

Letter from A.P. Watt to S.R. Crockett

October 22nd 1912

My dear Crockett,

I am just in receipt of a letter from Mr. Dominick of the Frederick A. Stokes Co. in which he writes:-

“You will remember when I had the pleasure of seeing you last Spring I spoke of the possibility of our issuing a series of books for young people at the price of 50 cents per volume, such series to contain books that have been formerly issued at higher prices. It seemed to me that it might be possible to secure a sale for some of the books by Mr. S.R. Crockett, whose sales have ceased at the former prices, and which are now out of print. I refer particularly to “Sweetheart Travellers” and if the idea is successful, we might include the other volumes later on.

In issuing these volumes at the low price of 50 cents, it is, frankly, impossible for us to pay the regular rate of royalty. I therefore propose that you take up the question with Mr. Crockett and ask if he would be willing to accept a royalty of 10% on the published price of 50 cents for whatever sales we may be able to make. This is the highest royalty that we can consider paying and should he be unwilling to accept it, we can only let the matter drop and the volumes remain out of print.

Kindly take this up promptly as our plans are well advanced and we should begin the manufacture of the new editions”.

I have no doubt that you will agree with me that this is an offer which we ought to accept, and, presuming that you would wish me to do so, I have now written accordingly to Mr. Dominick.

With kind regards,

I am, dear Crockett,

Yours sincerely,

A.P. Watt

RUTH

1912 AND 1914

Dec 1st 1912

My dear Marion

I was so glad to get your long kind letter last week, a letter of yours is always a cheering thing and

the next best thing to a good talk with your dear self.

Fancy you remembering all about my people and troubling to ask about them" I'll tell you more of them after I have given my message about Mr Crockett's books , that your friend wished to know about. Mr Crockett asked me to write and tell you, and he is not yet out of the nursing home where he is undergoing treatment, at least he wasn't when he wrote last, we are hoping by this time that he is, as he said he hoped to get away in another week. As I thought, all the books were written by himself on his typewriter, with just the corrections written in by hand, he thinks there is a copy of the 'Raiders' somewhere, but several of his later books he has the type written copy of, but these are not at all likely to be what your friend will want. Of course they haven't the same interest that a real manuscript has at all.

I am still rather so crippledick with my foot, they take a long time to heal these sprains, I thought I remembered you sprained your ankle more than once, and how awkward it had been for you. Speaking of lameness reminds me you asked about Philip Oliver who is still rather lame, but he has turned out such an able clever fellow, he is a barrister in Manchester, and is the prospective liberal candidate for Knutsford. That is Mrs Gaskell's Cranford you know. Philip will make a good candidate if he gets in; he is immensely interested in all the big problems about the [ ] of the poor in large towns and the Olivers have plenty of money and can afford to let him go in for such a career. Their Father your so kindly asked about ,he is simply wonderful still for his age, he will be 85 next Thursday. He is not able to go about alone now, his sight is not what it was, and his hearing is so bad, however, he gets to all sorts of things with his Nurse. She brought him to Scotland in August and he spent a fortnight with me and a fortnight with Alice in Castle Douglas. You know she went to an new house in Castle Douglas, one that belonged to Dr Lorrain. Mr Sproat bought it. I was going to see them last month but this sprain prevented me. I am sorry to hear you are bothered with rheumatism it's a very sore thing and such a business to get rid of. We are getting on Marion dear, and I suppose we cannot expect to be exempt from all these things, as you say there is always something but I'm glad we have both got the hearts that can be thankful for, and rejoice in our many [ ] . You see so many people who seem to get crushing blow after crushing blow and it always makes me ashamed to say anything of one's own troubles. A little lady I know here lived down the heavy blow of losing her husband last year. She was so anxious to live and see her boy home from London, a splendid young fellow very successful in the Indian Civil. He came home just to die, got a child and blood poisoning in some way and died after ten day's illness. The poor little mother with have to live that dam now.

You talk about [ ] on' I think you will call mine 'maundering on' so I'll stop. Much love to you both, take good care of yourself. Folk like you and John are scarce. Ever your good friend

Ruth

What an old bore!