

Adams College,
Amanzimtoti,
Natal.
22-9-35

Dr M.Molema,
Mafeking,
B.Bechuanaland.

Dear Dr Molema,

I wonder if I may trespass upon your valuable time ? Perhaps I ought to begin by introducing myself, because although I have always known of you, I have never had the privilege of meeting you personally. On the other hand you may have seen references in the Press now and again to Z.K. Matthews, a Mochuana by birth, bred in Kimberley and educated at Lovedale and Fort Hare, and at the moment Headmaster of the High School Department of Adams College.

I have just returned from America and England where I did post-graduate work at Yale University and at London University. Both at Yale and in London I was working in the field of Social Anthropology and you may know that I have been appointed Lecturer in Bantu Studies at Fort Hare as from February 1936.

To come to the point of my letter, I am anxious, before I take up this appointment at Fort Hare, to get some first hand knowledge of African Life and Custom and in particular of my people, the Bechuana. With this purpose in mind, I am hoping to come up to Bechuanaland in the near future, probably about November. My aim is to make a special study of the Barolong and in this connection I feel sure that you would be able to be of much assistance to me in many ways. I am therefore ^{to} ask you if you be kind enough to give me all the advice you can in this matter. I shall probably require introductions to various people in Mafeking and in other areas occupied by Barolong who may be of use, not only in the matter of facilitating my research, but also in matters such as accomodation, etc. during my stay in those areas. I need hardly tell you how much I would appreciate any thing you could do for me. My own mother is a Morolong of the Magashula family in Mafeking and I suppose I shall probably be able to find quite a number of relations up there. I believe my friend Mr Simon Ratshosa is still in Mafeking and he would be able to enlighten you as to my family history on my father's side.

At the moment I am in touch with Dr Schapera whom you may know personally and it is just possible that my research may be done under his direction, although I shall have a free hand in the matter of the line along which I want to work.

I am afraid I have already taken up too much of your time. Let me conclude by saying that I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience as I am the moment engaged in making plans for this work, which, as I say, I shall have to embark upon in the near future.

I was pleased to see in the Press the report of the fine stand which the Bechuanaland Chiefs took in their meeting with the Government officials at Kimberley the other day.

Your brother, Matlho, who is in our school here, is getting on fairly well with his work, although he will have to work hard if he is get through his Junior Certificate at the end of this year.

With best wishes to you and yours,

Yours sincerely,