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Title Censorship in South Africa: Introduction

Description Peter McDonald talks briefly about what first interested him in Censorship of

Literature in South Africa

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Contributor But of course the state's relationship to the sphere of literature has not always been positive and enabling, it has also been positively disabling.

The most obvious form of that is state censorship which has a long history and I'm interested in that long history but I've worked mainly on the 20th century.

But the project that I'm currently interested in and the book that I've just finished called 'The Literature Police' focuses on South Africa. And it focuses largely on South Africa because there's an extremely odd and surprising linkage between questions of literature and censorship.

Whereas we would normally think that censorship is, as it were, out to curb literature, in South Africa the situation was strangely complicated. And it's that strangeness that got me interested.

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