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Thursday, 05 October, 1995

Dear Dan,

I received HCD *Writings and Speeches* about a week ago but have delayed replying because I wanted to dip into it. I have done more; I have already read about three-quarters of it.

You have done a truly remarkable service to the profession, dare I say mankind. It is an astonishing book, far better than I had anticipated. I have always felt that Dillard was one of the two greatest speakers I ever had the privilege to hear. [The other curiously enough was a Mexican professor who lectured in English at the University of Mexico]. For the entire first year Dillard kept me on the edge of my seat three times a week as he set in motion trains of thought. I subsequently took all of his other courses. The other courses, though good, were not nearly as good as his contracts course, but I nonetheless had enormous admiration for the man. Although I also read a number of his law review articles I never felt that he came across very well in print. But the writings you have collected do show the man and have caused me to change my mind. The book is to me a veritable treasure. Your preface and introduction are superb and give something of the flavor of the man. Although I admire all that you have written, this may well turn out to be one of your most important works, if not the most important.

I could have added a few stories of my own, such as my initial interview at the Law School in 1959 when I was either 19 or 20. I had decided to leave Duke after just three years without a degree and wanted to stay in the South. I thus applied to Duke, Tulane and Virginia. I went first to see Dean Latty at Duke as that was the simplest, but I told him I was seriously interested in Virginia. "Go there at once and look it over," he said. And so I did. Emerson Spies interviewed me first and then took me into Dillard's office and left me there.

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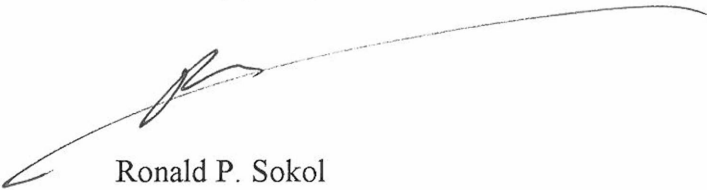
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Hardy was reading the sports page of the local newspaper when I arrived upon the scene. For a while he said nothing. Finally, he looked up and began to remark upon how curious it was that the current baseball players all had Puerto Rican names. He then observed how the players at the beginning of the century had German names-Wagner, Ruth, and I can't recall who else he mentioned. Then, he said, the names changed in time to Italian-Dimaggio, Rizzuto and others. "You can trace our immigration in the baseball scores," he said or something similar. I, a knowledgeable and eager baseball fan at that time, was bowled over by the fact that the man sitting in front of me read the sports pages in terms of understanding immigration, sociology and history. That is all I recall of the interview, but I felt immediately and intensely that this was where I wanted to be. This was the man I was looking for.

The book is very nicely printed and bound, but I wonder if there is not a place for a deluxe edition, perhaps leather bound, for alumni like myself who are fervent admirers of Hardy.

I can't tell you how much I am enjoying the book and how grateful I am to you for putting it together.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Sokol', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Ronald P. Sokol

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