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Maine Writers Correspondence

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10-31-2014

Margaret Wise Brown Correspondence

Margaret Wise Brown 1910-1952

Golden MacDonald

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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BROWN, Margaret Wise.

September 16, 1941

Miss Margaret Wise Brown
c/o E. P. Dutton and Company
300 Fourth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Brown:

Recently we discovered that Black Poodle of THE POODLE AND THE SHEEP is a summer resident of Vinal Haven. Because we are interested in such charming and lively summer guests, we are especially pleased to learn of your book.

We have been unable to ascertain whether or not you were born in Maine, but we write regarding the Maine Author Collection, which is an exhibit of inscribed, presentation copies of books written by authors born in Maine, resident here, or who have used the state as subject or setting.

We hope that it will be possible to claim you as a Maine author, either by birth or through adoption. Among the first are, you undoubtedly know, Kenneth Roberts, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Anne Carroll Moore, and Robert P. Tristram Coffin, to mention a few; and among our adopted authors are such distinctive names as Laura E. Richards, Ben Ames Williams, Louise Lamprey and Rachel Field. The inclusion of THE POODLE AND THE SHEEP in the Maine Author Collection, inscribed for this purpose, would be a happy one, and your generosity would be deeply appreciated.

You have meanwhile our very best wishes for the success of your book, and a cordial invitation to visit the library and the Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl--1

SECRETARY

21 West 10 Street
New York City
September 23rd 1941

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I would be most honored to be claimed as a Maine author by adoption. Although born in New York, I have spent most ~~of my~~ summers in Maine at Swans Island, North Haven, and Vinal Haven and other parts of Maine. The scene for "The Poodle and the Sheep" was Hurricane Island. Since my summers are the best part of my writing time I feel greatly indebted to the help and the good Maine air and intend if possible to spend all my summers there. So I would be delighted to send you an inscribed copy of "The Poodle and The Sheep."

Sincerely,

Margaret Wise Brown

March 25, 1942

Miss Margaret Wise Brown
21 West 10 Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Brown:

It was in September that you graciously promised an inscribed copy of THE POODLE AND THE SHEEP to the Maine Author Collection. We know that your days must be full of activity, and we know that we shouldn't be insistent -- especially in asking for a gift!

But the Poodle himself is so charming, so completely captivating, and we see him every once in a while, because he is in a number of our traveling libraries. Each time we see the book, we are reminded that it will be a delightful addition to the exhibit; and so we are writing to tell you just that.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

May 11, 1942

Miss Margaret Wise Brown
21 West 10th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Brown:

Your very generous gift of THE POODLE AND THE SHEEP has arrived this morning, and we are delighted to welcome this merry and adventuresome guest to the Maine Author Collection.

We appreciate your kindness in inscribing the book with such charm and simplicity, and send you our thanks for the interest and graciousness you have shown.

It would give us great pleasure should you find it possible, when you are in Maine again, to visit the collection; until then, this letter brings our gratitude and good wishes.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

Poodle Gives Sheriff Chase

Spends Week in Jug

VINAL HAVEN, Me. — (By Dutton Service) — The summer colony here was treated to an exciting afternoon when Margaret Wise Brown's black poodle, in the midst of his favorite exercise—chasing sheep into the sea—was interrupted by the Sheriff, armed with a butterfly net and a lasso. Black Poodle put up a first-class chase, but the Sheriff, himself, quite out of breath, finally manoeuvred him into the ocean—and the jug.

Interviewed today by a Dutton reporter, Black Poodle complained vociferously. He said he had to sleep with a cat. He had to eat lettuce and grass like a rabbit. The big dogs swiped his bones, he charged, and

there was a fish in the tub when they gave him a bath.

In a few days, it was learned from reliable sources, Black Poodle will be released on probation. When given this information by your reporter he was quite elated but refused to further discuss his relationship with sheep and Sheriff. It is believed that he has learned his lesson.

Margaret Wise Brown informs us that she has told the story of his waywardness and reform in *The Poodle and the Sheep*, which E. P. Dutton & Company publish. Black Poodle's book is illustrated by Leonard Weisgard. It sells for \$1.50 a copy.

December 4, 1946

Mr. Leonard Weisgard
c/o Doubleday Company
14 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Weisgard:

When we first saw the beautiful and captivating book, THE LITTLE ISLAND, we exclaimed, "That must be Maine!" Shortly, we discovered that it is indeed our coast, which of course pleases us, since we are particularly interested in any book about the state.

THE LITTLE ISLAND was ordered, received, and is now going out all over the state in our traveling libraries. The Maine Author Collection, however, seems to us a place where this charming book should be. This collection is made up of inscribed presentation copies of Maine books, and includes about fifteen hundred volumes at present. The inscriptions are autobiographical, humorous, poetic, even artistic sometimes, and we treasure the added distinction. The collection is for permanent reference purposes, and excites the admiration and serious interest of visitors and students.

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new Maine author, and a new book to this exhibit; and we hope that you will want THE LITTLE ISLAND to be in the collection. Our good wishes go to you for the success of the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

December 31, 1946

Miss Margaret Wise Brown
Cobble Court
1335 York Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Brown:

We are in a state of complete bewilderment, and complete enchantment! The enchantment is simple to explain: THE LITTLE ISLAND, with its utterly charming and individual form of inscription is a beautiful addition to the Maine Author Collection. The bewilderment only increases as we try to explain it. We read in a newspaper that the illustrator lives "close to her scene on the coast of Maine." The illustrator is (the book says in print) Leonard Weisgard. The author, Golden MacDonald, we presume to be you. Perhaps, at your convenience, you would be so kind as to unravel a little of the puzzle for us.

Meanwhile, we are most appreciative of your generosity, and of Leonard Weisgard's. Please accept our thanks for THE LITTLE ISLAND, which we have decided should be placed beside THE POODLE AND THE SHEEP.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl: 32¢ postal refund

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Jan 7th 1947

Dear Miss Jacobs,

There is no mystery — only that wonderful garbled certainty with which newspapers print errors. I will send your letter on to Leonard Weisgard, and no telling what you'll get back. I have a house in a remote

part of Vinal Haven — Wharfs Quarry, near Long Cove, among the smaller islands of Penobscot Bay. Leonard Weisgard has often visited me there as well as having stayed there alone by himself. I go up on May 23rd & spend my summers there. So you see how the whole book comes out of Maine & is Maine — as in the them. That an island is a part of the maine

Ever

Margaret Wise Brown