

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, N. S.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

11 Shaw Crescent
Armdale, N. S.
March 14, 1967

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall
Liverpool Nova Scotia

Dear Tom:

The Dalhousie Review has just received a book which should interest you, and which I should very much like you to review for the Summer issue, with deadline before mid-May:

Maine Rubicon: Downeast Settlers during the American Revolution. By John Howard Ahlin. Calais, Maine: Calais Advertiser Press, 1966. Pp. xi, 224. \$6.95.

The author sent a note pointing out its special interest for this area. It takes in, of course, some of the territory of His Majesty's Yankees. It is a short book, and I would judge that you would be able to say all that needs to be said in about 500 words. Less if you think it sufficient. *More if you need.*

We don't receive review copies of your own novels, but a graduate of another college who took one or two classes here has volunteered to do a review of Hangman's Beach. I hope he can do it justice, though we were not much impressed with him. (I'm not obliged to take it, but he's a fan, and I can correct his English).

Our best regards.

Yours sincerely,



C. I. Bennet
Editor
The Dalhousie Review

*Answered by card
March 16, 1967 & agreed
to do the review.*

*Sent the review
April 5/67*

October 22, 1969

Dear Ben:

I'll be happy to do what I can in the way of a review of Fregault's book. Send it along.

Donald Cameron has sent me a Xerox copy of his paper on my historical novels. He taped the interview with me here in Liverpool some time ago. While I don't agree with a couple of his suppositions -- for example "Wentworth is much more impressive in *Fride's Fancy* or in *Hangman's Beach*, where he is only glimpsed, than he is in *The Governor's Lady*" -- he is entitled to his opinions, and in the main he shows a good deal of penetration into theme and construction, and reveals these matters and their significance as no reviewer has done before.

Consequently, if you should decide to print it in the D.R., I shall be happy to see it there.

Best regards,

*Mailed the review
on Nov. 13/69*

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, N. S.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

11 Shaw Crescent
Winndale, Halifax N.S.
October 20 - 1969

Dear Tom,

Almost immediately after my last note, two reasons came for writing again.

I mentioned books that you might like to review, and two days later I received - a copy of a translation of La Guerre de la conquête, by Guy Fégault

"a brilliant and controversial study of the... Seven Years War", with which I am sure you are well acquainted. The

new book is Canada: The War of The Conquest. By Guy Fégault.

Translated by Margaret M. Cameron. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1969. Pp. xii, 427. \$9.50.

I hope that you can do

a review of this book, from your own point of view as an historian of the period, and with space up to about 1000 words. I'd like to have it in about a month, for the winter issue.

The second thing is that Helene and I went to a "Humanities" Conference at Mount Allison, and heard a paper on your work as an historical novelist by Don Cameron. I can't always judge a spoken address for printing, but it seemed good to me - the best things were your own tapes, and it did not compare with your own paper at Dalhousie - ~~that~~ and it was well received⁴ as one of the best of a dozen or so papers that were read.

While I am running the
"Renew" I would like to
publish an appraisal of
your work, if it is adequate,
and without committing myself
I sounded out Cameron, and
am sure he would be
interested in revising what
he had to say. Since
you made tapes for him,
you must know him.

He has a book on Leacock,
one chapter of which was
adapted from an article
that I published in the
DR. and he has

done some broadcasting and reviewing. It seemed to me that Cameron placed his emphasis on those aspects of your work where you would wish to have it - at least where I myself like to see it placed.

The decision will of course be mine, after I have seen the paper, but I thought that you should be told what I have in mind, and invited to offer any comments.

I'm sorry to learn that you are less mobile

than you were. I had upon several occasions given me 3/2 days in a week and had me. At rest in still fairly good. All the best. Ben