

10-31-2014

Henry Beston Correspondence

Henry Beston 1888-1968

Elizabeth Coatsworth 1893-1986

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Marion B. Stubbs 1888-1967

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Beston, Henry 1888-1968; Coatsworth, Elizabeth 1893-1986; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Stubbs, Marion B. 1888-1967, "Henry Beston Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 122.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/122

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

10-31-2014

Henry Beston Correspondence

Henry Beston 1888-1968

Elizabeth Coatsworth 1893-1986

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Marion B. Stubbs 1888-1967

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Beston, Henry 1888-1968; Coatsworth, Elizabeth 1893-1986; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Stubbs, Marion B. 1888-1967, "Henry Beston Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 122.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/122

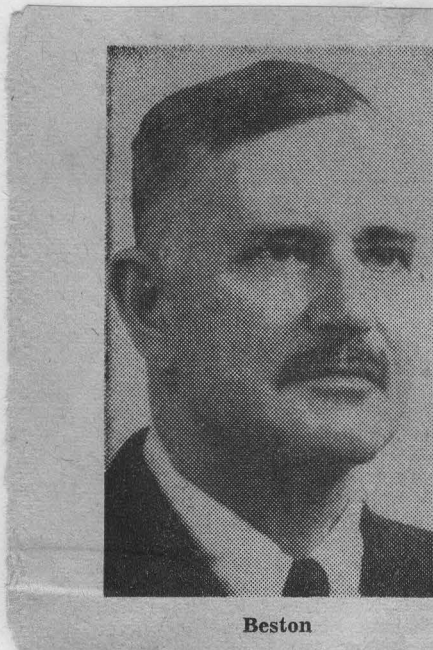
This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

BESTON, Henry

Quincy, Mass., 1888 -

BESTON, Henry, author; b/ Quincy, Mass., June 1, 1888;
B.A., Harvard, 1909, M.A., 1911; studied U.of Lyons, France,
1 year; m. Elizabeth Coatsworth, of Buffalo, N.Y., June
18, 1929; children-Margaret Coatsworth, Catherine Maurice.
With Am. Field Service, attached to French Army, June 1915-
May 1916; with U.S.Navy, 1918. Extensive traveler and has
spent much time at sea; on review staff New York Tribune,
covering books dealing with ships and sailor life.
Home: Hingham, Mass. Summer home "Chimney Farm," Nobleboro,
Maine.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, 1934-35



Beston

Henry Beston, Nobleboro, au-
thor, Doctor of Letters: "Gently
and thoughtfully penetrating,
yet disciplined in word and
method, blending charm and
sensitivity together with style
and character..."

May 7, 1935

Mr. Henry Beston
Box 385
Hingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Beston:

May we extend congratulations upon your latest book, HERBS AND THE EARTH. It is a splendid book, and exceptionally interesting to us because it is Maine.

Some years ago we started a Maine Author Collection, to include the works of contemporary Maine writers. Due to the cooperation and generosity of our authors, this collection has expanded rapidly, and now numbers several hundred inscribed volumes.

There have been several writers, not born in Maine, but who have lived here and who have written about Maine, whom we have included: Laura E. Richards, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Louise Lamprey, and others. We feel that you should be represented here, and we wonder if you would not like to inscribe a copy of HERBS AND THE EARTH for our Maine Author Collection.

We assure you we would very much appreciate this kindness, and we enclose a return label and postage for your convenience.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary

hm
Enc:
Return label
Postage 4¢

Nobleboro, Maine,
May 22nd 1935

Dear Miss McLeod - I am
inscribed "
sending today the copy of "Herbs
and the Earth" requested by the
Library. There to be a review of
it, I hear, in the June Atlantic,
the first review of a "garden book"
they've ever printed. Pretty good
for old Damariscotta Lake! Should
you ever come our way (we are only

three miles from Federal Route 1
where it meets our East Neck Rd. at
Holeboro Centre) do come and see
us and the garden of these
beautiful old plants.

With best wishes believe me,

Faithfully yours

Honey Beston.

Miss Hilda McLeod.

Maine State Library

Augusta.

May 28, 1935

Mr. Henry Beston
Nobleboro
Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

HERBS AND THE EARTH has arrived at the library, and to its author are due our most sincere thanks, not only for inscribing and presenting this book to the Maine Author Collection, but for writing such a valuable reference work which is at the same time such delightful reading.

