

Apt 204,
1094 Wellington St.,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

October 21st, 1970.

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

Dear Mr. Raddall:

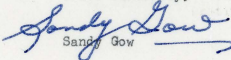
This letter is approximately twelve years behind the times; in fact, it is probably even a little farther behind than that. It was twelve or thirteen years ago that I first picked up Roger Sudden and since that time I have attempted to read everything you have placed in print. Unfortunately I have not read everything, but I have given it a good try. Roger Sudden is on the eleventh reading just now.

I find it difficult to place on paper the feeling for my Nova Scotia that your writing has created. Twenty years ago my family moved out west to Alberta, where I lived until just recently. While attending school I read Roger Sudden and from that time forward I felt as though I had never even left my home province. Almost every year I re-opened that book and took a fresh look at Halifax, Le Loutre, Louisbourg, the Valley and a host of other spots ^{and personalities} from that book I went on to His Majesty's Yankees (seven readings), The Wedding Gift..., The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek, Halifax-Warden of the North, the historical volume on Canada and Hangman's Beach. Needless to say, I favour historical novels. Your Wings of Night was an excellent book and has endured four readings in about eight years. You are, as they say, 'timeless' in your appeal.

Since I have returned to Halifax to do graduate work in History I have exhumed each copy and attempted to get the feel of being back here in the province. My wife, an ex-South African, has taken up your books and gets the greatest satisfaction out of locating places you have mentioned in passing. She is on her second reading of Roger Sudden. Of all your writings that one is still my favourite.

As I have said, Mr. Raddall, this letter is long overdue. Essentially what I wanted to do was thank you for the hours and hours of reading pleasure you have given me, both as a youth and an adult. I have yet to find a writer of historical novels who can match your skill.

Yours sincerely,


Sandy Gow

October 24, 1970

Mr. Sandy Gow
Apt. 204
109 1/2 Wellington St.,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Gow:

I am glad you have enjoyed my books, and it was very kind of you to write and tell me.

After my book and documentary studies of the ^{Roger Kudden} period and places (London-Halifax-Louisbourg) I went to Louisbourg and stayed for several days with the curator of the museum. Thus I was able to live within the old fortress, studying its ruins in direct relation to the history and the old military maps, French and British.

Also I found in Louisbourg town a storekeeper who had made a lifelong study of the old fortress and the surrounding area. With him I was able to explore the woods and barrens all the way from Lorambec to Kemington Cove. The terrain is mostly rocky, with swampy hollows and scrub forest, much as it was in Wolfe's day. Entrenching had proved difficult, owing to the rock and water, and many of the British posts and battery sites could still be found by hunting for the stone walls built on the surface.

Altogether a most interesting experience, and most valuable in getting the feel of the place before I began to write. I have done this, of course, with all my books. In fact I couldn't have written them without first making actual contact with the scenes, and seeing them with the eyes of my characters.

With my regards to your wife and self,

Sincerely,