

December 23rd, 1949.

ROSE LAWN,

KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,

KENT.

Dear Leonard Packman,

Thank you for your letter to-day, and for the enclosures. I am not surprised at Mr. Mackay "passing the buck". The "Old Coder" of the Mirror told me the other day that the final count of letters received by him on the same subject was 325; and perhaps Mr. Mackay's experience has been similar!

I am glad you sent on the letter from "Norman Holt" on the subject of Samways.

Some time ago Martin and Reid sent on a letter to me addressed to Frank Richards, which, on looking at it, I discovered to be from a relative of Samways', and intended for him; I sent it back to this relative with an explanation, and she replied that she had always believed Samways to be Frank Richards, as he had told her so! It appears from Holt's letter that the rascal told others the same story.

I have written to Holt to explain to him that the man Samways was a hack writer who imitated my work without my knowledge or leave, and that these imitations were dishonestly published under my name.

You must not suppose, my dear boy, that I ever consented to this "stand-in" or "substitute" business. I did agree that if circumstances prevented me from supplying copy on time, a "stop-gap" story might be written, on the strict condition that it did NOT appear under my name. Hinton told me once that papers could not shut down if I happened to have a cold in the head, and I had to own that this was reasonable. But such occasions were rare, and were no excuse whatever for the mass of imitation work that was produced, and falsely represented as mine. It was the bitterness caused by these practices that finally ended my connection with those publishers, and made me the object of the hostility which still continues.

I have not yet looked at the other letters, but

shall read them all with great interest. I couldn't
calculate how many such letters I have read in my time,
but they always come very pleasantly, all the same.

With kindest regards to all,

Yours very sincerely,

Frank Richards