This is truly an important addition to botanical literature and we have added it to the general library, where already it has proved its worth in answering reference questions, and its success with those who read for enjoyment.

The dedication is particularly significant; you are indeed fortunate in having two such careful young persons. Thank you for your kind invitation to visit your beautiful herb garden. If it is at all possible, it will be accomplished; meanwhile the anticipation of such a venture, and the fascinating HERBS AND THE EARTH will be pleasant.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

Those who heard Henry Beston at the Garden Club meeting last month will be interested in the review appearing in New York Herald Tribune Books which reads: "One need not be an herb gardening enthusiast to find in this small volume a pleasure and a sense of peace too seldom discovered in books of horticultural intent. A few pages and one settles deeper in one's chair, shifts the light to a more convenient angle, for here is rare blend of fancy,

fact, of philosophy and clear humaneness that cannot be escaped. Let one short quotation serve as the key; for the rest, you should be your own discoverer: 'A plant of Balm, lifted from the June earth with its beard of delicate roots, a bush of Thyme in flower in the hot sun. Angelica rising in Gothic reeds where the rich and level earth long stores its rain, each of these is still a use, a potency, and a name. A garden of herbs is a garden of things loved for themselves in their wholeness and integrity. It is not a garden of flowers, but a garden of plants which are sometimes very lovely flowers and are always more than flowers. It is a garden of color seen as a part of garden life and not as its climax and close, of the pleasures and refreshments of fragrance, of the fantasy and beauty of leaves, of the joy of symmetry and design in nature, of that neglected delight to be found in garden contrasts and harmonies of green.' " This charming little book, from the press of Doubleday, Doran & Co. is on our library shelves—don't fail to read it.

R.C.C. Sept. 21, 1935

June 25, 1948

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro, Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

One of the nicest things about publishers' fall catalogs is that we discovered that we may anticipate NORTHERN FARM. We always look forward with great pleasure to the magic of your writing upon any subject from herbs to rivers, but we can imagine no subject more worthy of your art, or with more appeal for your readers, than Chimney Farm.

May it enjoy instant success and enduring popularity.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Chimney Farm
NOBLEBORO, MAINE

Dear Mrs. Jacob - Thanks most
gratefully for the letter of
June 25th. Such a letter
makes an author's life worth
while, and warms the
hands of life before a
living fire. I think you
will like the book. It is
nature as one sees it
in the north, and the

book has the quality of
the North from the northern
forest to the northern
lights.

Could you and your
husband motor over some
evening for a farm
supper? The afternoons
are long now, and you
wouldnt have much
night driving. Do let me
know. And Thanks again,
most faithfully yours
Henry Beston

27. VI. '48

June 29, 1948

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro, Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

What a delightful and generous invitation!
It grieves me that I cannot accept it: my husband
is at present in the hospital.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

Please remember me to Mrs. Beston. We hope
that you will make your annual summer visit to the
library. Meanwhile, we shall resign ourselves to
waiting, faithfully if not patiently, for the
publication of NORTHERN FARM.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

December 6, 1948

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro, Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

One of the afflictions of this season was that I had to be out of town the day you were in Augusta! Both Mrs. Stubbs and I very much wanted to call at the Corner Music and Book Store, but that pleasure was denied us. We hope that Augusta, which is probably as un-literary a community as Maine boasts, realized the privilege and took advantage of it.

NORTHERN FARM is all that we anticipated. It is charming and wise and delightful and honest: the sort of book we expect and always have from you.

The library orders were placed some time ago, and the books are now in active circulation. We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy to the Maine Author Collection. It would go proudly beside your other Maine book, HERBS AND THE EARTH.

Our very good wishes go to you and the new book, and also our profound regret that we could not see you when you were in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

H. B. care 31 Ship St. Hingham, Mass.
18-III-49.

Dear Mrs. Jacob - Has the State
Library a copy of the oration delivered
at Gettysburg on Oct 3d 1889
by Col. (Then General) Joshua Chamberlain.
(The occasion was the erection of a
monument to the XXth Maine) or
a copy of the oration delivered at
the same place on the same date
by Capt. Howard L. Prentice, described
as "The historian of the XXth Maine"?

