

University,

3rd September 1942.

Miss K. Campbell,
220 Marriott Road,
Durban.

Excavation: Dinganskraal

Dear Miss Campbell,

In reply to your letter of August 29th 1942, three points emerge:

1) Some years ago Die Historiese Kommissie van die Saauswerk Unie sought permission to excavate the underground granaries within the fenced Dinganskraal area. They seemed then to think that the Pretorius stone would be found buried in one of these underground storage "bins". The Native Affairs Department refused positively to allow any tampering with the soil where such tampering would be to the hurt of the susceptibilities of the Natives and particularly of the members of the Zulu family. Mr. Lugg went so far as to support this "because I take the stand that anything of this nature should be done subject to the willing agreement of the Natives concerned, and even then only with Ministerial approval, so that any undertaking of this kind may be put on a proper footing and be throughout dependent on Government cognisance and control.

"As touching any excavations at Dingansstat, I may mention the incident which occurred whilst we were at the spot, when a Native present unwittingly happened to tap an old hearth there with his stick and was sharply rebuked by another Native for his conduct. That is an indication of the temper of the Zulus about places they hold sacred".

The Commission is obliged to support this official view. Therefore no excavations may be undertaken within the fenced areas except under proper Government control and supervision. This would be provided by me in my capacity as Director of the Bureau of Archaeology.

2) Your letter now makes it clear that Die Historiese Kommissie van die Saauswerk Unie believes the stone to have been buried "in the vicinity of the Retief monument". This, I feel it means that the site is probably outside the fenced area. If I am right, the Commission has no jurisdiction and Mr. A. C. Toit should make his own arrangements for a search in consultation with the owner of the property concerned. But if the site is inside the fence round the Retief Monument, the consent of the Commission will have to be formally obtained.

3) In conclusion I may say that the point you make about "reaffirmation of permission" is quite incorrect. We never have given permission to Die Historiese Kommissie van die Saauswerk Unie to dig within any area controlled by us — and except as outlined in (1) above we obviously cannot do so.

I attach a spare copy of this letter to enable you to send it to Mr. du Toit. We are as eager as he to see the stone.

*Seen
Miss W. Nite for
discussion
3/9/42*

Mr. Malan to see you & make for discussion

Proterius

Steenkamp are to find the Preotirus Stone but when excavations are necessary on any area under our control, we must insist on proper procedure -- despite our complete confidence and trust in the splendid work they have done and the fine spirit they have shown in all historical research undertaken by them. In other words, the Native Affairs Department must agree to the excavations proposed and a properly qualified archaeologist must supervise all excavations on a habitation site, but not necessarily beyond the limits of such a site.

Yours sincerely,

C. V. R. L.

SECRETARY