

10-31-2014

Dorothy Clarke Wilson Correspondence

Dorothy Clarke Wilson 1904-2003

Mrs. Elwin L. Wilson

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Victor Kahill

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

Recommended Citation

Wilson, Dorothy Clarke 1904-2003; Wilson, Mrs. Elwin L.; McLeod, Hilda; and Kahill, Victor, "Dorothy Clarke Wilson Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 152.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/152

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.

WILSON, Dorothy Clarke

1904-

January 19, 1935

Mrs. Elwin L. Wilson
33 Pleasant Street
Westbrook, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

In a recent Portland Telegram we noticed a brief article concerning your plays and book, "Twelve Months of Drama for the Average Church."

Some years ago an exhibit collection of the works of Maine-born contemporary authors was begun at the State Library. This collection now numbers several hundred interestingly inscribed volumes. In connection with this exhibit, we keep an up-to-date biographical file, in which may be found material which is difficult to obtain elsewhere. Of course all this would be quite impossible without the cooperation of our writers, which we have been fortunate in securing.

We are always extremely interested when a new writer comes to our attention, and always very anxious to have the work of this new author represented in our collection. Most of our literary folk have been kind enough to take pleasure in presenting inscribed copies of their books to the Maine Author Collection. We wonder if you would not like to do this also, and in addition contribute a few biographical paragraphs for our files, as so many of our authors have done.

May we wish you future success in your literary field, and congratulate you upon the publication of your present plays and book.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

lm

Secretary

DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON
33 PLEASANT STREET
WESTBROOK, MAINE

February 16, 1955.

The Maine State Library,
Miss Hilda McLeod, Secretary,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Miss McLeod:

Some time ago you wrote asking me for a copy of my book, "Twelve Months of Drama for the Average Church" for the Maine authors collection in the state library. I am sending you a copy under separate cover.

Briefly, the chief events of my life, if such they may be called are as follows:

I was born May ninth, 1904, in Gardiner Maine. Father, Lewis H. Clarke, a Baptist minister at that time, now retired. Mother, Flora Cross Clarke. In 1921 I graduated from Cony High School, Augusta, Maine, and in 1925 from Bates College. Soon after graduation I was married to Elwin L. Wilson of Bethel, Maine, and we went to Princeton, N. J., to live, where Mr. Wilson was studying at the theological school. In ~~ix~~ the fall of 1926 my husband took a pastorate at West Scarborough, Maine, where we stayed for four years, during which time he graduated from the Boston University School of Theology. We have been living in Westbrook since 1930, my husband being the pastor of the Westbrook Methodist Episcopal Church. I sold my first religious play in 1929. At the present time I have some over thirty in permanent form, all published by the Walter H. Baker Company of Boston. While I have sold a good many short stories, serials, poems, etc., my real interest is in religious drama.

Is this sufficient? Probably it is more than necessary. But you can use it any way you wish.

Yours very truly,

Dorothy Clarke Wilson



JAN 13 1935

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson, Westbrook

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson of Westbrook, who recently won first prize in a national play writing contest sponsored by the Greater New York Federation of Churches, is the author of 30 published plays and a book, "Twelve Months of Drama for the Average Church," which appeared last year. She also writes short stories and serials for magazine publication.

Wife of the Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, pastor of the Westbrook Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Wilson first began writing plays for presentation in her husband's churches. Later the Walter H. Baker Company of Boston started publishing them.

Mrs. Wilson was born in Gardiner. She was graduated from Cony High School in Augusta in the class of 1921, as valedictorian. In 1925, she was graduated from Bates College as the highest ranking student in her class, and the same year married Mr. Wilson, a graduate of Bates the year before. They lived a year at Princeton, N. J., and for several years were located in Scarboro where Mr. Wilson was pastor of the West Scarboro Methodist Church.

February 21, 1935

Mrs. Elwin L. Wilson
33 Pleasant Street
Westbrook, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

TWELVE MONTHS OF DRAMA FOR THE AVERAGE CHURCH, which you have very kindly inscribed, has arrived, and is being placed in the Maine Author Collection. We are delighted to be able to add your name to our list of Maine writers, and sincerely thank you for your contribution to our collection.

