BC151 C19.25

No E. G.G. 468.

La Rochelle,
Ne lands,
14. 5. 1947

The Secretary,
S. A. Council for Educational, Sociological and Humanistic Research,
The Union Education Department,
New Standard Bank Buildings,
Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

re Research Grant

In a letter of the 9th January 1946 the Secretary of the National Research Committee and Board informed me that the Minister of Education had approved of the Board's recommendation to award me a Government Research Grant of £500 towards the publication of a Comparative Dictionary of Bushman Languages. The Board stipulated that the remainder required for the book should be raised elsewhere. They said the amount was to be kept in their office and paid to me as and when required.

On the 1st April 1946 I was informed that the University Council of the University of Cape Town had approved of a grant of £250 towards the publication of the Comparative Dictionary of Bushman Languages. That with the £250 I am able to give brought the sum up to the £1000 for which the Lovedale Press had given a quotation in 1945. But when I wrote to them to tell them that I had the money and could close with their offer, they stated that they were quite unable to undertake the work for several years, nor would they be bound as to the price.

I thereupon tried the Oxford Press, but they too were unable to undertake any work of this class for at least two years. The Austin Printers and several other printing and publishing firms were approached by me or others interested, but all are booked up for several years ahead.

Finally Professor Schapera, the Secretary of the Editorial Board of the University of Cape Town, wrote to colleagues in America, and has sent me a copy of the reply received from Professor Zellig S. Harris (Editor of the Journal of the American Oriental Society). It is as follows.

22nd March 1947.

"Dear Professor Schapera,

"I have looked with some care into the question of publishing "Miss Bleek's Comparative Dictionary of the Bushman Language. The "Oriental Society would be proud to publish this important work.

"The problem of finding a printer is a very difficult one, "though by no means as difficult as it must be in England. I have "tried every printer who could handle this work; all are far behind "in their own commitments. It would be a year or so before they "could begin on it. By that time, too, prices may be much higher.

"The solution is, I believe, to set the book up on a Vari-"typer. This is a typewriter-like machine into which one can "insert any one of hundreds of type faces (book-face types, foreign "alphabets, etc.) and thus prepare a master copy from which the book "is printed by photo-offset method. I enclose a sample of some of "their type faces. We could get type for most of the characters "Miss Bleek uses; the more unusual signs which occur but rarely in "her MS. could be filled in by an artist. The book would look "almost as though printed from movable type, and work on this could "be begun at once. The costs would be the rental of the Varityper, "salary of the operator who would prepare the master copy, and for "the printer who would print the ~~xxxxx~~ book from the master plates. "The American Oriental Society would pay any cost over and above "the £1000 which has been granted to Miss Bleek.

"If this plan meets with your approval, please let me know. "You can then send me the whole MS. (or as much of it as is ready), "and we will draw up a contract providing for our publication and "for transfer to the American Oriental Society of the £1000 grant "(not all of which may be needed).

"Sincerely yours, (signed) Zellig S. Harris."

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Both Professor Mainzard and Professor Schaefera advise me to close with this offer. I am ready to do so, provided your Council approves. Please let me know their opinion as soon as possible, and inform me in what manner the £500 can be transferred to the American Oriental Society for the publication.

Yours faithfully,