



*Saint Mary's University*  
HALIFAX, CANADA

March 11th., 1954

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall  
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I was speaking with our President, Very Reverend F. J. Lynch, S.J., and he told me that in a conversation with you at King's College last year you had signified your gracious willingness to address our students. I trust that you are still in the same frame of mind. Your appearance here would prove most stimulating to our students of English. I do not presume to suggest a topic because your felicity in choosing topics for the reading public warrants every confidence that you will select a topic of interest to university students. If you happen to be coming to Halifax in the next month, I would be very happy to arrange the date and hour most suitable to you.

Sincerely yours

*M. O'Donnell S.J.*

M. O'Donnell, S.J.

March 19th '54

Dear Father O'Donnell,

I have been away in P.E.I., hence the delay in answering your very kind letter of the eleventh. At Prince of Wales College I gave a lecture setting forth my views of the literary art, particularly that of the novelist. I enclose a copy for your perusal. If you think this would be of interest or value to the students of Saint Mary's I should be happy to give it there. Or I could give an informal talk on the working problems of a creative writer, the dealings with agents, publishers and others, in short the practical side of a novelist's career. Any date in April (when surely we shall have no more sudden snowstorms !) I can drive up to the city and place myself at your service. Will you return the enclosed typescript to me, please --it's the only copy I have.

Sincerely,

Reverend Father M. O'Donnell, S.J.



*Saint Mary's University*

HALIFAX - CANADA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 13, 1969

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall, F.R.S.C.  
44 Park Street  
LIVERPOOL, Nova Scotia

Dear Dr. Raddall,

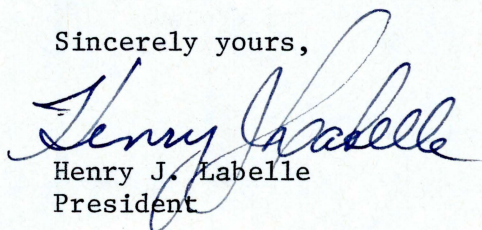
The Board of Governors and the Academic Senate of Saint Mary's University would be deeply honoured if you would accept the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) at our Fall Convocation on Friday, October 3, 1969.

Located as we are in Halifax, we would like to honour one who has attained to such pre-eminence in the world of letters and who, I believe, belongs to Nova Scotia in a very real sense.

Should you find it possible to accept our highest academic honour, I would be grateful if you could be prepared to deliver our Convocation Address. I would leave the subject of the address entirely to yourself. Normally we ask the Guest Speaker to limit his remarks to approximately one-half hour. The reason for this is the problem which faces many of our guests who are frequently on a very tight schedule, and we must limit our time accordingly.

I would appreciate an answer to our request at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

  
Henry J. Labelle  
President

HJL/cm

August 16, 1969

Very Reverend Henry J. Labelle,

President,

Saint Mary's University,

Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir:

It will be an honour indeed to me, to address the Fall Convocation on October 3, 1969, and to receive a degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

I have never enjoyed long addresses (by myself or anyone else!) and I shall keep mine within thirty minutes.

With my deep appreciation to the Board of Governors, the Academic Senate, and yourself,

Sincerely,



*Saint Mary's University*

HALIFAX - CANADA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 21, 1969

Dr. Thomas Raddall, F.R.S.C.  
44 Park Street  
LIVERPOOL, Nova Scotia

Dear Dr. Raddall,

Dr. Labelle will be away from the City for the next few weeks, and, in his absence, I wish to acknowledge your letter of August 16. I know that the President will be delighted when he learns that you have accepted Saint Mary's invitation to receive an honorary degree and to address our Fall Convocation.

A detailed programme will be forwarded to you as soon as arrangements have been finalized.

In the meantime, would you be kind enough to assist us with our planning by supplying the following:

1. biographical notes which you would permit us to use in making a public announcement of your acceptance of an honorary degree - a glossy photograph, if available, would be most useful.
2. names and addresses of persons whom you would wish us to include in our invitation list.
3. your height and head size (for academic dress).

