

10-31-2014

## Barbara Cooney Correspondence

Barbara Cooney 1917-2000

Barbara Cooney Porter 1917-2000

Elizabeth L. Gilman

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

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COONEY, Barbara

summer resident of Waldoboro

Oct. 26, 1941

Portland Sunday Telegram And Sunday Press

## Work Of Young Waldoboro Artist-Writer



A ship's figurehead (left) and a scene in "Benner's store," illustrations by Miss Barbara Cooney (insert) of Waldoboro for her first book, newly completed, *The King of Wreck Island*.

## Young Waldoboro Woman Completes First Book, Illustrates Volume

Waldoboro, Oct. 25—The people of this town believe their pride in the literary and artistic achievements of Miss Barbara Cooney is justifiable.

Miss Cooney has not only just completed her first book, *The King of Wreck Island*, but also illustrated the volume.

Miss Cooney had planned to devote herself to art and majored in that subject at Smith College from which she was graduated in 1938. But she soon found that she also had an urge to write.

*The King of Wreck Island* is a story for children, but many adults will find the book interesting. Miss Cooney has an original imagination and she combines cold facts and warm fiction in a fascinating manner.

The setting of the book is laid at Broad Bay, on the shore of which she lives most of the time, at October Farm near where her family has lived for 200 years.

At present Miss Cooney is working on a second book, in which her twin and herself will be the basis for the main characters.

March 30, 1942

Farrar & Rinehart Company  
12 East 41st Street  
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

Some months ago you published KING OF WRECK ISLAND, by Barbara Cooney, who is, we understand, a summer resident of this state.

Inasmuch as the book has a Maine background, we want to write to Miss Cooney about it; but reviews have perplexed us. From one, we notice she is referred to as "this 11-year-old dreamer of dreams," and another states that she was a graduate of Smith College in 1937!.

Both seem unlikely, but we have no way of knowing which might be correct. It is not often that we are so interested in the age of an author; but Miss Cooney's age will, in this case, to a great extent determine the tone of our letter!

Can you help us? We shall be most grateful.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY



## FARRAR & RINEHART INC.

232 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY

1 April 1942

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

We can't blame you for being puzzled about Barbara Cooney's age. The newspaper review which refers to her as eleven years of age has proved a puzzle. Miss Cooney and ourselves have tried in vain to trace the source of that error.

Although Miss Cooney is slight and blonde and very youthful in appearance she did, none the less, graduate from Smith College in 1937. So when you write to her you may address her as an adult. I am sending you a picture of her so that you may see for yourself.

You will be interested to know that Miss Cooney has written another book for children which we are planning to publish next August. It is called THE KELLYHORNS. It is longer and appeals to an older age group than KING OF WRECK ISLAND.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth L. Gilman*

ELG:MM

Elizabeth L. Gilman

Mrs. F. W. Jacob  
Maine State Library  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

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H. J.*

August 20, 1942

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August 20, 1942

Miss Barbara Cooney  
Waldoboro  
Maine

Dear Miss Cooney:

Please accept our congratulations upon your second book, *THE KELLYHORNS*, which we are glad to observe is receiving excellent notices.

It is possible that you do not know of the Maine Author Collection, and may therefore be interested to learn of its aims. Some years ago a former State Librarian began to collect the works of Maine authors as an exhibit at the library; books written by people born here, living in the state, or writing about it or using it as a background. He also gathered all available biographical, photographic and critical data, and preserved correspondence with these authors.

The authors themselves immediately became very enthusiastic, and through the years have inscribed and presented over a thousand volumes. The collection continues to grow, and is now of substantial size and recognized value. It is the only place where all the works of all Maine authors are collected, and it is of course of permanent worth.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of *THE KING OF WRECK ISLAND* and also *THE KELLYHORNS*, since both seem to have Maine settings. We understand that we are not privileged to claim you as a Maine-born author, but we feel that you and your work are closely related to the state.

Our best wishes go to you for a happy success for the new book.

Very truly yours

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Waldoboro, Maine  
August 30, 1942

Mrs. F. W. Jacob  
Maine State Library  
Augusta  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you very much for your nice letter about my books. You are very kind to wish to include me along with your Maine authors.

I am sending you an autographed copy of both KING OF WRECK ISLAND and THE KELLYHORNS.

Very truly yours,

*Barbara Cooney -*

Barbara Cooney



September 1, 1942

Miss Barbara Cooney  
Waldoboro  
Maine

Dear Miss Cooney:

With delight we opened the package containing your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection of KING OF WRECK ISLAND and THE KELLYHORNS. These are such charming, friendly books that they are, we know, making new friends constantly among young readers -- and perhaps among some not so young.

You are very kind to present these books to the exhibit, and we greatly appreciate your interest. Perhaps one day you will be in Augusta; and if so, we extend to you a cordial invitation to call at the State Library and see the Maine Author Collection.

We are placing your books on these exhibit shelves with pleasure, and we send you our sincere thanks and good wishes for further books.

Very truly yours

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