RACE, MISCEGNATION AND LITERATURE
IN SOUTH AFRICA

A SELECT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Compiled by Conrad Reitz

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of the paper
Miscegnation as a theme in South African literature, and references to some of
them have been included in the footnotes. In certain cases, annotations have been
provided, in order to indicate the usefulness of the texts for additional reading in
some areas of South African history, culture and literature.

Works of fiction with miscegnation as a theme


Books

ADAM, Heribert. The Opening of the apartheid mind: options for the new South Africa.

ASHCROFT, Bill, GRIFFITHS, Gareth and TIFFIN, Helen. The Empire writes back; theory and

BARKER, Francis, HULME, Peter and IVERSON, Margaret (eds.). Colonial discourse / postcolonial theory.


> The standard introductory critical and descriptive text on the work of Alan Paton. Chapter 4 deals with *Too late the phalarope.*


> A very important new work. Not only does the author complete the circle begun by Manfred Nathan 70 years previously (see below), but he adopts an integrative approach to all literature in all languages in all countries in the southern part of Africa. He does not fall into the trap of making artificial distinctions between White and Black writers, or rejecting Afrikaans literature because it is not considered to be indigenous to Africa. The book covers a wide range of work from the story-telling of stone-age Bushmen to modern writing by renowned figures such as Es'kia Mphahlele, Nadine Gordimer and Andre Brink. The main focus is the dynamic relationship between literary culture and political life in countries with fiercely contested histories. He argues that literary history in the Southern African region is best based on a comparative method which, while respecting differences of language, race and social circumstance, seeks cultural interchange, including 'translations' of experience across linguistic and ethnic borders. The study examines points of common reference, as it asks what expression of the past is usable in the 1990s, what current expression has significance for societies struggling beyond apartheid and colonialism towards civil charters? In short, he asks, What makes a literary culture and who are to be regarded as major and minor authors?


> Intended as an introductory text for students of South African literature in South Africa, it discusses works that are readily available in South Africa, i.e. have not been banned. This is a severely limiting mandate, and works by 12 white and two black writers are reviewed in a fairly general way. The inclusion of Rider Haggard and Doris Lessing are questionable, as these writers are not generally considered to be South African, even though their themes are South African.

COETZEE, Ampie and POLLEY, James (eds.). *Crossing borders; writers meet the ANC.* Bramley, Natal: Taurus, 1990.

> The record of discussions that took place in Dakar, Senegal in 1987, during an historic meeting between members of the African National Congress and a group of Afrikaans-speaking academics.
Covers topics such as political perspectives of the ANC, the writer and national liberation, women writers in South Africa, cultural and academic boycotts, etc.


*One of South Africa's most distinguished novelists is an academic at the University of Cape Town, and has produced a work that draws attention to significant themes in the writings of English and Afrikaans White South Africans, and in particular the significance of idleness, farm novels, the evocation of the landscape, the taint of racial mixture, and the simplicity of language and people.*


CRONJE, Geoffrey. *'n Tuiste vir die nageslag.* Johannesbueg: Publicite, 1945.


*Anecdotal study of sexual life among Blacks and Whites*


DVORIN, Eugene P. *Racial separation in South Africa: an analysis of apartheid theory.*


This is one of the very few studies originating in North America that recognizes the similarities between the South African and the American colonial experiences. It discusses in some detail, and with considerable insight, the historical parallels between the two countries, and demonstrates that the same principles of racism motivated most of the political decisions that were made, and that the United States was approximately 30-50 years ahead of South Africa in the introduction of discriminatory and racist policies and practices, and in rejecting discriminatory legislation and attitudes.


...The social roots of sexual attitudes; the deep sexual roots of racial attitudes.


A very useful, although now somewhat dated, guide to sources of information for the study of South African literature, including a survey of styles and themes, academic study, bibliographic resources, etc.


*The representation of pain and suffering in narrative form is an ongoing ethical issue in contemporary South African literature. Jolly looks at three primary South African authors in order to consider violence in the context of apartheid and colonialism, and their inherent patriarchies.*


A comprehensive survey of African literature, discussing prevalent themes and methods, such as autobiography, exile, politics, sex, history and philosophy. It is useful for locating South African literature by Blacks in the context of the continent as a whole.


A general descriptive and thematic introduction to English South African novels, focusing on writers such as Nadine Gordimer, Alex la Guma, Sol Plaatje, Peter Abrahams, Olive Schreiner and Pauline Smith, with a chapter on race in novels by Sarah Gertrude Millin and William Plomer.

Race and law in South Africa: a volume of essays by members of the School of Law, Howard College, University of Natal, Durban, to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Durban school. Cape Town: Juta, 1987.


Contains a number of comprehensive essays on the issue of miscegnation in the United States, with respect to the nature and meaning of race, social, personal and legal implications for mixed-race groups and individuals, and a consideration of the implications for the future.

ROSKAM, K.L. *Apartheid and discrimination; some remarks with regard to the relationships between the white and respective non-white ethnic group in the Union of South Africa.* Leyden: Sythoff, 1960.


An historical and thematic discussion, addressing the work of mission-educated writers, protest writing, political revolution, and black consciousness. It is to a large extent a reworking of Barnett’s work above, but from a consciously “black” viewpoint.

SICKELS, Robert J. *Race, marriage and law.* Alberquerque: University of New Mexico, 1972.

A collection of essays offering a fresh perspective on constructing an innovative literary history in the context of post-apartheid South Africa. Issues such as the segregation of literary cultures into ethno-linguistic ghettos, the marginalization of African language, and literature and women’s writing, the dangers of nationalistic models, and the value of inter-cultural comparativist studies, are debated.


This report, known as the "Tomlinson report", after its chairman, established an economic blueprint for the separate development of Africans in so-called "Bantu areas,” and addressed issues of industrial and agricultural development, health, education, religion, political policies, legislative plans, etc.


Presents the results of a nation-wide public opinion telephone survey which addresses the current beliefs of American white women, and a consideration of these beliefs within the context of the past and the present. The commentary presents issues related to the success of legal prohibitions, the extent of interracial sexual relations, the genetic basis of skin colour, psychological motivation, etc.


A collection of essays covering a wide variety of topics, including South African fiction in the 1980s, Black writing and the South African liberation movement, and essays on works by Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, Wilbur Smith and Modikwe Dikobe.


Journal articles and anthologized papers


A review of three periods of South African literary history, showing, by means of an analysis of works by Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee and Mongane Wally Serote, that the revolutionary tone that they reflect, represents a future direction for South African society.


COETZEE, J.M. The mind of apartheid; Geoffrey Cronje, 1907- Social dynamics. 17 (1991), 1-35

Geoffrey Cronje was an influential figure in radical Afrikaner Nationalist circles in the 1940s, and a seminal contributor to the theory of apartheid. His published writings indicate an obsessive concern with "race mixing" and Coetzee examines the origins of these obsessions and the manner in which they spread through the social body.


"Not with someone of a different colour" - a discussion of attitudes, parliamentary debates and legislation which culminated in a total ban on sexual intimacies and marriages between Whites and non-Whites in South Africa.


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Examine a number of short stories by Black writers to demonstrate the dialogue taking place between individuals living in a colonial capitalist society and extracting from this positive projections concerning sensibilities about history and society.


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