The biographical sketch is most welcome, and is being filed for future reference.

These plays are certainly a boon - we are so pleased that we are ordering a second copy for the regular library patrons, as of course our Maine Author books are not put in circulation.

Our thanks and congratulations are offered, and the hope that in the event of other books, you will remember us.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

lm

Secretary



FROM THE WESTMINSTER PRESS

Witherspoon Building

Philadelphia 7, Penna.

news

ABOUT A NEW
TITLE

TITLE THE BROTHER

AUTHOR Dorothy Clarke Wilson

CLASSIFICATION Fiction

PUBLICATION DATE April 28, 1944

PRICE \$2.50

DESCRIPTION OF BOOK: In *THE BROTHER*, Dorothy Clarke Wilson has used a completely new, truly fascinating approach. Here, for the first time in the history of contemporary fiction, the character and influence of Jesus are revealed through the suffering uncertainty in the heart of his brother, James.

As an ardent nationalist, like most orthodox Galileans, James awaited the coming of the Deliverer. Could Judas, the Galilean, be the one...or could it be Harabbas? But never in all the years that James knew Jesus as his brother did he consider Jesus as the Messiah.

And that was not strange perhaps because James had been taught by the rabbis to adhere strictly to the rigid rules of the Temple, many of which Jesus disregarded with seeming light-hearted abandonment...in his strange and unpredictable ways, and his kind and compassionate attitude toward despised people. In spite of his love for his brother, and his search for understanding of Him, James could not help feeling first disapproval, then discouragement and finally bitterness ending in betrayal when Susannah renounced her orthodoxy. In this poignant and dramatic work, Dorothy Clarke Wilson recreates with tenderness, understanding, and rare insight the story of the brother who shared a dream with Christ.

Dorothy Clarke Wilson was born in Gardiner, Maine, May 9, 1904, the daughter of a Baptist minister. She attended Cony High School in Augusta and in 1925 received a B. A. degree from Bates College. Shortly afterward, she married a minister and has since been working with her husband in the suburban and city churches of Maine where he has served.

She is best known for her plays with religious backgrounds. Although the author of many published short stories and serials, **THE BROTHER** is her first full-length novel.

March 24, 1944

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
c/o The Westminster Press
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Wilson

Several years ago, when your book TWELVE MONTHS OF DRAMA FOR THE AVERAGE CHURCH was published, you inscribed and presented one to the Maine Author Collection, which you may recall as an exhibit of work by Maine people.

With our congratulations for THE BROTHER and good wishes for its success, comes the hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of this novel for inclusion in the collection. Certainly advance notices promise an unusual book, and we are eager to see its publication.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--1

Secretary

DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON
226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

March 29, 1944.

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I shall be very glad to
send you a copy of THE BROTHER for
your Maine Author Collection.

I am going to Philadelphia
next week to autograph copies, and
I'll see that one is sent to you
at that time.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON
226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

April 8, 1944.

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

When I was in Philadelphia
this week I ordered a copy of my
book, THE BROTHER, sent to you for
the Maine Authors' Collection. How-
ever, I neglected to inscribe it
as you requested.

I am sorry for this oversight,
and, if you still wish it done, I shall
be glad to stop on at the library some-
time and inscribe it for you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

April 21, 1944

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

The Maine Author Collection copy of your fine novel, *THE BROTHER*, has arrived this morning, and we are glad of the opportunity to add such a distinctive book to the exhibit.

The drama and nobility of the story have been so simply presented, and your interpretation of the characters and their difficulties, doubts and faiths is so sympathetic, that we believe *THE BROTHER* must certainly appeal to a wide audience.

We appreciate your generosity in presenting a copy to the Maine Author Collection. We would like to have it inscribed, and possibly you will find it convenient to do so when you are in Augusta sometime; if not, we shall be glad to send the book to you for this addition.

Please accept our congratulations upon an excellent novel, and our very good wishes for its warm reception by readers.

