

Mailed form  
C.B. on March 26,  
& wrote Kay a card  
on March 28.

209, Spring Garden Terrace,  
Halifax, N. S.,  
March 24th, 1965.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I always get rattled on Long Distance -- it's not just my Scottish ancestry, but the idea of time being measured inexorably in dollars and cents! (Please excuse "y" out of alignment)

Thank You for agreeing to be one of my referees. The others are Phyllis Blakeley and Helen Creighton. I thought that You, besides being a fiction writer and an historian, would appreciate more than most people the difficulties in getting a living wholly from writing.

This is the situation. I expected to live this Year mainly on the proceeds from a second television serial. CBC has now cut off the program for budget reasons, and I am left with three rewrites of the first two episodes, which is no good to anyone. Of course I shall go on writing single scripts for radio and TV on speculation, which usually means a lot more writing than selling! I wouldn't mind this if I had not also had requests recently for books for Young people, for I cannot now afford the time to research and write them.

Dodd Mead wants another collection of Glooscap tales eventually and I have about twenty new ones roughed out. However, they won't want this at once, since they are just bringing out my second (short) book called BADGER THE MISCHIEF MAKER and it seems they can use only the Indian book a Year. They would look at a book on JOHN CABOT right away though. I've already submitted an outline and sample chapters and I know there's going to be a lot more reading to do on this controversial subject, and a great deal of background to get up -- for instance, Venice during the Renaissance (how did the boy Cabot get his schooling, for instance?) then physical details of Spanish, Portuguese, and English ports of the time, beliefs, manners and dress of the age, plus a thorough study of early ships and navigation. You would know of course what all this would involve, leaving no time for earning daily expenses.

Now, besides, McMillan of Canada suggests I do a biography of MADAME LATOUR for the Great Stories of Canada series. This too would mean a great deal of study and some travelling -- to Boston and Saint John, possibly to Quebec and Ottawa.

I hadn't thought of applying to Canada Council until the other day when a friend put one of their programmes into my hands, and it seemed to me that I might qualify. I wrote

and asked if I was eligible and, if so, in what category. They sent back forms for Category 4a (Senior Arts) re-marked Category 10 (a special emergency category) -- it seems their other Category 10 forms are designed more for academics than for creative artists. They tell me that if I let them have the completed forms back, with all supporting documents and letters from referees by April 1st, they may be able to examine my request for presentation on June 1st, otherwise I shall have to wait until Fall. So would you be good enough to get the letter off by the end of the week? I enclose the form and a stamped, addressed envelope -- and thank you very much again, for taking this trouble on my behalf.

Hope your work goes well. My best to Mrs. Raddall, and I hope if you two ever get up this way, you won't pass my door without coming in. I hope the typewriter man gets here soon, or this "v" will jump right off the machine!

Sincerely,

Kay Hill

*Handwritten in June 19/65*

209, Spring Garden Terrace,  
Halifax, N. S.,  
June 17th, 1965.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I'm terribly sorry to bother you again,  
but would you referee me again?

The Canada Council replied that they were sympathetic to my application but felt that in my own interests it would be better to apply to the Centennial Commission, promising to advise them that any application from me would receive the support of their judges.

The Council seems to have left the door open, if the Centennial Commission's response is unfavorable, since they say "The Council would be interested in knowing the outcome of your request to the Commission, or if because of the nature of your books -- directed as they are to young people -- there is any undue delay in your receiving a decision from the Commission."

So it looks hopeful in the long run.  
But oh the delay!

I will be very grateful to you then if you can spare the time to fill in and forward the enclosed, and thanks in advance. (I hear Barbara Grantmyre chose the same three referees -- poor you! And Helen and Phyllis!) Why don't you apply and use us as referees? Or, preferably, drop in for a drink or a meal with me sometime when you and Mrs. R. are in Halifax?

Sincerely yours,

*Kay Niel*

209, Spring Garden Terrace,  
Halifax, N. S.,  
August 14th, 1965.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

You'll be interested to know what's happened in all this grant-applying, I expect! The Centennial Commission turned the application down on the grounds that there were so many others! So, as instructed, I notified the Canada Council and today received a letter saying they would give me \$2000 plus \$185 for travel -- it's less than I asked for, but I'm not complaining! I'm ducky to get that much, I think, and it means that after I get clear of some radio work to which I'm committed, I can get down to some book-writing, h'ray, h'ray! So thank you again, Dr. Raddall, for your kindness in refereeing me. I hope you'll be glad too that your labor wasn't wasted! My second children's book is just out, but I have no extra copies at the moment -- when I have, I shall send one along to you, hoping you can make a place on your shelf for some child's literature!

Yours sincerely,

*Kay Hill*