

Amad
Feb. 14/41

45 Rosedale Road
Toronto
Jan 30th 1947

Dear Mr Raddall

the enclosed letter from your publishers reached me yesterday: as well as your autographed copy of Prides Jansy. You will, perhaps, have wondered why there has been no word of acknowledgment from me before --- herewith the reason.

I was most pleased to receive the copy of your work, and it is a gesture that is indeed appreciated you may well be sure. It reached me at an opportune moment, in that, as my writing with pneumonia, I have been put to bed with one of those bouts of 'flu which completely flatten one out, and which call for large doses of that altogether obvious disease known as sulfa. The cure, I herewith submit, is quite as bad, if not worse, than the complaint.

I am not, so you probably know, by way of being an author or a critic. However I can most truthfully relate that Prides Jansy brought me a great deal of unalloyed pleasure. I dived into the work with zeal, and refused to be driven from it by fever or indisposition until I laid it down, with great regret, completed, some time after midnight. It particularly intrigued me, I think, because of my affection for the sea and my knowledge of the Caribbean. Your descriptions of those early days fascinated me - and your knowledge of seafaring and ship building (found

boundless and intriguing. As an amateur I congratulate you on the excellence of your plot. The manner of its unravelling and the ease of your dialogue kept me going at a great rate. Quite frankly I found much more to it, and it more natural and convincing than The Black Rose - and I only hope it enjoys correspondingly greater sales in due course of time. The ease with which you handle the action leads me somewhat speechless. It is a great art to be sure, and one that you have cultivated to an altogether enviable degree.

At dinner the other evening my good neighbour Roy Whitehead was telling me something of his admiration for and friendship with you. I hope that when next you return to Toronto you may find time to relax and widen your circle of acquaintances on Rosedale Road to include the Symons household. I can quite truthfully say that you may always count upon food, and drink, and a bed, and friendship whenever you may so desire it beneath our roof. And should we, in any way, be able to be of any help to you in the local scene you have but to say the word.

Belatedly, and again, please accept my thanks, coupled with my congratulations, and good wishes

Sincerely

Harry Symons

Under separate cover I am mailing a copy of Friendship, duly signed, to you for your shelves.