



Serial No. P80/11/205
(For official use)

REKTOORAAT VAN PUBLIKASIES
PRIVATSAK X9069
KAAPSTAD
1980-11-25
PRIVATE BAG X9069
CAPE TOWN
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLICATIONS

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PUBLICATION OR OBJECT

APPLICATION FOR A *DECISION/REVIEW

(PUBLICATIONS ACT, 1974)

Director of Publications
Private Bag 9069
Cape Town
8000

I hereby submit to you the publication or object described hereunder and--

*accompanying this application

*being forwarded to you by.....

for examination and a decision whether the publication or object is within the opinion of a committee referred to in section 4 (1) of the Publications Act, 1974, undesirable or not.

P. P. P. P.
Applicant

DOEAANE EN AMSYNS
92
1980-11-25
Date
KAAPSTAD
CAPE TOWN
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

* Delete whichever is not applicable.

A. APPLICANT

1. Name		2. Telephone No.	
3. Occupation		4. Nature of business	
5. Residential or business address		6. Postal address	

B. PUBLICATION OR OBJECT

7. Name and/or description	8. Subject
WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS	Book

9. Author or producer	10. Publisher and his address	11. Year and No. of edition.
J.M. COETZEE	MARTIN SELKER AND WARBURG LIMITED LONDON	1980 SRN 436 10295 1

12. If it is not practicable to submit the publication or object (e.g. in the case of a statue), then specify hereunder the place where the publication or object may be examined by a committee.

C. PREVIOUS DECISION (complete only in case of an application for a review)

13. The above-mentioned publication or object was on a previous occasion found to be—

- *undesirable by a committee in terms of the Publications Act, 1974;
- *undesirable by the Publications Control Board in terms of the Publications and Entertainments Act, 1963;
- *indecent or obscene or objectionable by the Publications Control Board in terms of section 113 (3) of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964.

Note: If known, specify hereunder the number and date of the *Government Gazette* in which the above decision was published.

*Delete whichever is not applicable.

D. AMOUNT ENCLOSED R.....

Note: (a) The amount payable is—

in the case of a drawing, picture, illustration, painting, woodcut or similar representation, print, photograph, engraving or lithograph, figure, cast, carving, statue or model
(ii) in the case of any other publication or object, e.g. a book, magazine, etc.....

In respect of an application for a	
decision	review
R	R
1,00	5,00
5,00	25,00

(b) In the case of an application for a *decision* the amounts are payable only if the applicant is the producer or distributor of the publication or object.

(c) In the case of an application for a *review* the amounts are payable by each applicant.

E. FOR OFFICIAL USE

14. Referred to—

Initials

chairman of committee on.....

15. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

The committee examined the publication or object and found as follows.....

Unanimous

Reasons those of readers a-a

Gen app'd AG 17/12/80

*C.A. Pul 15/12/80
G.A.K. 18/12/80*

16. DECISION

The committee decided that the publication or object is—

*not undesirable;

~~*undesirable within the meaning of section 47(2) of the Publications Act, 1974.~~

R. E. ...
Chairman of Committee

12.12.80
Date

* Delete whichever is not applicable.

17. The applicant and *the Controller of Customs and Excise, Cape Town, was/ were informed of the decision of the committee on form DP 1A on <u>18.12.22</u>	Initials MDP 80.12.22
18. The publication or object was disposed of as follows: <u>Returned to sender</u>	MDP 80.12.22
19. The decision of the committee was published in <u>Government Gazette</u> of by Government Notice of in list.....	

* Delete whichever is not applicable.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Serial No. P80/11/205

PUBLICATIONS ACT, 1974
PUBLICATION OR OBJECT
*READER'S/EXPERT'S REPORT

1. Name and/or description of publication	2. Name of reader or expert
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Waiting for the Barbarians

Prof. R.E. Lighton

3. Synopsis of contents: "For decades (an) old Magistrate had run the affairs of a tiny frontier settlement, occupying himself in philandering & antiquarianism, ignoring the consequences of his leading to war between the barbarians (frontier nomads) & the Empire he serves." The Magistrate's situation "is that of all men living in unbearable complexity with... requires... their own survival above justice & decency." The locality is obscure; some oasis in an arid region north of the equator, where winters are icy. It is nowhere near Southern Africa, nor is there any white populace. There are no apparent parallels, though some symbols may be found."

The old Magistrate - the narrator - is a compassionate, sincere man, a loner and has gone 'semi-native', to the extent that he antagonizes the police & military authorities - for his personal moral sympathy with the barbarians, i.e. the self-willed nomads. He resents the harsh, merciless treatment meted out by the imperial police & military, as the punishment serves for the small but captured nomads. He takes pity on one of young captain's barbarian women; he treats her kindly in his despatch to the rear barracks; he has infrequent, desultory sex with her & journeying for returns her to her people. Returning to the oasis he stripped of his office & treated as a prisoner, thereby & finally as a suspected collaborator & last almost broken man, he is not best prepared & lies in processing almost as an witness.

The repulsed expeditionary force, repulsed by the barbarians, virtually starts the outbreak. The somber, tragic book ends with the bloody but alien captured Magistrate leaving the dispirited remnants of the imperial populace "waiting for the barbarians."

4. Portions that may possibly be regarded as undesirable:
- (i) Sec. 47(2)(a) : Pages 20, 40, 42, 44, 55, 63, 66, 84, 97, 103, 5/7/8, 115/6
 - (ii) Sec. 47(2)(b) : Pages 119, 120, 126, 138, 149, 157
 - (iii) Sec. 47(2)(c) : Pages
 - (iv) Sec. 47(2)(d) : Pages
 - (v) Sec. 47(2)(e) : Pages 84?
 - (vi) Sec. 47(2)(f) : Pages

Sex incidents: generally vague, unexplicit: 55, 63, 115, 157.
brutality: 103/5/7/8, 115/6, 120/1
fuck (etc): 126, 138 : 8 times
slits : 116, 119, 138 : 6 times

5. I recommend that the publication is -

~~not~~ not undesirable;

~~undesirable within the meaning of section 47(2) of the Publications Act, 1974,~~

for the following reasons:

This is a somewhat Kafkaesque type of narrative, with the narrator, an elderly somewhat Quixotic magistral, for long perched at a little frontier outpost, who has sought a means of survival if not of alliance with the nomadic tribes (the Gypsies). The officiously accumulating imperial police & military find in him an impediment in their plan to extend imperial sway & subduing the barbarians. To these is tension between the ambitious authoritarian and the independent mercenary. He loses position & authority, & suffers severe battering. Down, brutality and suffering, swiftest. This is a novel, unadorned by any lighter touches. The few across the line sex incidents are almost entirely implicit & in no way best-proving. The locale is as obscure as Eschelon, and any symbolism, every word, is a point from the arrogant toppling of state, social, ideological - there's been heard ideological and both the ill-effects. Though the book has considerable literary merit, it quite lacks popular appeal. The literary marketplace will be limited largely to the intelligentsia & the discriminating minority. There are less than a dozen 'offensive' words, ^{and} all are commonplace & functionally in context. ^{but} as such there is no convincing reason for deeming the book undesirable.

R. E. Lighter (K) further symbolized cover 7.12.1980
READER/EXPERT with diligence he extracted. cell DATE
is of world-wide significance - not particularized
particularized (C)

* Delete whichever is not applicable.

En stein saam met die aanbeveling van die lesse dat die boek nie argument is nie. 12.12.80

I agree with the reader that there is no reason for banning this publication. A. Scholtz (12/12/80)

I am in full agreement with the reader that this publication is not undesirable. J. B. Gomm 12/12/80