If I can be of any assistance between now and Convocation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

*Carol Marquesino*

Carol Marquesino (Mrs. J.)  
Executive Secretary to  
the President

August 27, 1969

Mrs. Carol Markesino,  
Office of The President,  
Saint Mary's University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mrs. Markesino:

Thank you for your letter of the 21st. I enclose a typewritten copy of the biographical material used by my publishers. It is rather long-winded, but your people will have no difficulty in selecting whatever is pertinent to the occasion.

My height is 5 feet 8 inches, and my head size is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .

Please include in your invitation list the following:-

Dr. and Mrs. T.H. Raddall Jr., 31 Main Street, Liverpool, N.S.

Dr. and Mrs. William Dennis, 230 Havelock Road, Riverview Heights, Moncton, N.B.

Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Bayer, Oakland, Mahone Bay, N.S.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Merlin, 2566 Joseph St., Halifax, N.S.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. White, 1662 Edward Street, Halifax, N.S.

Sincerely,

Note:- I mailed a glossy photo of myself, by Frances Davies, under separate cover to Mrs. Markesino, on Aug. 28/69. Actually, the Chronicle-Herald rejected it, preferring to use an old photo of me, of which they had a plate in their files.

Sep.15,1969

Mrs. Carol Markesino,  
Office of the President,  
Saint Mary's University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mrs. Markesino:

When I gave you a list of people I  
wished to be invited to Convocation, I did not realise  
that my son and daughter would like to bring their boys  
and girls.

Can you therefore arrange seating  
for four children of Dr. And Mrs. William Dennis, 230  
Havelock Road, Riverview Heights, Moncton N.B.; and two  
children of Dr. and Mrs. T.H. Raddall Jr., 31 Main Street,  
Liverpool, N.S. ?

With apologies,

Sincerely,

*Saint Mary's University*

HALIFAX - CANADA

September 16, 1969

Dear Dr. Raddall,

Thank you for your letter of September 15.

We are very pleased to arrange seating for your grandchildren at Convocation, and I have today forwarded the reserved cards for their use.

Sincerely,

*Carol Markesino*

Carol Markesino (Mrs.)  
Secretary to the President



September 20, 1969

Mrs. Carol Markesino,  
Office of the President,  
Saint Mary's University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mrs. Markesino:

When I begin my Convocation address  
I must of course address myself first to the President,  
the Board of Governors, the Academic Senate, and so on.

Will you inform me, please, on the  
proper order and the correct nomenclature of the people  
to whom I pay my respects ?

Sincerely,

September 24, 1969

Edmund Morris, Esq.,  
Saint Mary's University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Edmund:

(Let us dispense with Mister!)

I enclose a carbon copy of my address  
to be delivered at the Fall Convocation on October  
Third.

I am my own typist, which means an  
error whenever my mind runs ahead of my fingers, but  
I think my red pencil has made the corrections plain.

Sincerely,

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
PROGRAMME FOR CONVOCATION DAY

Friday, October 3, 1969  
2:30 p.m.  
- - - - -

- 2:00 p.m. - President's Office for robing  
2:25 p.m. - Academic Procession  
2:30 p.m. - Convocation (Master of Ceremonies - Reverend  
G. W. Tait, S.J., Academic Vice-  
President)

Processional

Royal Salute

Invocation (Chancellor of the University)

President's Remarks

Conferring of Degrees

--- In Course

--- Honorary

Doctor of Letters

Walter Donald O'Hearn (posthumously)  
to be accepted by Walter D. O'Hearn, Jr.

Thomas Head Raddall

Doctor of Laws

Jean Victor Allard

Victor deBedia Oland

Citations will be read by Professor R. Crowther,  
University Orator

Address to the Graduates

Thomas Head Raddall, F.R.S.C., LL.D., D.Litt.

Chancellor closes Convocation

God Save the Queen

Recessional

Following  
Convocation President's Reception in Faculty Lounge

The Stadacona Band will be in attendance.

Parking space will be provided for the Chancellor  
and Honorary Graduates at the main entrance of the  
building.

# *Four Honorary Degrees Awarded By St. Mary's*

By ANN SUKSDORF  
Staff Writer.

One hundred students received degrees from St. Mary's University yesterday and four honorary degrees were conferred at the institution's fall convocation.

