

HOTEL YORK

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY
EXCELLENT COFFEE SHOP

CALGARY, ALBERTA

August 10/40

Answered
Aug. 19/40

Dear Lona Raddall: -

I do not know if you have ever heard of me or not, but I, too, am a Nova Scotian - just now far, far from home, and like to be farther before I am nearer.

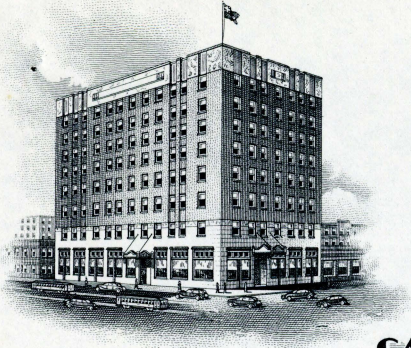
I have just read "Blind Melan". My congratulations on a fine story, finely told. I do not know what more can be said in praise of a story.

May I in closing express my hopes that you may flourish like the green bay tree, and write much about the people and the

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HOTEL YORK

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY
EXCELLENT COFFEE SHOP

CALGARY, ALBERTA

province which we both love.

Sincerely,

Berton Robinson, Lieut.
3rd Sw. Amn. Coy, R.C.A.C.,
Robinson Bldg.,
Winnipeg, Man.
(Late of Wolfville, N.S.)



TOWN OF TRENTON

TRENTON, NOVA SCOTIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS

April 23, 1964

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Tom:

McGraw-Hill have asked me to do a work on Senior High School Composition. In this work I would like to quote a paragraph from The Path of Destiny. I noticed that the copyright is in your name. May I have your permission please to use the paragraph.

To my great surprise a course I have been teaching in English came out last year under the title "Twelve Steps to Effective Writing" and has turned out to be an astonishingly good seller. You never can tell what people will buy.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bert', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn blue triangle.

(Berton Robinson)
Supervisor of Schools

April 28, 1964.

Mr. Berton Robinson,
Supervisor of Schools,
Trenton, N.S.

Dear Bert:

Please consider this your authority to quote
from THE PATH OF DESTINY in your work on Senior High
School Composition.

I'm delighted that your TWELVE STEPS TO EFFECT-
IVE WRITING has been so successful. No one can teach this
better than yourself, and God knows our high schools need
it. Like a good many others of a generation that was
taught the beauty of the English language, oral and written,
I have been appalled at the slipshod methods that have
obtained particularly since World War Two. This came home
to me when my own son and daughter passed through high
school and university, yet could not write (or spell!)
a decent English paragraph.

With my best wishes,

March 9, 1971

Mr. Berton E. Robinson,
University Grants Committee,
5413 Spring Garden Road,
Halifax, N.S.

Dec. 1971
Nothing came of this.

Dear Bert:

Regarding your letter of February 24th.

I would be willing to come to Halifax in July or early August, for a meeting with Callaghan and MacLennan, and your Summer School class, if you can arrange it. ←

About *The Nymph and The Lamp*. My intention in writing the novel was simply to tell a story, a love story if you like, in which a man's faith in duty, as well as his love for her, eventually wakened those qualities in herself. The background of Sable Island was very familiar to me, and important to the story. Most of the characters were drawn from real people, on various stations like Sable (the shooting accident actually happened on a lonely station in Labrador) and I assembled them in the Sable Island scene for the purposes of my story. In the young operator named Jim Sargent you have a small portrait of the author as a very young man.

When I proposed to write this novel, my publishers were horrified. I had written three historical novels with some success in the market and with the critics, and they urged me to keep on with costume pieces. Publishers like to have all their authors in neat little pigeonholes, of course. To jump into a contemporary novel, or at any rate a ~~modern~~ novel pitched in my own lifetime, moreover a novel involving a love affair between a middleaged man and a not-very-beautiful virgin nearing the dreadful age of thirty, seemed utter madness to the publishers. They wouldn't give me a contract for it, and I had to finance myself (and support my wife and children) during the whole period from November 1948 when I started the book, to April 1950 when I finished it.

It proved to be my most successful book, not only with the critics, but with the public. It has been printed in various English editions in Canada, Britain, and the U.S., and in every European language west of the Iron Curtain. To the end of 1970 it had sold 682,410 copies (323,982 hardbacks, 358,428 softbacks) and it has appeared in radio and TV plays in Canada, Britain and the U.S. At the present time it is under option to a Hollywood group for movie production, but as you know an option is only a tentative thing.

Sincerely,