



## Institute of Commonwealth Studies University of London

### JOHN PATRICK COPE PAPERS (ICS 14)

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#### Context

John Patrick Cope, son of C.F.J. Cope, was born in Mooi River Natal on 17 March 1906. He was educated at St. Andrews College, Grahamstown and in 1924 joined the *Rand Daily Mail* as a club reporter. In 1930 he joined the *Natal Mercury* as their parliamentary and political correspondent and became friendly with Ian Hofmeyr and other parliamentary figures.

In 1935 he went to Abyssinia and discovered the Italian plot to annex the country. In 1937 he went to China to cover the Sino-Japanese war for 3 South African papers. In 1937 he joined his former editor Kingston Russell in his venture to found a political weekly, *Forum*. On Russell's retirement, through ill health, he assumed the editorship, which he retained for 14 years under the chairmanship of Hofmeyr.

In 1951 *Forum* closed and Cope rejoined the *Rand Daily Mail* as editorial assistant. He entered politics and was returned for Parktown in 1953 and 1958 as a United Party M.P. In 1959 he was one of the group of UP members who broke away to form the Progressive Party, but he lost his seat after a smear campaign in the 1961 election. For a detailed account of the founding of the Progressive Party and Cope's actions see J. Strangeways-Booth: *Helen A cricket in the thorn tree: Helen Suzman and the Progressive Party of South Africa*. Hutchinson, 1976.

For further details of his relationship with Hofmeyr see J.P. Cope: Conversation with J. Hofmeyr in *Forum*, Dec. 1961, p.4-7. He also edited a revised edition of Hofmeyr's book *South Africa*, published by Ernest Benn in 1952.

Cope married Margaret Nancy Rouillard in 1939 and they have 3 children.

The Cope papers comprise press cuttings, from his years as a journalist in South Africa, Abyssinia and china and 96 items of correspondence; the majority of which are letters from Hofmeyr.

**ICS 14/1          Printed, Typescript, and Manuscript Material.**

- 1.1 J. H. Hofmeyr. *Africa and science*. Cape Town, S.A. Association for the Advancement of Science. 1929. 22pages.
- 1.2 Poster: why natal must separate from the Union. Maritzburg Branch of the Natal Devolution League, [1932].
- 1.3 Manifesto of H.P. Borlase, South African party candidate in the Umbilo by-election. [1932?] 4 pages.
- 1.4 J.H. Hofmeyr. *What of the future?: South Africa's present day problems analysed*. Johannesburg, The Forum, 1948. 63 pages.
- 1.5 South African Press Association. *Journalism in South Africa*. 1952. [pp. 50-51, parliamentary reporting by John Cope].
- 1.6 Institute of Citizenship. Cape Town. General prospectus. Cape Town, The Institute, 1954. [Cope listed as a speaker.]
- 1.7 [Typescript chapters on the Broederbond.] Chapter 1. Adoration of the flag. 12 pages. Chapter II. Apostles underground. 10 pages. n.d.
- 1.8 The Afrikaner Broederbond: its efforts to usurp the government of the Union and to establish a Nazi republic. 1941. 15 pages. [Typescript].
- 1.9 25 May 1945. Letter to JPC from Louis Kraft, S.A. Institute of International Affairs, enclosing "Commentaries on the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals for the Establishment of an Economic and Social Council".
- 1.10 Minuets of discussion between J.H. Hofmeyr, J.P. Cope and R.M. de Villiers at Pretoria, July 17, 1948 re Hofmeyr's relationship with general Smuts.
- 1.11 Draft by Liberals that a pressure group should be formed, but not split from, the United Party and Labour Party. Outline of a policy and programme for Liberals. [1959?] 7 pages.
- 1.12 Aide memoir of the Congress that caused the split in the Union Party and birth of the Progressive Party. Aug 1959.
- 1.13 Copy of letter? To M.P. re appointment of assistant ministers. n.d.
- 1.14 Notes for motion before Maritzburg's City parliament. The Motion: the aim of constitutional development in the Union of South Africa should be a Republic within the family of the British Commonwealth of Sovereign independent nations. n.d.
- 1.15 Defiance Campaign: memo to the Editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* from Political Correspondent [JPC] [post 1951] 11 pages.
- 1.16 Report on MauMau outbreak in Kenya. n.d.
- 1.17 Typescript with ms corrections "The Bones". 15 pages. n.d. [story concerning Zulu medicine man].
- 1.18 11 pages of ms. No heading, re nationality and flag Bill. [by Hofmeyr? 1930s?] Discusses problem of Dominion action if Britain declares war.
- 1.19 8 pages of ms. 1<sup>st</sup> page missing. Also by Hofmeyr? [on same paper as above]. Re Natal's political climate and SA's native policy.

