

COPY

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

February 28, 1941.

Dear Chambrun:

These letters do not bother us,
but we feel that Mr. Raddall should see them
and answer them, sending us copies of his
replies.

Sincerely yours,

Erd Brandt

Mr. Jacques Chambrun
ENE/js
Enclosures

V

*The Token
Is This So?*

1021 W Wyoming Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
February 24, 1941

Fiction Editor
Saturday Evening Post

Dear Sir:

"Full Cargo South," in the current issue of the Post, is a watered-down replica of Hergesheimer's "The Token." Reread the latter, giving special attention to setting, principal characters and denouement.

Could you list other Post stories by T. H. Raddall? I should also appreciate a general bibliography.

Yours sincerely,

J Milton Gordon

R. Milton Gordon, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

The Post editor has sent me your letter of Feb 24th, in which you state that my "Full Cargo South" is a plagiarized version of Joseph Hergesheimer's "The Token". This was rather a shock, as I had taken my characters and evolved my tale from local material ~~##~~ I live in such a town as that described in ~~####~~ "Full Cargo South," which in olden days built ships and operated them in the Labrador and Gaspe trade, the Bank fishery, and the West Indies trade, and I had taken my characters and evolved my tale from local material. There really was, for instance, such a person as the character I have described as "Benzah", such an inn-keeper as "Mrs Jennison", such a pair of daughters as the regal ~~##~~ "Eunice" and the tomboy "Patty", and many a "Joel" -- for in those days all the merchants of our town sent their sons to sea.

However, I have been at pains to get hold of Hergesheimer's "The Token" and I have read it with much enjoyment -- I wish I had written it ! I can see where you get a similarity in the two tales; the son returning from a voyage, expecting to marry the fair sister, and ending by being captivated with the tomboy. But if you will read the tales again you will find ~~####~~ differences so great that they far out-weigh that coincidence.

~~###~~ Let me sum them up.

Haddell .

The father, coveting the son's sweetheart, sends the son away to Labrador while he presses his own suit with the girl. On the son's return, the father orders him off to sea again at once. The son talks of killing his father. The tomboy sister ~~#####~~ tries to persuade the fair sister to elope with the son. Failing, she deceives the son into putting out to sea. She succeeds in persuading him of her own worth as a wife. In this, she enables him to keep his ship and his father's good will.

Hergesheimer

The father is married and old, without ~~#####~~ ambitions. He is ambitious only for his son to come ashore, leave the sea for ever, and to marry the fair girl and settle down. The son is obsessed with a family token, an East Indian coin, whose possessor he believes will be the fate-chosen wife for him. The tomboy sister steals the token from the fair one, persuades the son to marry her and stick to the sea. The tale ends with the father ordering both out of the house, consigning them to perdition.

There are other differences which you will see for yourself, and I think in fairness you will admit that your letter was hasty and ~~§~~ unjust. You ask for a "general bibliography" of my tales. That would take a lot of space. My post tales so far are, "Blind MacNair", "Bald Eagle 'Iggins" (which appeared in 1940) and "Sarker's Folly" and "Full Cargo South" in 1941. I have contributed many tales to Blackwood's Magazine (of Great Britain) and Blackwood brought out a dozen of them two years ago in book form under the title "The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek"; my stories have also appeared in Maclean's Magazine and others. If you wish to procure any of them I shall be happy to furnish an exact list.