

December 4th, 1950

Dear Mr. McFee,

I've just read your excellent review of my book in the Nov. 11th issue of Saturday Review, and I write to express my appreciation.

It's no surprise that you had never heard of me, for the chief sale of my books until now has been in Canada. John Buchan was very kind to me. He noticed my tales in Blackwood and dropped me an encouraging note whenever he read something that he liked -- a great help to a struggling young writer in the hard days of the 1930's. The quotation on the book jacket is from a foreword that he wrote for my first collection of short stories. Kipling never wrote to me, but contented himself with mentions of my work in letters to his friends, occasionally sending them a marked copy of Blackwood's for their perusal.

May I say, without any desire to return a compliment, that I have long admired your work, and that Casuals of The Sea in particular I re-read from time to time with the greatest of pleasure?

Sincerely,

Mr. William McFee