

DEAREST RACHEL

Sylvia Townsend Warner

Frome Vauchurch, Maiden Newton, Dorset, 9. iv. 1953

Dearest Rachel¹.

I'm afraid you have lost that bus with Prince Charles, unless by any chance their cheque carries a statement of exactly what they paid you for. That would have weight over the pay-sheet entry, and you could fight them on it. Otherwise, they've cheated you, and I don't think you have any redress beyond Thole and think on't. One has to learn one's way, and you will know better next time. Get it in writing.

Another thing worth bearing in mind is that the Canadian magazines are much more inclined to buy from USA than us. And pay in dollars, of course, so they are worth attending to. So if you do another thing with USA possibilities, keep your Canadian rights as well as your USA ones, and use them as an additional bait with the USA agent, or buyer. At first you will not be popular with your employers for knowing so much about copyrights, but you will be esteemed; and esteem is usually a better payer.

Do you know what I want to see for the Coronation? Crawfie¹ that ghastly Crawfie, hanged on a public scaffold, under a noticeboard saying, *La Reine le veut*.

Thank you for the agents address. It shall be borne in mind.

I found match-making a hazardous form of good works. The match-made involved always turned round on me with the love of a lifetime, and the other half became rather pettish. It is much safer to conduct a divorce to its happy ending. With my love,

Sylvia (signed)

NOTES

1. Rachel Monckton-How, Warner's cousin, and the recipient of a lively correspondence from STW, part of which has recently been published as *Cousin and Friend. Letters to Rachel 195- - 1952*. See Review pp. 89-90, below.

2. Marion Crawford or 'Crawfie' was governess to Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret but published her memoirs against royal protocol and compounded the error by writing a column in a newspaper. This was later found to be more fiction than fact and resulted in a breach with the Royal Family. It is only fair to add that this version of events has been questioned in recent years; see, for example, 'Queen Mother was 'ruthless' to royal nanny', *The Observer*, Sunday 25 June 2000 or <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2000/jun/25/monarchy.vanessathorpe>>

Correspondence now in the Warner Archive, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

http://www.sylviatownsendwarner.com/stw_archive.html