Sincerely yours`

hmj

Secretary

September 25, 1946

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Congratulations on *THE HERDSMAN*, to which we look forward with unusual anticipation. You have claimed as peculiarly your own a somewhat unexplored field, and readers have learned to expect a novel of authenticity and substance, as well as literary skill.

THE HERDSMAN will of course be ordered for our traveling libraries, and we hope that the Maine Author Collection may be enriched by an inscribed copy to be placed with your other two books.

Our very best wishes for the success of the new novel.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 2, 1946

The Westminster Press
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

Please accept our thanks for your kindness
and interest in the Maine Author Collection.
The complimentary copy of Dorothy Clarke Wilson's
fine new novel, THE HERDSMAN, is acknowledged
with appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

October 2, 1946

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

A copy of your new novel, THE HERDSMAN, arrived today, and we are delighted to know that the Maine Author Collection is again the recipient of your generous thought.

We should like to have the book inscribed. May we send it to you for this purpose; or do you expect to be in Augusta soon?

THE HERDSMAN impresses us as being an exceptionally competent piece of work, as well as a fascinating story; and we expect it to enjoy a marked success. You show a remarkable sympathy and understanding of your subject matter, leaving the absorbed reader with the conviction that this is exactly the way it happened! It is a fine book, and we are proud that the author is a Maine woman.

Sincerely yours,

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON

226 Bradley Street
Portland, Maine

October 4, 1946

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you so much for your interest in my new novel and your very kind words of appreciation. I am glad the book arrived all right.

If you are not in any hurry to have it autographed, I shall undoubtedly be coming to Augusta sometime and shall be glad to step in and do it. However, if you are anxious to have it done in the near future, it might be better to send it. Whichever you prefer.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Wilson

Portland Woman Brings Out Second

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1946

Biblical Novel

"The Herdsman" Appeals to Bible Students, Who Liked "The Brother"

IT was only last Spring that Dorothy Clarke Wilson of Portland brought out her first Biblical historical novel, "The Brother". This week marks the release of her second book of the same type, which is titled "The Herdsman", meaning Amos, of the minor prophets who lived in the eighth century before Christ.

OCT 26 1946

Mrs. Wilson is the wife of Rev. Elwyn L. Wilson and prominent in Maine Methodist affairs. She is a native of Gardiner, and a graduate of Bates (as is her husband) in the class of 1925, in which also was Gladys Hasty Carroll of South Berwick, another successful Maine author. The Wilson Summer home is at Little Sebago Lake. The first edition of her first book, 10,000 copies, was sold out in a month.

A Busy Year

In response to an inquiry as to her activities the last Summer, Mrs. Wilson has written a charmingly informal letter in which she states that she finished "The Herdsman" last January. Since then she has been following the usual domestic routine of housekeeping, music, writing, keeping an eye on the youngsters, and attending meetings with her Methodist clergyman husband.

She has been writing a few plays to keep her hand in, as she phrases it, including a dramatic sketch on

Leonard de Vinci for the art department of the Lincoln junior high; and she has just finished a three-act play which Baker will publish this Fall.

"I plan to start research directly for another historical novel," she adds, "but have not as yet decided on the subject."

During the Summer she had nearly a month at a seminar on visual education at Emory University in Georgia, coming home "with a lot of new ideas and a great admiration for the southern climate. For once,

I was actually warm enough!"

Mrs. Wilson was in Portland, Monday, autographing her new book, and at Bretano's in New York Tuesday. Next Monday she expects to be in Boston for similar service, and will appear at Peck's in Lewiston soon.

Amos Appealed To Her

Among the best sellers during the last few years have been several books with Biblical background. In this new one Doris Wilson has chosen the Old Testament character of Amos because he was "the first of the Hebrew writing prophets, the first to clarify the doctrine of one universal God, and the first to interpret the demands of a moral universe in terms of social justice for the common man."

Admitting that most of her story is sheer fiction, Mrs. Wilson assures the reader that every detail is as truthful to the historic background as is possible. Social conditions described are those of that period in the eighth century before Christ in Palestine.

Mrs. Wilson clarifies her viewpoint further:

"Without the Hebrew prophets there might easily have been no Magna Charta, no Bill of Rights. We are still hearing the echoes of their footsteps.

