

February 7, 1974

Mr. Kent Thompson,
Department of English,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Regarding your letter of the
30th January. I fear that I cannot help Fiddlehead
much in this matter.

In the years when I was writing stories for Magazines
I had agents in New York and London who bargained
for the rate per word. As you know they collect the
money, deduct their ten per cent, and send the author
the rest. Some are reliable in remitting the money,
some are not. I had a doubtful experience with my
New York man, and when I turned from magazines to
novels I decided to deal directly with the publishers.
I have done so ever since. This applied also to
subsequent collections of short stories in book
form.

There were no set fees but simply royalty rates on
the actual book sales:-

10% of the retail price on the first 5,000
12½% on the next 10,000
15% on all sales above 15,000

In recent years I have written nothing for magazines
except occasional articles at their request and for
their proffered fee, usually \$500 to \$1,000, depend-
ing on the length of the article -- and the prosperity
of the magazine!

I am now more or less retired and writing my memoirs.

Sincerely,

THE FIDDLEHEAD

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
FREDERICTON, N. B.
PHONE 506 475-9471 EXT. 478

January 30, 1974



Thomas Raddall
LIVERPOOL, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Would you do a favour for The Fiddlehead? Would you send us the name and address of your agent?

This is why: We would like to write to your agent and ask the going fees for your work. Naturally, this will be much more than The Fiddlehead can afford to pay; we offer, euphemistically, honoraria. But we shall then take the fees your agent cites--together with similar figures we can garner from other writers--and use the average of these figures as a bargaining point with the Canada Council on behalf of The Fiddlehead. We intend to argue that we are no longer a "little magazine", but a national literary periodical, and should be publishing Canada's major writers and paying them accordingly--according to international standards.

We do not know what will come of all this, but we think it is worth a serious try. A high-level, national literary periodical is needed, and The Fiddlehead, after twenty-nine years of continuous publication, seems to us to be the best candidate for the position.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Thompson
Editor

KT/nr