



UNIVERSITY OF
NEW BRUNSWICK

Bag Service Number 45555 / Fredericton, N.B. / Canada E3B 6E5

Department of English
(506) 453-4676

Telex: 014-46-202

(506) 455-1756 (home)

6 May 1985

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
44 Park Street
Liverpool
Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to grant me an interview for a new series being done in Studies in Canadian Literature on the careers of those people who have been important influences on Canadian literary and intellectual life.

I realise that you may feel that your books and your 1973 interview with John Sorfleet leave nothing to be said. However, I believe that there is always more to add to our country's cultural record, and I think that your very significant contribution to Canadian literature deserves further examination. If you are willing to see me, I can arrange to visit virtually any time convenient to you between now and September (except for the first week of June when I will be away at a conference).

I hope that an interview will be possible. I have enjoyed your books (including your Memoir) very much, and I have found myself particularly moved by the sense of Canada they seem to show. I am a Maritimer who finished studies at Oxford a few years ago. I loved England, but despite all the practical reasons for staying there, I thought it natural to return to Canada. I would like to meet one of the people whose books are partly responsible for my sense of my country.

Yours truly,

Diana Austin

Diana Austin
Assistant Professor

P.O.Box 459
BOT 1K0

May 12, 1985

Diana Austin,
Dept. of English,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Miss Austin:

Thank you for your pleasant
letter.

I shall be at home all this summer, and an
interview can be arranged at any time.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Raddall



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21 May 1985

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
44 Park Street
P.O. Box 459
Liverpool
Nova Scotia
BOT 1K0

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Thank you for your prompt and courteous reply to my request for an interview.

The time, of course, is completely subject to your convenience. With that in mind, would an interview session over the weekend of July 5-7 suit you? (Given the series' emphasis on Canadian cultural history, the Canada Day weekend did present itself as appropriate, but I thought that might be a busy period for you.) I do not want to take up too much of your time, of course, but I felt that my planning to be in town for a few days would allow flexibility and scope.

If the July 5th weekend is convenient for you, I will make arrangements for travel and accommodation and confirm these to you by letter close to the date. I will probably drive down, and I will ring you before setting out on Thursday the 4th to ensure that the visit is still convenient and to arrange a time to see you on Friday the 5th.

If the proposed date or other details seem unsuitable, please let me know. As I have said, I would be very happy to fit myself to your schedule. (By the way, if you prefer the telephone to the post, please feel free to ring me collect at home anytime before noon or after 5 p.m.)

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. I look forward to meeting you.

Yours truly,

Diana Austin

Diana Austin
Assistant Professor

BOT 1KO

May 29, 1985

Miss Diana Austin,
Dept. of English,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Miss Austin:

The weekend of July 5-7 will
be all right for an interview.

I enclose a rough sketch of
the way to my house. It is only a short distance
from the traffic lights at the post office.

Now in~~m~~ my 82nd. year, I am
rather lame and bent with arthritis, but with
the aid of my car and a walking stick I get
about quite well.

Looking forward,

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Raddall



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Post Office Box 4400 / Fredericton, N.B. / Canada E3B 5A3

Department of English
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27 June 1985

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Thank you for your recent letter and the very helpful map. I am sorry that my attendance at a conference in Montreal delayed my reply.

I shall be driving to Liverpool on Friday, July 5th, and I hope to arrive by 6 p.m. I shall ring you soon after my arrival to find out when you might like to see me. Since I am booked into Lane's Privateer Motor Inn for Friday and Saturday night, the interview can be scheduled to suit your convenience during the weekend. It can be done in stages, a little each day, or in one fell swoop, as you prefer.

I am looking forward to the interview very much. I have been reading and re-reading your books, and I find myself in awe of the achievement and full of questions about your work and the cultural atmosphere in which you wrote.

I shall try to ring you at about 6:15p.m. on Thursday, July 4th, to check that the visit is still convenient, and then I shall leave here early Friday morning. The long drive will pass quickly with the anticipation of the interview .