Archbishop James Hayes, chancellor of St. Mary's, con-

ferred honorary degrees of doctorates of law to former Chief of Canada's Defence

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See Pictures Page 3

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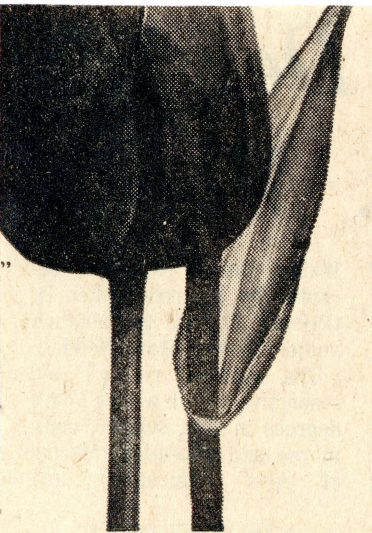
Staff Gen. Jean Victor Allard and Lieutenant - Governor Victor deB Oland.

Honorary doctorate of letters were awarded to the late

Walter Donald O'Hearn, accepted by his son Walter D. O'Hearn Jr., and to Canadian author Thomas Head Raddall.

The students received respectively bachelors degrees in arts, science, commerce and education, Master of Arts (education) and

See FOUR Page 8



# Four

(Continued from Page One)

diplomas in engineering.

In the address to the graduates, Thomas Raddall said one of the few people in the world today who are "really and truly" free is the independent author. But with the great change in time, there has been a deep corrosion of taste in literature and theatre.

He said writing is one of the hardest ways to make a living, but the writer's real reward is the pleasure of creation.

## "NO MEAN GOAL"

Dr. Randall said writing can be a profession and an art, and to succeed in both "is no mean goal."

He said more and more people are reading the printed word.

"But mark this, when you write about real Canadians, of English or French, and with the knowledge of long residence and study among them, you are bound to get slingshots from some Canadian critics, usually from Toronto, who complain that this sort of thing is merely provincial . . . and that you should be striving to express the life and soul of the whole country in a Great Canadian Novel.

"But if Canadiens are to have a truly native literature, there must be some writers in every part of the country, who keep their feet on Canadian earth and their minds in close touch with Canadian thought."

Referring to the corrosion of literature, Dr. Raddall said that "there is a rush of scribblers, male and female, eager to get money from a flow of sludge, like goldpanners in a frantic new Klondike."

America, he said, is not alone in this. In almost every European country today, "the same kind of scribblers are at work hurrying to get their stuff into print, or onto stage or the screen, in effect holding up a cartoon of Bedlam as a mirror of the modern world."



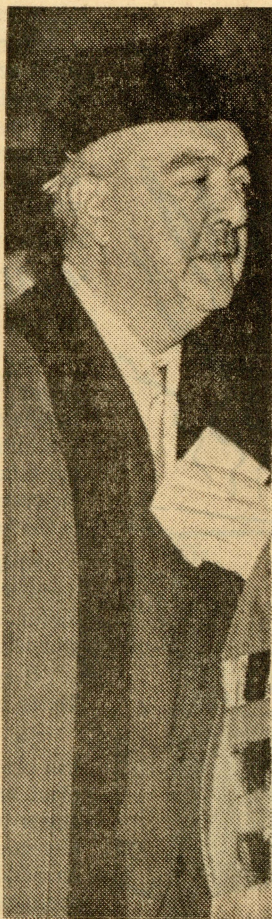
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Oct 4, 1969

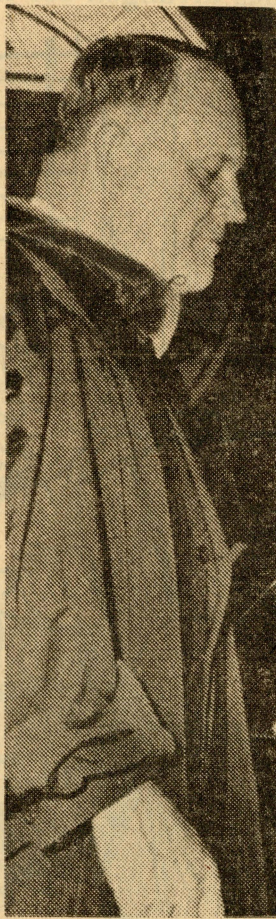
THE CHRONICLE-HERALD



Lieutenant-Governor  
Victor deB. Oland



Walter D. O'Hearn Jr.



