

University of Cape Town,
School of African Studies,
P.O. Box 594,
CAPETOWN.

J.D. Rheinalt Jones, Esq.,
University of the Witwatersrand,
P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

My dear Jones,

I have just received your letter of the 14th instant, forwarding correspondence with Matthews. I think myself that he has done well to select Bechuanaland as his area, not only because he is himself one of the people, but also because we really know very little about them. The only point about which I am doubtful is his desire to work either among the BaNgwato or among the BaThlaping. The position in regard to the former is that I have myself already made two trips to them, and will possibly be going again; so that it would be a pity to duplicate work here when so much remains to be done with the other tribes. In fact, since I am doing practically all my work in the Protectorate, it would be better for Matthews to select a tribe further south, in British Bechuanaland. The work that he proposes to do could, I think, be more satisfactorily carried out among the BaRolong than among the BaThlaping. The former are found in both British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate, i.e. under two different forms of administration, a factor which should suggest a useful field for comparative study; and they can also be studied both in their own Reserves in both territories, and also in such an important urban area as Mafeking. If, then, Matthews plans to do his work in three trips, I would suggest that he go first to the BaRolong farms in Bechuanaland Protectorate, then to the BaRolong areas in British Bechuanaland, and finally to Mafeking itself. He will in this way be able to study the family among the same people in three different settings.

I notice that he expresses a desire to work under my direction if he does go to Bechuanaland. I shall, of course, be extremely glad to help him as far as I can; and I would suggest that in replying to him you ask him to get into touch with me as soon as possible. I shall probably be going overseas in December, and I would like if possible to see Matthews before he goes into the field.

Yours sincerely,

I. SCHAPERA