

Adams College,
Amanzimtoti,
Natal.
30-9-35

Dr I. Schapera,
University of Cape Town,
School of African Studies,
P.O.Box 594
Cape Town.

Dear Dr Schapera,

I have just received from Mr Rheinallt Jones a copy of your letter to him with suggestions regarding the question of the area of my proposed field work in Bechuanaland. I have just written to him to say, that after giving the matter due consideration, I have decided to accept your suggestion that my work should be done among the Barolong instead of the Batlhaping. The former should certainly provide some interesting comparative material, when one takes into account the variety of the conditions under which they live. I notice that in your letter you did not refer to the Barolong at Thaba Nchu and in other parts of the Free State who might quite well also be taken into consideration in a study of this kind.

I must thank you for your readiness to help me in this matter. The only difficulty I can see at the moment with regard to a possible meeting before I ~~xxx~~ go into the field. I notice from your letter that you will be going overseas in December and will therefore probably be absent from the meeting of the Inter-University Committee which Mr Jones tells me is due to meet towards the end of November. I am hoping to attend this meeting or rather meet the members of the Committee at that time. I wonder if it will be possible for you to be present, or whether you are likely to be in the North some time before the date of the meeting. I could in that case endeavour to arrange to meet you. Cape Town is a long way from Adams College where I am at present, and I am afraid Dr Brookes, my Principal would be loth to give me the necessary leave for a trip to Cape Town, especially as I hope to leave here finally before the end of November.

In the meantime I should be glad if you give me suggestion regarding the most suitable place with which to begin among the Barolong. Unfortunately I am not acquainted with either Mafeking or the Protectorate and with the limited time at my disposal I shall have to select the areas in which I work with care. As far as I can see at present my first period of field work will be of three months' duration at the most. I am wondering therefore, whether it would not be advisable to start with Mafeking and the neighbouring "Stadts".

I shall be glad to hear from you and I trust that you will not hesitate to give me any advice suggested by your experience of field-work on questions of methods of investigation, etc. etc. I realise that such matters would be best dealt with in a personal interview, but even if this latter should not be possible, I hope I shall have the benefit of your guidance in my work.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,