General Jean Victor  
Allard

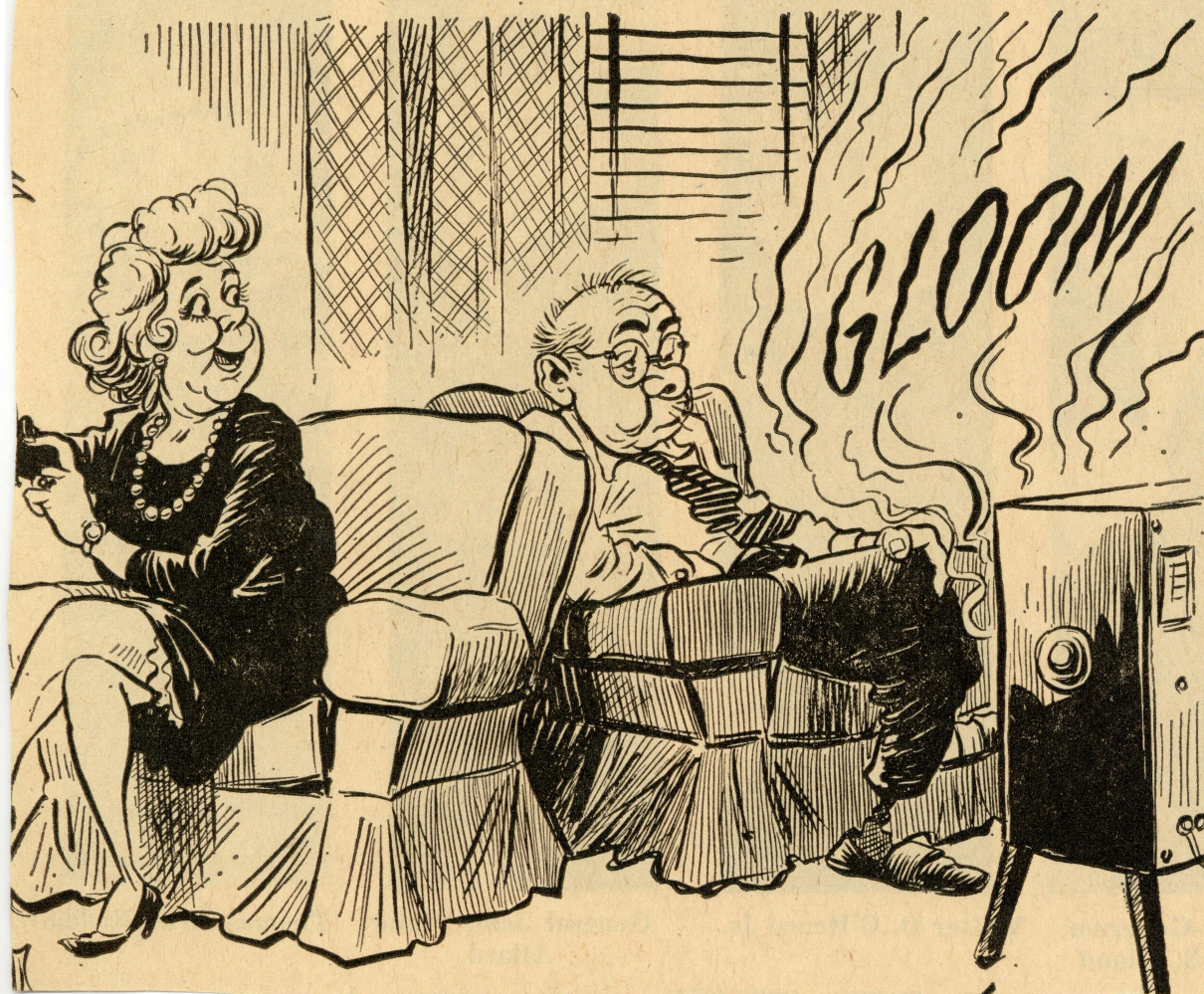


Thomas Head Raddall

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY yesterday conferred honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws on General Jean Allard and Lieutenant-Governor Victor Oland and degrees of Doctor of Letters on Walter D. O'Hearn (posthumously), accepted by his son Walter O'Hearn Jr. and Thomas Head Raddall. (Wamboldt-Waterfield)



"Dear, the CBC has arranged for better news."



