

Penicuik

1st Feb

Dear Unwin,

This is I believe, the first day of spring. There is a foot of snow outside in these mountain solitudes, and it is still falling! You fellows in London have the best of it now. Your letter of yesterday's date has just come in. Of all things I hate the appearance of screwing my friends – specially those who like you have always met me honourably and fairly. I see quite well your point, and I did not remember that the balances were only to be struck at mar 30. Indeed I did not ask you to cast up your accounts now. But I thought that as in the case of the first and second editions you would settle each edition when it was through if they went with decent smartness. That was what I understood from your letters and as I have just taken a new and much larger house – impelled there to by the necessities of my books and my family, as well as by the necessity of a quieter place to write in than a house in a village street with children yelling and playing all day long outside, I was a little alarmed. I enclose a note of my expectations which in my painful [] I wrote yesterday, when I was costing up new ways and means. I think if you look over the correspondence of September you will think that the expectations were by no means extravagant. It is no doubt the case that you have given Mr Watt better terms than Wylie got for the Stickit, but I have every belief that you will find The Raiders far more profitable to yourself than the Stickit. If it is not so, I shall be disappointed. But when your letter of 11th Sept was written, I had told you that all my work would have to pass through Mr Watt's hands, for you to say that 'you understand that my new story will be offered to you by my agent if I (SRC) can manage it.' I have managed it you see, and I think that you will not regret your bargain. Of course, what made me think that you did not mean to adhere to the strict times and seasons of the agreements with regards to royalties was you saying that 'as soon as the third edition was sold out, you would have pleasure etc in sending the cheque and extra honorarium.' However, I am not in any great hurry if you could manage to clear up our matters and let me have as much as possible at the May and Nov terms which are our Scottish days of judgement. That would keep my mind easy for work for I never do good work if I am worried about household finance.

I shall hurry up the illustrations for the Stickit as much as ever I can. All the fellows are busy now with their Academy and Gallery pictures and as soon as these are well on, I shall keep worrying them to finish.

With kind regards and all good will,

Ever truly yours

SRC

Ps – I have today got all the Raiders signatures. I am working hard at the proof in its various forms. I have taken great pains with the style.

SRC

Wylie sends me £5.2 this morning which makes £13 odd in all for what he has had: but we will settle up all that in time.