



The Book Shelf of Guelph Limited 41 Quebec Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 2T1

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Feb. 10 1990

I'm writing a letter that I feel I should have written years ago. It's something of a cross between a fan letter and a business letter. Many years ago I read most of your books. Between the ages of 13 and 16 *Pride's Fancy*, *His Majesty's Yankees*, and *The Nymph and the Lamp*, were my premier introductions to Canadian literature. My mother's family are all Nova Scotians and even though I was born in Ontario, this was a part of my heritage that I truly treasured. My grandfather, John Bigelow of Halifax, who I believe you were acquainted with some years ago, was the person who introduced me to your novels. At one point in school I came across *The Wedding Gift*, and I believe it to be the best short story I have ever had the pleasure of reading.

I recently read Roger Sudden and was enthralled by it. These days, as the manager of a successful bookstore in Guelph Ontario, I've had occasion to recommend books. Never have I had so many people come back to thank me for my recommendation as when I have pointed out your titles to them. This only serves to reinforce my feeling about your writing.

The business side of this letter is thus; The Bookshelf is a very unique operation. We run a quality bookstore without walls of best-sellers and pulp. We have a sixty seat restaurant nestled behind the bookstore. On the second floor we operate a repetoire movie theatre, and a bar and on the roof we have a summer time terrace.

articles pertinent to the world of arts. In a forthcoming issue of *Off The Shelf*, I hope to do a survey review of the works of Thomas Raddall, as well as investigate how your work figures in the Canadian literary scene. I would very much like to hear any comment you have on this and perhaps print excerpts of your letter as part of the review.

That part of the letter being done I'd like just to repeat my sentiments abut your fiction and thank you particularly for your contribution to the history of the Maritimes. Until I hear from you I shall always remain,

Yours Very Truly,


P. Brian Skerrett
Bookstore Coordinator
The Bookshelf

*Sent him a copy of
Atlantic Smog
date June 1989*