I imagine that these orations were
printed in some memorial pamphlet for
The "Johnny Rebs" quote from them.

Do let me know. With all
good wishes,
yours,
Henry Boston.

March 24, 1949

Mr. Henry Beston
c/o 31 Ship Street
Hingham, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Beston:

A letter from you on the first day of spring was a delightful inauguration of the season, and we hope you will before long be back at Chimney Farm.

Miss Whalen, the Research Librarian, found General Chamberlain's address, and her letter is enclosed. We hope the information will be of help to you.

The sound of "living waters" which you so felicitously described in NORTHERN FARM began in Kennebec County yesterday; and it reminds us of the unhappy vacancy in the Maine Author Collection, which we are optimistically believing may one day be filled by an inscribed copy of this lovely book. Its popularity does not fade, and it is one which invites re-reading. How fortunate we are to have such a sympathetic interpreter of our land!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Encl.

Dear Mrs. Jacob -

What is the ^{full} title and
date and the publisher of

Father Eugene Velromiles book on
The Abenaki Indians. It is
a landmark in the writing
about our redmen. Do rush me
a reply, and many, many
thanks.

Very faithfully

Henry Beston

19-VII-49

July 20, 1949

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro
Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

The half-title page says THE ABNAKIS / AND THEIR
HISTORY/ by Rev. Eugene Vetromil./ IHS / New York, /
James B. Kirker / 599 Broadway.

The title page says THE ABNAKIS / AND / THEIR
HISTORY/ OR / Historical Notices / on the / ABORIGINES
OF ACADIA. / by / Rev. Eugene Vetromile, / missionary
of the Etchemins, corresponding member of the Maine /
Historical Society, etc. / New York: / James B. Kirker, /
599 Broadway, up stairs. / Sold for the benefit of the
Indians. / 1866.

We are delighted to be asked to help, and hope
that you will call on us frequently. I trust the
new book is progressing satisfactorily. We certainly
look forward to it with eagerness.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj



SEAL of the STATE of MAINE at CHIMNEY FARM

made by Edbury Hatch, last of the figurehead carvers

Dear Mrs. Jacob. Many
Thanks for that
item of information,
Es I am not forgetting
that promised copy of
N.F. Best wishes,
Yours
Henry Beston

HENRY BESTON
Chimney Farm
NOBLEBORO MAINE

July 27,

19 49

Dear Mrs. Jacob. Has the Library
a copy of "They Seldom Speak" by
Leland Hall (a Maine Novel) Es
if it has, what is its date of

publication? (Harcourt Brace
circa 1935 or '36)? Do let me
know if you can.

Hot again, and hot as
Massachusetts is hot. But
Thank Heaven for the pond!

Best wishes always Yours,
"H.B."

July 28, 1949

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro, Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

The only compensation for this temperature is that it brought us a letter from you! No, we don't have *THEY SELDOM SPEAK*, because we don't have fiction, except for the classics. We looked it up in the Cumulative Book Index, however, which says that the novel was published in 1936 by Harcourt. This is entirely reliable. It sounds as though your book were entering the appendix-bibliography stage. Let us know whenever we can help.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

HENRY BESTON
Chimney Farm
NOBLEBORO MAINE

July 29th 19 49

Dear Mrs. Jacob. Many thanks
for that "They Seldom Speak"
information: it was exactly
what I wanted.

Gratefully H.B.

July 14, 1950

Mr. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobleboro, Maine

Dear Mr. Beston:

The library copies of WHITE PINE AND BLUE WATER came recently, and it was a joyous day! It's a wonderful book, just as we knew it would be. All your work on it has produced a volume on which you merit warm congratulations.

We should like to think that the Maine Author Collection, which still lacks the beautiful NORTHERN FARM, may include WHITE PINE AND BLUE WATER. They are truly Maine in spirit, and we deplore their absence.

Good wishes for the success of WHITE PINE AND BLUE WATER.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Chimney Farm
NOBLEBORO, MAINE

Dear Mrs. Jacob - Many thanks for
the kind letter about White Pine.
The State seems to have taken
the book right to heart, as did
you ever see such good, friendly,
grassband reviews!

