

these forces history; but, as Raddall never forgets, history is based on geography, on passion, on accident, and on destiny. In the last analysis, Raddall's command of the techniques of historical fiction is used to say something unfashionable but profound about his land and his people, and no doubt that is why they feel that he speaks for them. What man who has known and loved Nova Scotia can fail to be moved by the last words of *His Majesty's Yankees*?

But our sons would never give themselves wholly to anything but this rocky homeland on the sea's edge, where life is a struggle that demands a man's utmost and will take no less, where beauty alone is bountiful, and only death comes easily; where courage springs from the eternal rock like the clear singing rivers, like the deep-rooted forest itself.

NOTES

1. Ernest Bernbaum, "The Views of the Great Critics on the Historical Novel," *PMLA* XL (1926), p. 440.
2. Quoted by Bernbaum, p. 438.
3. *Hours in a Library* (New York, 1875), p. 192.
4. *The Historical Novel* (1937), trans. Hannah and Stanley Mitchell (London, 1962), p. 19.
5. *His Majesty's Yankees* (1942) (Toronto: Popular Library, n.d.), p. 396.
6. *Roger Sudden* (Garden City, N. Y., 1944), p. 39.
7. *The Historical Novel*, p. 41.
8. Interview with Raddall at his home in Liverpool, N. S., August 26, 1968. I am very grateful to Dr. Raddall for his hospitality and kindness in the preparation of this essay.

LEAF-BURNING RITUAL

Derek Crawley

I am more alive for raking of dead leaves.
 Blood and mind beat faster at this funeral rite
 Of red flame standing in black ash
 The dust of Fall still withering
 In multi-coloured glory
 The beauty of destruction.