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AFSENDER

Ernest Mancoba, Wonga Mancoba

MODTAGER

Claudette Spielmann

FAKTA

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KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

Paris, le 9 Février 1999

Very dear Claudette,

Here, at last, is a little word, that has long been in our mind, to express our greatfulness for the bounteous reception you gave me, Wonga, and for all the good things I, Ernest, was lavished with, at Christmas.

It has been very important, and a great encouragement to renew the dialogue that had been, a moment, suspended, owing to the dedication each has given his immediate duties or absorbing project.

Also, we have been particularly concerned to know about the state of your health, since your stay at hospital.

Our thoughts have been with you all along, and with the family.

You know how vital you, Alain and the children, have been, for our struggle with Sonja. We value your presence, at the burning moments of our existence, as something rare and precious. At the heart of anyone's quest into essential things, loneliness is, generally, the price to pay. That is why we count ourselves so fortunate in the life-time friendship you have maintained, through thick and thin, with our little phalanx and family.

We cannot forget, among other occasions the day when I, Ernest, at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, was about to stand up, to address the gathering at the opening of the "Hand in Hand" exhibition, and we saw, at the threshold of the hall, silhouetted in the light of african sunrays, all four of you, having come, in time, as promised, all the way from Paris.

I cannot express also how glad I was, dear Claudette, on receiving the beautiful anthology of writings by women of african origin. It is capital, as it deals with artists who have been doubly neglected, firstly, as negroes, and secondly, as women.

We are both very busy on our memoirs. It is very important to retrace the journey of life, as it helps us to reassess, and put in place the meaning of things that had been unperceived, in the chaotic fleetiness of the moment.

Now, in the hope of seeing you again soon, we send you, together with Alain, Florabelle and Renaud, our deepest love and greetings.

Yours faithfully

Wonga Marc & Ernest Mancoba