Next time I go to
Augusta, I'll take with me
authors copies for the author's
Collection

Best wishes, now

Yours

Henry Beston

17-VII-'50

February 24, 1971

Mrs. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Nobelboro, Maine 04555

Dear Elizabeth Coatsworth:

Surely the warm welcome extended to ESPECIALLY MAINE must bring a glow of staisfaction. Such a really lovely book, one to give and to keep -- as many of us have done. It was, for instance, the parting gift to two of our employees who left the library last fall, and any number of persons must have been gladdened to find it under the Christmas tree.

This brings us to the Maine Author Collection, which does not yet boast a copy. We hope that perhaps it is not to late? It is the very best kind of Maine book.

We trust the winter has been a comfortable one for you, and that you are looking forward to spring.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge Of
Maine Author Collection

Chimney Farm

NOBLEBORO, MAINE 04555

Dear Mrs. Jacob.

I have mailed a
copy of "Especially Maine"
to the ^{Maine} Center Collection

— I fear I called
it the "Maine Shelf"

but by what ever name

it should reach you
and I hope you will

enjoy having it.

With all good wishes,

Elysette Coatsworth

(Mrs. Henry Boston)

Maid
~~March~~ 1, 1971

March 2, 1971

Mrs. Henry Beston
Chimney Farm
Noblesboro, Maine 04555

Dear Elizabeth Coatsworth:

You are very kind, and we are very pleased. Thank you for the inscribed copy of ESPECIALLY MAINE, which goes with pride into the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

ESPECIALLY MAINE

The natural world of HENRY BESTON

from Cape Cod to
the St. Lawrence

SELECTED AND WITH INTRODUCTIONS BY
ELIZABETH COATSWORTH

ESPECIALLY MAINE

HENRY BESTON

Perhaps his greatest gift was to call attention to things that had always been there, but whose significance had gone largely unnoticed until he spoke or wrote about them [Elizabeth Coatsworth says of Henry Beston in her Foreword]. He was a great opener of windows.

The accumulated impact of Henry Beston's view of man in relation to nature, and his unique farsightedness, are demonstrated in these observations of earth, sea, and sky from Cape Cod to the St. Lawrence, most of them written a long generation before ecology became a public concern.

The first section of the book is from his classic *The Outermost House*, the chronicle of his year alone on the great outer beach of Cape Cod, considered so valuable a contribution to American thought that the house itself has been made a National Literary Monument. Then the locale moves to Maine, with pieces from *White Pine and Blue Water*, *Northern Farm*, *Herbs and the Earth*, and *American Memory*—the latter regarded as the first study of our nation's history to give proper perspective to the role of the American Indian. The last section, *North of Maine*, contains portions of *The St. Lawrence*, one of the most memorable volumes in the Rivers of America Series. Included throughout to illumine or amplify Henry Beston's meticulous and often lyric observations are unpublished letters to family and friends, some of his poems, and notes from his journals.

THE STEPHEN GREENE PRESS
Brattleboro, Vermont

Photograph of Henry Beston by Nicholas Dean
Printed in U.S.A.



HENRY BESTON was born in 1888 in Quincy, Massachusetts, and spent what he called "a New England boyhood of sea and shore, enriched with a good deal of the French spirit, from a French mother." He was graduated from Harvard in 1909, received his M.A. from there in 1911, and taught a year in France at the university of Lyon. In the first World War he served on land and later in the Navy, in submarines, and wrote several books about the war which he considered "journalism."

He was editor of *Living Age* magazine before he dedicated himself to being a writer-naturalist and began work on *The Outermost House*, published in 1928. In 1929 he married Elizabeth Coatsworth, and three years later moved his family to Chimney Farm in Nobleboro, Maine, where he lived until his death in 1968.

ELIZABETH COATSWORTH, born in Buffalo, New York, 1893, was graduated from Vassar College, received her M.A. from Columbia University, and has been awarded doctoral degrees from the University of Maine and New England College for her contribution to American letters. She has written many books, including books for children, novels, essays, short stories, and poetry—always her favorite form. She lives in Maine, in the Nobleboro farmhouse she and her husband bought four years after publication of *The Outermost House*, and which has been the focus of her books of New England sketches, including the recent *Maine Memories*.



HENRY BESTON