

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG.

TELEPHONE No.

44-3781

MILNER PARK,
JOHANNESBURG.10 ~~XX~~ July 1944

Dear Miss Bleet

First my humble apologies for what appears to be remissness or lack of interest but what is really due to overwork and ill health. I am indeed deeply sorry if I have given you, of all people, any cause to think that my enthusiasm for your work had slackened. You are quite right, I have always been ready to help you, whatever the help proffered was worth, and I am still very anxious to do so.

Let me next congratulate you on the accomplishment of a very important and I may say

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2

MILNER PARK,
JOHANNESBURG.

unique piece of work, keenly
looked forward to by all linguists.
Now as to the questions you ask me
1. Capitals for the symbols you

mention: If you refer to Doke's
Comparative Study in Shona Phonetics
1931. You will see in his maps at
the end of the volume some of these
symbols written in capitals

eg. KALADA [Kalaya]

~~ΣADWE~~

ΣADGWE [Sagwe]

He also uses them, in the body of the
book, for the initial letter where they
occur, but only in the case of
the names of the dialects, e.g. p.
8, 9, etc. It is a convention
of the International Phonetic Alphabet
that capitals are ^{normally} not used to
begin ordinary words. I presume
you can consult the book in Capetown.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND,
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496-375

TELEPHONE NO.

44-3781

MILNER PARK,
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3

Perhaps his "Unification of the ~~Shona~~
Shona Dialects" will be more useful to you
as it contains on p. 149, an Alphabet
where some of the symbols we are discussing
are given with their corresponding capitals.
As far as the rarer symbols you mention
are concerned, I am afraid you will
have to evolve your own forms and
if you decide to do so, I shall be very
blessed to help you.

20 The use of χ instead of $\underline{x}$.

I think, if I were you, I would
substitute your $\underline{x}$ for your father's
 χ wherever it occurs and likewise
 $\parallel$ for $\underline{x}$ (the chick in your father's ~~notation~~
early notation), adding an explanatory
note and examples, at the head of
your dictionary or some other appropriate
place. I am afraid that, if you wrote
them by hand (I mean your father's symbols)
the printer would not be able to carry
out your intention of making the difference.

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4

TELEFOON No.

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30 I am thoroughly in agreement with your idea of having an English-Bushman part in a shortened form. I think I have answered your questions to the best of my ability. If there is anything else where I can help, please do not hesitate and I promise you my answer will not be so ^{long} delayed this time.

I am leaving for the Northern Transvaal to-morrow, Tuesday, and shall not be back for about a fortnight - that is all the time I can afford for a much needed rest. So, if you will be so kind as to send me, as you intend, the click portion ~~of~~, I shall be very happy to look through it, but do that towards the end of July - your list of numbers & pages for each click is most interesting.

With kindest regards

Yours very sincerely

L. F. Mairi