"Amos was the first of these unique statesman-philosopher-reformers. A herdsman, he calls himself, a name which in English becomes especially apt, for he was indeed a herd's man, one of the first great champions of the common people.

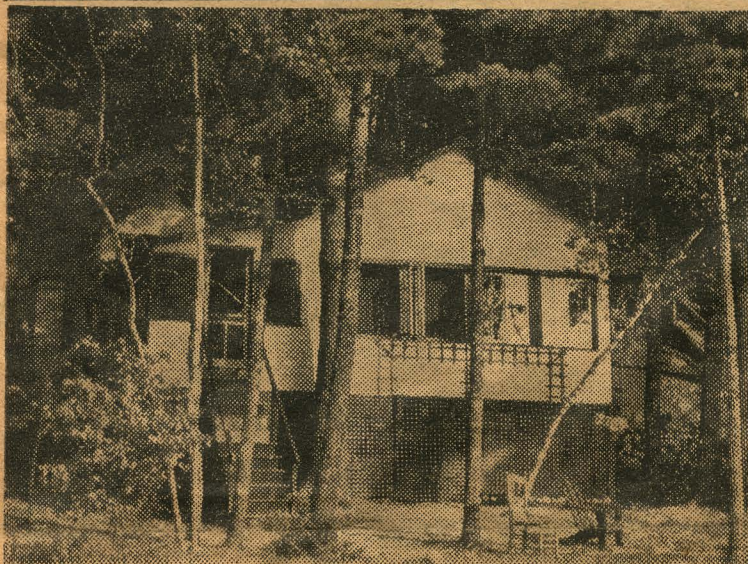
"Lifted from his traditional place of obscurity among the 'minor prophets', and brought into focus by a study of his times, he becomes a figure of dominating stature, casting a steadily elongating shadow across 17 centuries from the market place of Bethel to the town square on Main street.

"The span of this shadow marks, I believe, the pathway of human progress and points its direction for the future."

A Lengthy Novel

Mrs. Wilson has written a long novel of almost 400 pages, which is handled in three sections, the first with Bethel for the background, the second with Samaria, and the third, Tekoa.

As a child of only a dozen years, Amos is introduced in the poverty-



THE WILSON SUMMER COTTAGE at Little Sebago Lake.



MRS. WILSON relaxes with a book.

stricken home of his father, Elkanah, who imbues the lad with the old Hebrew stories that made centuries of tradition in the Hebrew race.

It is against the hunger, the cold, and the injustice that he soon realized was all about him that Amos first felt the stirring of resentment—a rebellion that was to animate his whole life, evoking independent thought and a profound feeling for the suffering of mankind.

Yahweh is very real, the rectitude of the decalogue a stern thing in his dealings with others, but the years bring a mellowness that is beautiful. The climax of the story in the last pages is in these lines, in which reference is made to his erring son, Ruel:

"He knew suddenly that Yahweh did not punish people when they reaped the natural harvest of their mistakes. He suffered with them."

Jewish Customs Interesting

This is a book of real literature and good reading, whether one is Jewish or otherwise. The author is able to invest the tribal home and village life with interest and even

charm.

Amos has his love affair, his temptation, his trials. But he is sound at the core, and remains so to the end.

The crude ritual of the church, the vestiges of idol worship, and the venal dealings offended him. But his search for Yahweh came to an end when he learned that "all the years he had been looking for him he had been here, but he had not found him because he had looked above the heads of the people".

Like John, the Baptist, and later Jesus of Nazareth, Amos by his frank expose of cruelty and the needless exploitation of the poor won the hatred of Ben Sered, who feared lest the foundation of his social structure be shaken. Then the high priest would send "the crazy fool" to the dungeon. Amos is attacked, salvaged by his own son, and the drama moves quickly to the final curtain.

It would not be surprising to find "The Herdsman" edging into the best-seller's list, and scoring again for a Maine author! (Westminster Press, Phila. \$3.)



PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR—Mrs. Elwin Wilson, Orono author who won \$7,500 for her new novel "Prince of Egypt," is shown above with her husband, pastor of the Methodist church. Mrs. Wilson has written three novels and 54 plays and in November will embark for India to gather material for a new book.

