Native Schools in South Africa.

These topics are, of course, only suggestive. What is important is that your M.A. essay should deal with a specific problem which is of importance to the Native people of South Africa and which you can document with adequate source material.

In connection with your M.A. essay, I believe you would be well advised to consult with Miss Lavinia Scott, of Inanda, who will be a much safer guide for you in this connection than anybody else in South Africa.

I was glad to learn of the progress which your high school is making, although I cannot but regret the amount of time which Native high schools spend on subjects which have very little chance of functioning in the lives of the people. It is, of course, a pity that so many European students should follow the blind alleya of the matriculation examinations, but when it comes to the Native people the situation is almost tragic. I am praying for the day when someone will have the courage to work out for the Native people of South Africa an elementary and high school program

suited to their needs. In this connection, it might be worth your while to find out what is being done to develop Native culture and formulate an educational program on African lines at the Prince of Wales's College, Ashimota, Gold Coast.

I am sure that you are going to enjoy the work at this stimulating center of learning, and I am equally sure that everyone here will be glad to have among them so capable and promising a student.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles T. Loram

P.S. May I suggest that you leave nothing undone in securing all the documents necessary for your admission as a student to the United States and for your return to South Africa.