Identifying the Quotidian in the Heterotopic Universe of Olive Schreiner’s Letters: “I am writing it in between, while I run into the kitchen every now & then to stir the ?lean ?back & the sheep tail I am melting out on the stove; & now it is time to set the table for dinner”

Helen Dampier, Leeds Metropolitan University
• “^The marks on this sheet are made by ‘Arriet eating porridge & then walking on my letter.^” (OS to Will Schreiner, 8 May 1908, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “Well, you are having a very ?long letter this morning, dear Isie, but I am writing it in between, while I run into the kitchen every now & then to stir the ?lean ?back & the sheep tail I am melting out on the stove; & now it is time to set the table for dinner.” (OS to Isie Smuts, 1905, NAD; OSLP Transcription)

• “I long to see you dear, & I'm sure you'd like it here, primitive as it all is. (I was cleaning the pots at the kitchen door when Mr Innes drove up the other day, & couldn't shake hands with him till I'd washed my hands!!)” (OS to Mary Sauer, 2 April 1896, NLSA; OSLP Transcription)
June 22, 1898

My dear Mr. [Name]

I was very sorry to hear of your friend's [situation]. I hope everything will be all right.

I was very happy to hear from you again. I hope you are well and that you are making good progress in your studies.

I wonder if you would like to come to [place] next week. I think it would be a good idea.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
• “Beloved friend, you won’t say one little word about my individual life to any of my friends in England. I have never said to any humanbeing what I said to you: & I sometimes feel so distressed that I did. Great is silence.” (OS to Betty Molteno, 30 January 1905, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “I've got your letter. I'm so sorry if I hurt you any way dear by what I said. Silence is always golden, speech is always only silver. One can't explain things & it's better to say nothing. (OS to Mary Sauer, January 1892, NLSA; OSLP Transcription)

• “But I ought not to have mentioned it. unreadable He’s the fifth of Cron’s family who has died of cancer in the last few years: but it was very thoughtless of me to have told you about it. ‘Great is silence.’” (OS to Betty Molteno, 1920, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “I’ve not mentioned Alice's name to any one since I came here. I have never discussed you are or your news with any one. Great is silence.” (OS to Betty Molteno, September 1920, UCT; OSLP Transcription)
“You have never tried to live utterly utterly alone, that is why you think it hard. There’s a time that comes when it begins (the living quite alone) of agony. One has to live through that & come out on the other side, & then one knows the blessings & uses of absolute solitude.” (OS to Edward Carpenter, 25 December 1887, Sheffield; OSLP Transcription)

“I’ve got very social & don’t like to be alone after my years of solitude in the karroo; I care less than ever for a whirl, but I like some sort of folk to say good morning to. Please be that sort of folk for a few days to me sometimes.” (OS to Edward Carpenter, 15 May 1893, Sheffield; OSLP Transcription)

“It’s funny that as I get older I get more & more so-ciable! I suppose my character is weakening. When I was young I could spend months quite alone without ever longing for human companionship – now I seem to care so much for it. Of course I could work more before my heart got weak; & when one is buried in work one can never feel lonely.” (OS to Bob Muirhead, 14 July 1914, MacFarlane Collection; OSLP Transcription)
• “Alles ten Besten to all from Mr Murray to Bobs. OS” (OS to Mimmie Murray 14 March 1911, NELM; OSLP Transcription)

• “Good night. ‘Alles ten besten’ (All of the best to you) as our old Dutch men say Olive” (OS to Edward Carpenter, 28 April 1911, Sheffield; OSLP Transcription)

• “‘Alles ten besten’ dear old man Ol” (OS to Will Schreiner, 15 October 1912, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “Good bye, dear. Alles ten besten Olive” (OS to Fan Schreiner, 16 September 1915, UCT; OSLP Transcription)
• “Thy small stupid sister Ol” (OS to Will Schreiner, 24 October 1912, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “Your loving small sister, Ol” (OS to Fan Schreiner, 27 October 1920, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “Your stupid little sister Ol” (OS to Will Schreiner, 29 May 1914, UCT; OSLP Transcription)

• “Your stupid Olive” (OS to Mary Brown, 28 April 1887, UCT; OSLP Transcription)