**ICS 14/2            Miscellaneous.**

- 2.1 2 negatives – two people by a fireside; 1 landscape.
- 2.2 Press cutting re parliamentary question asked JPC re banning of John Hatch. n.d.
- 2.3 Five House of Assembly Press representative's lobby tickets for JCP 18 Nov 1931 – 11 Jan 1935.
- 2.4 Page 5 of a letter to Editor, *Natal Mercury* from G. Heaton Nicholls and 9 others taking exception to a report by JCP.
- 2.5 Page 3 from *Progress*, July 1977. Article on Death of United Party. Picture of JCP in 1959.
- 2.6 Notes on the life of John Cope.

**ICS 14/3            Correspondence.** [to JCP unless otherwise stated]

- 3.1 n.d. from Hofmeyr giving financial figures for 1930/1, 1929/30.
- 3.2 Good Friday. From Hofmeyr thanking him for telegram on Fort hare speech.
- 3.3 19 Apr. From Hofmeyr thanking him for sending editorial from RDM.
- 3.4 n.d. From Hofmeyr giving him amended revenue figures for 1931/32.
- 3.5 Thursday. From Hofmeyr sending him negative strip [not enclosed] and suggesting a meeting at the station while he is changing trains.
- 3.6 Saturday. From Hofmeyr re overcoming paper difficulty.
- 3.7 n.d. page of letter [from Hofmeyr] r legislation passed in 1943.
- 3.8 Sunday. From Hofmeyr re his work on the budget.
- 3.9 Tuesday. From Hofmeyr re assignments.
- 3.10 n.d. From Hofmeyr asking JPC to come and see him.
- 3.11 29 Jun 1904. Typed copy of letter to [Botha] from Kruger, in Switzerland, thanking him for remembering him at a meeting.
- 3.12 9 May 1927. From Louis Ross Macleod? Editor RDM, congratulating him on coverage of Charlestown murders.
- 3.13 26 Nov 1929. From R.J. Kingston Russell, Editor *Natal Mercury*, re prospects of a job.
- 3.14 4 Dec 1929. From R.J. Kingston Russell re his application for a job.
- 3.15 16 Dec 1929. From J.R. Kingston Russell asking him to contact Bishop Karney for an article.
- 3.16 13 Apr 1931. From Hofmeyr re article on him in *Natal Mercury* by JPC.
- 3.17 24 Sep 1931. From R.J. Kingston Russell congratulating him on Health Week Supplement.
- 3.18 14 Fe 1932. From R.J. From Hofmeyr re railway deficit.
- 3.19 15 Feb 1932. From R.J. From Hofmeyr re estimates.
- 3.20 12 Apr 1932. Telegram from Clarkson, Durban, re report of Heaton Nicholls speech.

