

Ans'd. May 30/50.  
Fee to be #25.

# British Book Service

(CANADA) LIMITED

263-267 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO 1, CANADA

Telephone: PLaza 6408 Cable Address: BRIBOOKS, Toronto

May 27th, 1950

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,  
Liverpool,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Raddell:- Atlantic Harbours - Sherwood

You may have heard a little of this new organization representing some of the outstanding British Publishers in Canada on a cooperative basis. The intention is simple—recovery of their book market in this country after the trials in production and supply of the last ten years.

Furthermore we have an interest in what can be loosely termed local publishing and production and, although this is a long term policy, we are keen to get started with Canadian authors, primarily to publish and sell in Canada with simultaneous or subsequent publication in New York and London. Our advantages are many and our one main disadvantage the lack of dollars to exploit the wonderful opportunities in this field. Still, we are gaining ground and have magnificent support in London.

This preamble is explanatory as, when dining with Bill Deacon, I spoke of an interesting manuscript we had received from R. H. Sherwood, and Bill suggested I write to you to ask your confidential opinion as to its accuracy and background. Your intimate knowledge of the country would be invaluable to us because, as a Scot, my sympathy and interest is aroused with this type of work but it could only be harmful to both the author and ourselves if we proceeded to start our Canadian publishing with a work that was not as nearly perfect as possible.

May I send this M.S. forward to you for your opinion and, if so, have you any idea of what fee would be required for you to give a reader's report on same.

I am looking forward to meeting you personally sometime soon.

Yours sincerely,

BRITISH BOOK SERVICE (CANADA) LTD.

*Wm. Gordon*  
Wm. Gordon  
General Manager

WG/rbt

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# British Book Service

(CANADA) LIMITED

263-267 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO 1, CANADA

Telephone: PLaza 6408 Cable Address: BRIBOOKS, Toronto

June 7th, 1950

Mr. Thomas Raddall,  
Liverpool,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Raddall:-

The Sherwood manuscript has been dispatched to you by registered mail, and we are agreeable that you give us an opinion for \$25.

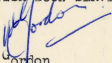
It may interest you to know that, should we get a favourable report, we would consider running a first printing of 3,000 to 5,000 at a published price of \$3.00 in a large Crown size with suitable embellishments such as map-end papers and illustrations in line or halftone.

This matter is quite urgent to us, but without hurrying you too much we hope it will be possible for you to let us have your opinion at the end of this month.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter,

Yours sincerely,

BRITISH BOOK SERVICE (CANADA) LTD.

  
Wm. Gordon  
General Manager

WG/rbt

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July 1st, 1950

Mr. William Gordon,  
British Book Service Ltd.,  
263 Adelaide Street West,  
Toronto 1, Canada.

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I have read the manuscript of Sherwood's book and find it rather like the parson's egg. The man knows how to write and in some parts he is very good indeed; in others he's just as bad. Of course he is a radio broadcaster and most if not all of these tales are in the style of a radio script, which sounds all right on the air but looks a bit flamboyant in print.

His worst fault is plagiarism, an endemic disease in the broadcasting profession. Thus I find:-

"Maritime Privateers". All of this is a paraphrase from C.E.J. Snider's "Under The Red Jack", published by the Musson Book Company, Toronto, in the early 1920's.

The Big Ship A paraphrase of Archibald MacMechan's story "The Great Ship", included with other tales under the title "There Go The Ships", and published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 1928.

The Murder Ship 'Saladin' A paraphrase of MacMechan's story "The Saladin Pirates", included with other tales in "Old Province Tales", and published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 1924.

The Scarlet Ghost of Minas A paraphrase of "The Scarlet Spectre", by Grace McLeod Rogers, included in "Tales From The Land of Evangeline", published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 1923.

The Isle of Demons A paraphrase of the story bearing the same title in W.C. Borrett's "Tales Told Under The Old Town Clock", Imperial Publishing Company, Halifax, 1942.

Isle Madame A paraphrase of MacMechan's story, "Tonge at Petit-de-Grat", included in "Old Province Tales", 1924.

The First Elopement A paraphrase of W.C. Borrett's story, "The Indian's Bride", from "Tales Told Under The Old Town Clock".

"The Wedding Shoes of Marie Payzant A paraphrase of MacMechan's story, "The Payzant Captivity", included in "Old Province Tales", 1924.

Borrett (mentioned above) is himself a broadcaster who subsequently publishes his tales in book form. He puffs his books diligently on the air and sells thousands of copies; but his is the principal Halifax station,

with an audience all over the city and province, while as far as I can find out Sherwood broadcasts from the comparatively small station at Antigonish, in a rural district. Thus Sherwood's book, if published, would encounter strong competition in the Nova Scotia field which is his best presumptive market. He could rely on sales in his own area, of course. His tales of that area have an authentic ring, they appear to be the result of his own research and he tells them well. (By his own area I mean those parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and of course Prince Edward Island which lie along the Gulf of St. Lawrence within the range of his broadcasts.) In the national field a book of short tales of this kind would have a very limited appeal, judging from my own observation and experience. On the other hand, judging from Borrett's success, it is possible that Sherwood, by radio puffing, might be able to sell 3,000 to 5,000 copies in his own field. A popular broadcaster has a definite advantage in this respect which places him outside the normal experience of author and publisher.

I presume you wish to have the manuscript returned to you at Toronto, but will await your instructions.

Sincerely,

# British Book Service

(CANADA) LIMITED

263-267 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO 1, CANADA

Telephone: PLaza 6408 Cable Address: BRIBOOKS, Toronto

20th July, 1950

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

Dear Mr. Raddall,

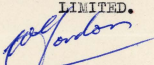
Pardon my delay in replying to your most excellent opinion on Sherwood's manuscript. This is greatly appreciated by one as yet unversed in Canadian history and literature.

In view of your comments it would be quite contrary to our policy to consider publication particularly under the Methuen imprint and although I am somewhat disappointed that the author did not have more sense in handling these tales outside his own immediate field with a more diligent pen.

Do please return the manuscript to us for forwarding to the author and accept our thanks for a particularly fine opinion.

A cheque is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,  
BRITISH BOOK SERVICE (CANADA)  
LIMITED.

  
Wm. Gordon  
General Manager

WG/b

*Returned Sherwood m/s  
by parcel post.  
July 25/50*

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