(Staff Photo by Morgan)

EAST INDIAN BACKGROUND

BC
5/7/49

Prize-Winning Author Plans Another Novel

By Edward F. Cox

An Orono minister's wife who has just won a \$7,500 cash fiction award for her novel "Prince of Egypt," which portrays the early life and manhood of Moses, already is planning to take a trip to India in November where she will gather material for another novel.

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson, wife of Elwin Wilson, pastor of the Orono Methodist church, author of three novels and 54 religious plays, won the Westminister Fiction award for 1949 for the best manuscript dealing with a fundamental problem, either historic or contemporary.

When asked this morning how she intended to spend the money, she smilingly replied "Well, first of all I will have to pay quite a bit for income tax and then my son, a University of Maine freshman, wants to attend Springfield college."

She also has a married daughter.

* * *

MRS. WILSON'S first successful attempt at writing was back in 1926, shortly after she graduated from Bates college. Her husband at the time was serving the West Scarboro church.

As Christmas time approached the attractive author searched for a church play to present during the Christmas observance. She was unable to find one to suit her so she wrote one called "The Shepherd of Israel," which was an immediate success.

Her first play was published in 1928 and from that time on she has written several plays a year.

HER FATHER IS A retired minister and resides in Gardiner and it is evident that his influence enables her to become a successful writer. One play she wrote subse-

quently became a novel entitled "The Brother," which deals with the life of James, brother of Jesus. The book hit the bestseller list, was translated into several different languages and sold more than 35,000 copies.

Her second novel was entitled "The Herdsmen," a story of the great prophet Amos. This novel was also successful and was printed in braille for the blind in this country.

* * *

Last December she completed the "Prince of Egypt," and submitted it to her publishers, the Westminster press in Philadelphia. She said she had to devote most of her time to writing to complete the book by December in order to have it enter in the contest.

The novel will be published in October, shortly before she is scheduled to leave for India under the auspices of the Methodist Board of Missions.

* * *

Her husband, who has served the Orono church for nearly two years, said he was as pleased as his wife to hear that she won the \$7,500 award.

The award did not come as a complete surprise to Mrs. Wilson as she was told several weeks ago that two of the three judges in the contest had voted for her novel.

The third judge followed suit and Mrs. Wilson was notified of the official results.

ORONO WOMAN WRITES EACH DAY

SEP 1 - 1948

Mrs. Wilson Is Completing Novel on Life of Moses

Every morning Mrs. Dorothy Wilson of Orono finishes her breakfast dishes and sits down at her typewriter to complete two or three more pages of her new book, "Go Down Moses."

MRS. WILSON, wife of Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, pastor of the Orono Methodist church, has written a number of religious novels and plays. She has fifteen plays to her credit, published by the Walter Baker Publishing Co., some of which have been presented by the Western Foundation groups.

Her latest novels of a religious nature include "The Brother", published in 1944, an imaginary story of James, the brother of Jesus and "The Herdsmen" which deals with the prophet Amos. These books were published by the Westminster Publishing Co., in Philadelphia, which has placed a great deal of emphasis on her books in recent months.

Mrs. Wilson does a great deal of research before beginning the actual writing of her books. For her current book she read a hundred books dealing with Egyptology.

THE NEXT STEP is to make a general outline of the material she wishes to use. Mrs. Wilson confesses she lets her housework go until afternoon for she has found mornings much more suitable for writing. Each day she tries to complete two or three pages.

"Go Down Moses", which will be a 350-page book, deals with the life of Moses from the time of young manhood until he leads the Israelite's out of Egypt. Mrs. Wilson is interested in the social aspect of economic problems which contributed to Moses' democratic ideals. She reveals Moses as the first man to see God as a moral God requiring justice of man.

Mrs. Wilson will complete this book by early fall and it is expected to be released by her publisher sometime next year.

REV. AND MRS. WILSON have been living in Orono for a year,

coming from Portland where Rev. Wilson was district superintendent of the Methodist church. Mrs. Wilson, a graduate of Bates college, received an honorary degree from Bates recently.