- 3.21 2 letters to Heaton Nicholls from JPC, dated Friday and Monday June 20 [1932] re the Devolution League of Natal.
- 3.22 13 Nov 1932. From Heaton Nicholls re British rights in Natal.
- 3.23 n.d. 4 pages from Heaton Nicholls? Re separatism in Natal. [1932?].
- 3.24 19 Mar 1934. From Kingston Russell re his letter to Smuts and party politics.  
18 Mar 1934. Copy of letter to Smuts from K. Russell re Natal unrest at proposal of abolition of British nationality.
- 3.25 17 Apr 1934. Telegram from K. Russell “congratulations on report”.
- 3.26 6 Sep 1935. From R.J. Kingston Russell, on holiday in London, re his holiday and problems JPC has had looking after his Durban house.
- 3.27 19 Feb 1936. From Kingston Russell re Hickley-Nesser court case in Maritzburg.
- 3.28 7 Apr 1936. From Hofmeyr thanking him for letter.
- 3.29 29 May 1936. From R. Kotre, thanking him for his article.
- 3.30 3 Jun 1936. From C. Stallard thanking him for birthday gift.
- 3.31 30 Jun 1936. From “Jack”, London, reporter for *Natal Mercury* re conditions in London.
- 3.32 13 Jan 1937. From R. Johnston, Editor, *Natal Mercury*, re the paper’s change of policy.
- 3.33 26 Feb 1937. From Hofmeyr thanking him for his articles.
- 3.34 16 Nov 1937. From R. Johnston, re JCP’s resignation and offer from K. Russell to start a magazine.
- 3.35 17 Nov 1937. From R. Johnston, re Russell’s venture and Cope’s long leave in Shanghai.
- 3.36 4 Dec 1937. From Ronald Currey re *Forum*.
- 3.37 21 Apr 1938. From Hofmeyr re coming of war.
- 3.38 5 Feb 1939. From Hofmeyr re enclosed article “The Parliamentary session”. 5 pages.
- 3.39 3 Mar 1939. From Hofmeyr re Press Bill and government’s coloured policy.
- 3.40 22 Mar 1939. From Hofmeyr re war.
- 3.41 31 Mar 1939. From Hofmeyr with article for *Forum* [not enclosed].
- 3.42 14 Apr 1939. From Hofmeyr r coming of war.
- 3.43 29 Apr 1939. From Hofmeyr re Press Bill.
- 3.44 5 May 1939. From Hofmeyr re segregation and reaction of the Indian government.
- 3.45 7 May 1939. From Hofmeyr re *Forum*.
- 3.46 12 May 1939. From Hofmeyr re Asiatic Bill and Press Bill.
- 3.47 16 May 1939. From Hofmeyr re dropping of Press Bill and arranging a meeting at the station.
- 3.48 26 May 1939. From Hofmeyr re his resignation.
- 3.49 7 Sep 1939. From Hofmeyr that now he is Minister of Finance he will have to stop writing the *Forum*.

- 3.50 7 Feb 1940. From Hofmeyr re statement of policy.
- 3.51 [13 Feb 1940]. From Hofmeyr re bias of article in *Forum* on Parliament.
- 3.52 17 Feb 1940. From Hofmeyr re above.
- 3.53 22 Oct 1940. From Hofmeyr re *Forum* having own printing works.
- 3.54 22 Nov 1940. From Huggins, P.M. office Southern Rhodesia, re warfare.
- 3.55 9 Mar 1943. From Hofmeyr re budget.
- 3.56 26 Aug 1943. From Hofmeyr thanking him for his help.
- 3.57 11 Apr 1944. From Hofmeyr re consultation.
- 3.58 1 May 1944. From O.D. Wollheim, SAIRR, sending article for Forum on pass rates.
- 3.59 24 May 1944. From Wollheim, re visit by police after the appearance of his article.
- 3.60 25 May 1944. From Hofmeyr re the article, and the bad impression it has given of life in South Africa.
- 3.61 29 May 1944. From Hofmeyr from JCP re stir caused by article.
- 3.62 2 Jun 1944. From Hofmeyr re the embarrassment caused to him, and whether he should resign from *Forum*.
- 3.63 6 Jun 1944. To Hofmeyr from JCP withdrawing statement that *Forum* would continue to campaign since it would cause embarrassment to Hofmeyr.
- 3.64 30 Jun 1944. From P. Van der Byl re his native policy and the bad impression given overseas by the Wollheim article.
- 3.65 1 Aug 1944. From Hofmeyr re article "Good citizen and the South African Pound".
- 3.66 22 Jan 1946. From Hofmeyr re proposed visit by English journalists.
- 3.67 16 May 1946. From Hofmeyr from JCP re dummy of new *Forum* [1<sup>st</sup> page only].
- 3.68 20 May 1946. From Hofmeyr re the new style *Forum*.
- 3.69 15 Jan 1948. To Oppenheimer from JCP re possibility of press collaboration with Hofmeyr.
- 3.70 15 Apr 1948. From Hofmeyr re help from Hessor.
- 3.71 23 Aug 1948. From Hofmeyr re JCP's problems with Rostra Printers.
- 3.72 4 Sep 1948. From [Hofmeyr?] [signature cut out] re talks at Port Elizabeth with DP on the National Party.