

Yorke Mills, Ont.
Sept. 25 '47

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Your publishers have given me your collection of stories, "The Wedding Gift" to illustrate. It is a most congenial job. I have long admired your work, which I first read in Blackwood's, flavor, which only intimate knowledge of the N.S. topography, climate, etc. could give.

But I also sensed your minute knowledge of the period, and this gives me some trepidation regarding the task before me. You know things as well as words, and this, in my experience of authors and historians, is a rather rare quality. They can read and interpret a document or a printed record, but they can't read a tangible object, a chair, or the cut of a coat, or the shape of a weapon. An illustrator, of necessity, must know such details, and I feel that you know them as well, and perhaps better than I do. For instance, what is a fly coat - my costume books don't tell me or show me.

Illustration, in my opinion, should be a sort of pictorial commentary, not merely a diagram of the story. Hence, the illustrator should sometimes avoid depicting its climax, which might "give away" the story, and thus not play quite fair with the author. This is especially the case with "The Wedding Gift". Therefore, like Rezia, I have flung away the tinder box. Therefore, as hers, is consequently free.

I am aware how far short of this ideal I fall. However, I have done my best, and hope that I have given something of the right flavor. I trust that you will find the drawings fairly satisfactory. I am yours sincerely

Charles W. Jefferys

P.S. Ship's rigging requires an expert knowledge which I, being no sailor, do not possess. I have therefore ~~it~~ dodged it as much as possible.