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COPY School of Art

Natal Technical College,
DURBAN.

1st April, 1936.
Mr. M. Webb,

P.O. Box 731,
DURBAN.

Dear Webb,

The drawings are very good indeed, the best I have seen done by a Native and we should try and do something to help the boy. It is very difficult to suggest how this can be done, and I think that perhaps you might suggest that he tries to obtain a teaching post in a Native school, in a town where there is a School of Art. He could then continue earning money and continue his teaching and at the same time get help and advice from the staff of the local School of Art. As he is not in a position to give up his teaching, and I think it would be unwise to suggest that he should do so at this present stage, because he would have little opportunity of making enough by his art to live on.

It may be possible for him to arrange to teach at Edendale, and while there, I am sure that Malcolm would do all that he could to get facilities for him to improve his art work. I would like to see a boy, such as this, used to illustrate the Bantu readers and history books. I think that they should be encouraged to, not only illustrate, but write their own text books. They would then be of much more interest to the Natives and would just give that necessary local interest in their own customs and folklore, which Europeans cannot possibly get.

I have shown the drawings to all the members of the staff of the School and they are very impressed with the work. Of course, if there were likely to be many such boys, a class might be started for them, but I think, at present, we shall only find very isolated cases. Something might be done in connection with the N.U.C. and their new policy of admitting Non-Europeans to their courses, if the new policy of moving the Fine Arts Department from Durban to Maritzburg comes into being. Even if he stays in Durban something might be done along these lines. At this stage it is difficult to say how this can be managed, until our policy is a little more definite.

Yours sincerely,
O.J.P. OXLEY (Signed)
/LR.