

38 Fern St.
Halifax, N.S.
29 Nov 1955.

Mr. Thomas Raddall.
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Sir:-

I know that I am taking a great liberty in writing to you asking for advice, but please let me state my problem, and then, if you feel like answering, your reply will be greatly appreciated.

First, I am a veteran of the War, with a complete disability through chest wounds, which later became complicated with tuberculosis. I can still lead a reasonably active life, and am not looking for sympathy, but I am unable to work, in the sense of holding a steady employment. Consequently I have much time on my hands, and last October I attempted to start on a book.

I have not had any experience in writing, except during the War when I was both Intelligence Officer and later Adjutant of The Royal Canadian Regiment, being for several periods responsible for the compiling of the War Diary. Since then I have contributed several articles to the Regimental Journal of my old Regiment. I realise that this is not much in the way of experience, but that is beside the point.

I know by now that you are shuddering and anticipating that I am going to ask you to review my work, but such is not the case. The book is nearing completion and my problem is that I have'nt the faintest idea of how to go about getting it published.

I find it is very hard to judge one's own work but I have a feeling that this is reasonably interesting and worthy of publication. It is a true tale of Nova Scotia and no attempt has been made to fictionize it.

Any assistance you could give me, in the way of advice as to submitting this book to a Publisher would be very gratefully received. I do not even know anything about the business of copyright etc, that is involved, or even the size of stationary that is required by Publishers for works submitted to them. In fact I am quite ignorant of all that and know of no one whom I can turn for advice.

I know this is asking a lot from a total stranger, but I feel that you might be kind enough to help a novice make the first plunge. Please believe me, this is not a plea for a recommendation or anything of that sort. It is just that I do not even know the first step in approaching a Publisher.

Let me say *** in closing that I have read most of your works and enjoyed them immensely. I would like very much to meet you. I have been hoping to make the journey to Liverpool but am afraid that my health wont permit it in winter time. Perhaps some time next summer you would allow me to call on you.

If you chose to ignore this letter please do so. I shall be no less admirer of your books but any reply will be more than appreciated.

Yours truly,

Andrew Walter Roy

December 5th, 1955

Dear Mr. Roy,

I think your best bet would be to submit the typescript of your book to the Ryerson Press, Toronto. They publish the largest list of Canadian authors, and each year there is the Ryerson Award for what they consider the best book submitted to them during the year. If they decide against it, try McClelland & Stewart or any of half a dozen Canadian book publishing firms with headquarters in Toronto. (The Book Room people can give you names and addresses.)

Don't be discouraged if one or more firms turn it down. No two editors think alike, and what one editor thinks unsuitable for his list may be just what another editor is looking for. The main thing is to satisfy yourself beforehand that you have a story worth telling, and that you have taken every possible effort to tell it well. After that, have confidence in it, no matter what discouragements you may meet.

I always type my work on ordinary business-size white paper (11" by 8½") using double line-spacing, with left and right-hand margins at least one inch wide. Use one side of the paper only. Number the pages accurately, typing the number at the top of each page. Number the chapters also, placing the number at the head of each chapter. At the front of ~~xxx~~ your typescript place a single sheet giving the title of your book in the middle, and your name and address down towards the lower right-hand corner. Write a separate letter to the publishing firm, saying that you are forwarding for their perusal your book entitled ~~xxxxxx~~ So-and-So; but don't give a long explanation or summary of your story in the letter. They can find out all that by reading the story itself.

If the book is accepted, the publisher will arrange copyright himself, in your name; so you don't have to worry about that. Don't fold your typescript in any way; mail it flat in a cardboard box of the right size, or with good stiff cardboard at front and back. And good luck!

Sincerely,

38 Fern St.
Halifax, N.S.
26 Jan. 1956.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I have been intending to write to thank you for your kind and helpful letter of Dec. 5th. Now I have some good news to write and I feel I owe it mainly to your good advice, that is, have confidence in the work.

While working on the book, which incidently I find heavy going, I decided to write an article just to get my mind off the main task for a while. When finished I felt quite happy with it and had confidence enough to submit it to MacLeans Magazine.

I was really quite surprised though when they accepted it. It is to appear in the near future and I am at present gathering the photo material to illustrate it.

Since completing the article I have written a one hour television play adapted from my uncompleted book. I had it read by a producer here at C.E.H.T. and he felt it was really good. He advised me submit it to Kraft Television Theatre first before trying the C.E.C., as Kraft buy only the rights for the one performance and ~~xxx~~ if they use it, it becomes eligible to compete for the \$50,000 award being given this year.

However Kraft will only consider material submitted by a recognized literary agency. I was wondering if you would have the address of such an agent? If so could you let me have it?

I will close again thanking you for your letter and the encouragement and inspiration you have given me.

Yours truly,

Walter Roy

February 1, 1956

Dear Mr. Roy,

I was happy to hear of your success. I have been my own agent for so long that my knowledge of professional literary agencies is quite out of date. I had an agent in New York during my earlier years as a short story writer. He was clever and energetic but most unreliable when it came to settling financial accounts, and finally I dropped him.

There are one or two Canadian literary agents or agencies which advertise their services in the magazine published by the Canadian Authors Association. I haven't a copy handy at the moment but I suggest that you phone Miss Helen Creighton, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth (phone 6-5157). She is a Vice-President of the C.A.A., and the publication is called Canadian Author & Bookman.

Sincerely

Walter Roy, Esq.

38 Fern Street,

Halifax, N.S.