Rev. and Mrs. Wilson have two adopted children, a daughter, Joan, who will attend the Northern Conservatory of Music in the fall, and a son, Harold, who is entering the University of Maine.



ORONO AUTHOR—Mrs. Dorothy Wilson holds one of her latest books "The Herdsmen" on her lap. At the present time she is completing another book, "Go Down Moses," which will be published next year. Mrs. Wilson is the wife of Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, pastor of the Orono Methodist church.

(Staff Photo by Morgan.)

April 13, 1949

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Newspaper mention of the play, THE BROTHER, interests us. We did not know that you had made a play from your novel. We wish we might be in one of the audiences in Orono or Bangor to see it.

How is the new novel progressing? So far we have not seen notice of its publication. Perhaps it is too early yet, but we shall watch for it with pleasant anticipation.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON
38 OAK STREET
ORONO, MAINE

May 4, 1949

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacobs,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I appreciated very much your thoughtfulness in writing about the play. It is just the other way around. The novel THE BROTHER was an outgrowth of the play. I made a serial out of the play and later developed it into a novel.

We really had a very profitable time producing it, and we are not through yet. We expect to take it to Houlton to our Annual Methodist Conference the 27th of this month. It has been an interesting project, and I have really enjoyed it, especially since I have not had much responsibility for the production.

The new novel is not only coming along. It has already come. It is about Moses and is to be titled PRINCE OF EGYPT. It will come out sometime in the early fall, we expect, probably October. I'll see that you get a copy. An announcement is being made about it this week which you will probably see in some paper.

Thank you so much for writing.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

October 18, 1949

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

A copy of your fine new novel, PRINCE OF EGYPT, has been received, as a gift from the Westminster Press. We shall want to add it to the Maine Author Collection, but we would like to have it inscribed. May we send it to you for this purpose?

You are to be congratulated on PRINCE OF EGYPT. It has strength and skill, and you are doing a remarkable service to bring Biblical times and characters in terms of everyday life to present-day readers. The book is full of interesting information and interpretation, but the suspense of the story itself is only heightened thereby. It is certainly your best work to date, as is natural, of course. You must take satisfaction in the knowledge of a work so successfully accomplished.

We hope that your forthcoming trip will be a pleasant and productive one, and we look forward eagerly to the book which will result.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 18, 1949

The Westminster Press
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

The complimentary copy of Mrs. Wilson's fine novel, PRINCE OF EGYPT, has been received, and it is with a great deal of pride that we add it to the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our thanks and also our congratulations on the excellent form in which you have put this beautiful piece of work.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

38 Oak St.,
Orono, Maine,
October 27, 1949.

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you very much for your very kind note of appreciation concerning PRINCE OF EGYPT. I am so glad you like it and that they sent you a copy for the Maine Authors' Collection.

Yes, of course I shall be glad to autograph it for you. I am wondering if it cannot be done when I am autographing books in Augusta next week on Thursday. There is going to be some sort of banquet for me, I believe, in the Methodist Church. The Ingrahams, of the Corner Music and Book Store on State Street, and Mr. Christopher, pastor of the church, are getting it up. We were in there talking with them about it last night. I would like very much for you to be at the banquet, and I know they would like to have you. It is open to the public. Or if it is impossible for you to come, perhaps you could get the book to me at the Ingrahams' store, where I shall be autographing from five to six on Thursday. If you don't care to do either of these things, send it to me, and I shall be glad to do it for you. I do hope that you can come to the banquet.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

November 3, 1949

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It was a real pleasure for me to be able to go to Gardiner this afternoon. You had many friends who wanted to speak with you, and I didn't linger, but I do want to tell you that you looked lovely, and also that I enjoyed Mr. Wilson's program much more than I would have an orthodox "book review."

Thank you for inscribing the Maine Author Collection copy. We add it to the exhibit with pride in novel and author.