Yours truly,

Diana Austin

Diana Austin
Assistant Professor





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30 September 1985

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
44 Park Street
Liverpool, Nova Scotia
B0T 1K0

Dear Mr. Raddall:

This is a brief note to assure you that I have not forgotten my promise to send you a draft of our July interview for any comments or changes that you might wish to make. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to finish the tapes before leaving for England the following week on a research project. I returned at the end of August for the beginning of the university term, and I am only now finding the time to complete my editing of the tapes. I hope to be able to send you a draft in about three weeks' time.

I also wish to apologise for taking so long to send you the accompanying thank-you gift for the enjoyable interview you granted me. I thought that you might like to read this historical novel by a contemporary writer, but I did not anticipate the difficulty I would have in finding a copy. The sad state of the Canadian book industry is all too evident in the story of my search. The book was not available in local bookstores, so I had to order it before leaving for England. Despite assurances that it would be in Fredericton by the time of my late summer return, it has only just arrived. The irony is that the book was visible in most English bookstores. Still, I trust that its late arrival is better than never, and I hope that you will find it interesting.

I hope that you have had a pleasant summer (it rained every day while I was in England) and that your arthritis has not troubled you too much. I remain extremely grateful for the courtesy and helpfulness that you brought to our interview, and, once again, I wish to thank you for the informative and stimulating afternoon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diana Austin'.

Diana Austin



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31 October 1985

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
44 Park Street
Liverpool, Nova Scotia
BOT 1K0

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I enclose ^{a copy of} the edited draft of our July interview for you to read. This is, of course, a much shortened version. I have severely pruned my citing of examples to illustrate my questions, and I have obviously eliminated the usual speech hesitations from both my questions and your answers. Although for reasons of space and continuity I have occasionally deleted small sections of your comments or run answers together, I have tried to give scrupulous respect to the integrity of your answers, keeping them pretty much verbatim.

I think it is a strong interview in which you provide interesting new information on various aspects of your work related to the focus of the interview series. However, please feel free to make any comments or adjustments. If there is anything you would like to add, please do. Although as it happens the tape ran out on my remarks, you are certainly entitled to the last word, and I would be pleased if you wanted to add a closing comment.

As I mentioned on the telephone recently, the interview can appear either in the December issue of the journal, which is to be a splashy anniversary issue, or it can appear next spring. Obviously the fact that it has taken me so long to complete the draft makes time tight for the December issue: I would have to get the draft back by about November 12 or 13 at the latest. For this reason I am sending the interview by Priority Post and enclosing a return Priority Post envelope (pre-addressed to my home address and pre-paid, needing only to be dropped off at the Post Office to begin winging its way back). It would be nice if the interview could appear in the special December issue, but only if that allows you adequate time to read it. There is no need for worry if you would like more time; next spring will also do.

I want to apologise for the unseemly haste; I enjoyed our interview very much, and I have enjoyed editing the draft (so much so, in fact, that I am hoping to do an article on your work later this winter). I am truly sorry that the pressure of other work has made things rushed at the end. I am glad that you liked Black Robe: I had hoped it would appeal and that it would be a small sign of my gratitude.

Yours truly,

Diana Austin
Diana Austin

P.O.Box 459
BOT 1KO

Nov.3,1985

Mrs. Diana Austin,
Dept. of English,
University of New Brunswick.

Dear Mrs. Austin:

Here is the copy of your interview and observations, with a few corrections, mostly deletions of "Well". At my age I instinctively make sure my throat is clear before utterance, and I find it better to do so with "Well!" rather than with "Harumph!"

As I remarked on the phone, it would be an impertinence by any author to demand or even to suggest important changes in the script of a review.

In any case yours is intelligent and perceptive, by far the best I have seen, and I appreciate it.

With all good wishes.

Thomas H. Raddall



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E3B 1J2

Instructions

- Customer to complete all shaded areas. (Including postal code)
- Use ball point pen and press hard.
- Remove backing and affix label to postal item.
- Present item with label intact.

Instructions

- Le client doit remplir toutes les parties ombrées. (Code postal inclus)
- Utiliser un stylo à bille et appuyer fortement.
- Peler le dos de l'étiquette et coller celle-ci sur l'envoi.
- Présenter l'envoi avec l'étiquette intacte.

Client

Customer