CHANU

## Voice

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C O N V O C A T I O N

Friday, October Third, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Nine

C I T A T I O N

Thomas Head Raddall



Most Reverend Chancellor:

The name Thomas Raddall is as well known as it is mispronounced in Nova Scotia, where local tradition runs in favour of not consulting anyone in the proper pronunciation of his name and of not being open to correction from any source. But it should also be understood that the addition of an S, the changing of a vowel or the misplacing of an accent is clearly an indication, in this part of the world, of popular affection or admiring regard. Since Mr. Raddall must be used to hearing at least three variants of his distinguished Cornish name, he may therefore consider himself thrice blessed.

Thomas Head Raddall was ten when his family removed from Hythe, England in 1913. He was fourteen and in the Chebucto School when the Halifax Explosion destroyed much of the City in December 1917. Thomas escaped, however, with concussion and a slight cut.

In the following year two things happened which gravely affected his life: he lost his father, Colonel Raddall who was killed in battle at Amiens while commanding a battalion of Canadian infantry; and he added, without permission, three years to his age, declared he was eighteen, trained as a wireless telegrapher and shipped aboard the transports "War Karma" and "Prince George" in the North Atlantic.

After 1919 there followed a spell of service with the Canadian merchant marine, a year of which our guest spent

on that 'Graveyard of the Atlantic', Sable Island.

In 1922 he left the telegraph service, studied accounting and found a position at a small wood-pulp mill on the Mersey River. What ever time he could spare, he seems to have devoted at this period to wandering in the woods and exploring afoot and by canoe, the forests on the Mersey watershed.

From time to time a figure would emerge from the undergrowth to talk to loggers, observe river drivers, hunters and trappers, converse with a band of Micmac Indians and disappear again into the silence of the woods. It was Thomas Raddall adding to his experience and collecting the material he was later to call upon as a writer.

In 1927 our guest's life was affected by the pleasures of domestic harmony. He married Edith Freeman, -- a young music teacher -- and settled in the small sea-port of Liverpool.

In this old colonial town, with its tales of pioneers, its traditions and its gently pervading smell of sulphur, Thomas Raddall began to write; a little, slowly and carefully in the evenings, after work at the paper mill. Failure brought disappointment; disappointment, discouragement. Manuscripts returned 'rejected' or 'declined' until 1933 when Blackwood's magazine agreed to publish a few tales.

Of the many Blackwood subscribers all over the world who must have admired the tales of Thomas Raddall, two helped him greatly: Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and John Buchan, later Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada. Encouraged by their enthusiasm, Thomas Raddall gave up his office job in 1938 and became a professional author with what Buchan described as "a rare gift of spare-limbed narrative".

Then there began to flow from his pen a variety of works, the titles of which are familiar to so many Canadians: His Majesty's Yankees, Roger Sudden, Halifax, Warden of the North, The Governor's Lady.

The scope of Thomas Raddall's skill seems as wide as his popularity. He has turned his hand from short stories, to historical novels, romantic tales and history; in doing so he has received three Governor General's Awards, the 1956 Lorne Pierce Medal and the Doubleday Award for Canadian fiction.

In all his seventeen books, including eight novels, five volumes of shortstories and four of history, Thomas Raddall has written about this country, and more particularly this province, for which Canadians and Nova Scotians have honoured him. Dalhousie University refers to him as Dr. Raddall; he is also Fellow elect of the Royal Society of Canada.

It is said of him that "he is a meticulous writer, never satisfied, believing with Flaubert that there is one

perfect way of saying anything and that the writer should seek it at all costs".

Since the present speaker is not satisfied that the 'one perfect way' of summarizing the accomplishment of Thomas Raddall lies within the compass of his abilities, he begs leave to enlist the support of Lord Tweedsmuir further:

"I confess (he said) to a special liking for a story that has something of a plot and which issues in a dramatic climax, a type which has had many distinguished exponents, from Sir Walter Scott through Stevenson and Maupassant to Kipling and Conrad. To this school Mr. Raddall belongs, and he is worthy of a great succession."

Most Reverend Chancellor,

I have the privilege to request that you honour Saint Mary's University by conferring upon Thomas Head Raddall the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