I hope your trip is interesting and rewarding. Mrs. Ingraham told me this noon that you were to make your first flight, and I know you will find it an ideal way to travel and a very exciting journey. Good luck!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

P T 3/30/22

Author Will Lecture At Scranton Meetings

Orono, March 29.—Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson of Orono left Sunday for Scranton, Pa., where she is scheduled to give a series of illustrated lectures on India at the Jurisdictional Conference of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. Wilson will visit her publishers, the Westminster Press in Philadelphia, who will publish her new book, *House Of Earth*, to come off the press this Fall.

April 4, 1952

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

A notice that your new book, HOUSE OF EARTH, will be published this fall is good news. We hope the remaining business of publication will run smoothly and happily, and that we shall hear more about the book before long.

We also hope that the Maine Author Collection will continue to bask in your generous good graces, so that we may add this new volume to your earlier ones.

Congratulations upon its completion; and the very best of luck to it.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

October 24, 1952

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Some months ago we were happy to learn that we might look forward to another of your books this fall. Now that we have seen HOUSE OF EARTH, we congratulate you upon the novel itself.

It is fascinating and compelling, as India always is; and its background of authenticity is so naturally and skilfully presented that it can never be called a "problem novel," although you have presented great problems of the Indian people. It is, first of all, a good story, which should insure its popularity and success. The quality of writing and sympathy will give it a long life.

We are always proud to watch the increasing success of our Maine authors, and your growing representation in the Maine Author Collection is a special pleasure. The publishers have kindly sent a complimentary copy of HOUSE OF EARTH, which we want to add to this exhibit. We are sending the book to you, and enclosing a return label and postage. Will you inscribe it for us, please?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Encls.

October 28, 1952

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you very much for inscribing the Maine
Author Collection copy of HOUSE OF EARTH. We add
it with a deep sense of satisfaction to the exhibit.
Our warm good wishes to you for continued success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 18, 1954

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

You knew you'd be hearing from us, didn't you? It's a lovely book, your FLY WITH ME TO INDIA, and brings back happy recollections of the day we librarians sat in enchantment at the Augusta House, and were transported by the magic of your pictures and words to that remarkable country.

Our library copies have come, and we are putting them to immediate use, of course.

May the Maine Author Collection anticipate the honor of an inscribed copy to go with your other books? We do hope so.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

SINCE 1789

ABINGDON PRESS

NEW YORK ↘ NASHVILLE

8 1 0 B R O A D W A Y ↘ N A S H V I L L E 2 ↘ T E N N E S S E E

November 29, 1954

Maine Authors' Collection
Maine State Library
State House
Augusta, Maine

Gentlemen:

At the request of the author, I am sending you at this time a copy of Dorothy Clarke Wilson's new book, FLY WITH ME TO INDIA, published by Abingdon Press this fall.

I'm sure you will get much enjoyment from reading it and I'm happy to send it with Mrs. Wilson's compliments.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Brandau
Publicity Manager
Abingdon Press

SB:ms

December 6, 1954

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you so much for the Maine Author Collection copy of FLY WITH ME TO INDIA, which Miss Brandau sent to us. We are delighted to add the latest book to the collection. Some day, when you are here, will you inscribe it for us?

Our best wishes to you and the book, and again our appreciation for your generous interest.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

December 6, 1954

Miss Susan Brandau, Publicity Manager
Abingdon Press
810 Broadway
Nashville 2, Tennessee

Dear Miss Brandau:

The arrival of Mrs. Wilson's FLY WITH ME TO INDIA is acknowledged. The library had already purchased copies for the lending section, but you will be interested to know that this copy is for our Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, and books pertaining to Maine. Mrs. Wilson's writings are a distinguished part of this proud collection, and we welcome each new book of hers, accustomed as we have become to her standards of excellence and charm.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

June 27, 1955

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

One of the most interesting fall announcements is that of your new book, JEZEBEL. The Biblical background is one which you have made particularly your own, and we look forward with eagerness and confidence to the success of the new story.

It will be noted in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association in due course, and we shall put it on our order list, of course. We hope, too, that the Maine Author Collection will have an inscribed copy to keep your writings complete.

Good luck to the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mrs. Wilson to Autograph Her Latest Book Here Wednesday

Dorothy Clarke Wilson, noted Maine author and lecturer, will be at the Corner Music and Book Shop, 98 State Street Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. to autograph copies of her latest novel, Jezebel.

Mrs. Wilson is the author of *The Brother*, *The Herdsman* and *Prince of Egypt*, religious novels, as well as many plays and non-fiction works.

She was born in Gardiner, Maine, the only child of a Baptist minister. Her early life was a lonely one, and it seemed only natural that a child who had spent so much of her childhood alone should at the age of ten turn to pen and pencil to express herself.

Her first poem which began "Old Mrs. Witch in her very best gown, Went sailing away on her broom" was published in the children's section of a local newspaper. At fourteen she wrote her first biblical background story, "Zerah's Gift." "I always knew I wanted to write," she says, "and did a great deal of it through high school and college, winning several contests. My parents were extremely religious, which probably accounts for my interest in biblical writing."

She experienced many literary growing pains while a student at



DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON

Bates College. By the time she was a freshman she had written her first novelette, also a biblical background story, which was never published.

Directly after graduation from college, Dorothy Clarke married Elwin L. Wilson, a Methodist minister. She has served with him in various parishes in Maine, spent twenty years in the Portland area, and lived in Orono, where her husband was Protestant Chaplain at the University of Maine. She now lives in Bangor, Maine. Her husband is superintendent of the Bangor District of the Maine Conference of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wilson began writing plays soon after her marriage, to fill a need in the local church program. She now has over 65 in print, which have sold very well. Her first novel, "The Brother," was

based on one of these plays. Since the success of this book, she has written novels almost exclusively.

"In 1949," Mrs. Clarke tells, "The Board of Missions of the Methodist Church sent me to India to gather material for a novel on missions. I spent six months on the trip, returning through the Middle East and getting a wonderful thrill out of seeing first hand the places I had done so much research about. While in Jerusalem, I was able to go up to Samaria and see the locale of 'Jezebel.'" Since she has returned she has delivered over 200 illustrated talks on India, written some 20 articles and two plays, done the script for a moving picture, and a pageant is now in the preparation to be presented next year at the Methodist General Conference.

Mrs. Wilson says, "My life is very busy and, I think, exciting at the present time. Most of my mornings are spent at the desk, but I assist my husband in his student work, helping to put on a 25 cent supper for about 45 students each week in the student center here in our home, as well as many other activities."

STANDARD B & P "NEBBAR"

STANDARD B & P "NEBBAR"

November 10, 1955

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
Orono
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

JEZEBEL has come from the publishers, and we know it must be the Maine Author Collection copy. May we send it to you for the inscription.

Each book is better than the last! This has such depth of understanding and portraiture, so much background scholarship, and such a compelling story, that it can't help enjoying acclaim. We know you must enjoy that, too. It is a reward well-earned by your years of study and writing, and we are proud and happy for you.

Thank you very much for remembering the Maine Author Collection, as you always generously do. And a huge success to JEZEBEL.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Dorothy C. Wilson

211 West Broadway

Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am glad the copy of JEZEBEL arrived for your collection. You can either send it to me for autographing, or I can drop in sometime when I am in the vicinity and do it for you. That would save the trouble of sending it.

I shall be coming to Augusta sometime to do some autographing in one of the stores, and I can do it then.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Wilson

November 18, 1955

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
211 West Broadway
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It would be a pleasure to have a call from you when you are in Augusta, and we will save you the inconvenience of wrapping and mailing back to us the Maine Author Collection copy of JEZEBEL by holding it here. Thank you for the suggestion.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 12, 1959

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
211 West Broadway
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

McGraw-Hill has sent us a copy of your new book, DR. IDA, at your suggestion, we presume. Of course the book is on our order list, so we know this newly arrived copy must be intended for the Maine Author Collection, to be placed with your other distinguished books.

When you are in Augusta some day, will you stop in and inscribe it; or should we send it to you for this purpose?

It's a lovely book, quite different from anything you have done previously, isn't it? And yet your patience and understanding shine through the pages of a biography as easily as they do your absorbing novels. The inspiration of Dr. Scudder's outstanding life of achievement is ably portrayed, and we are delighted to welcome this new book to the collection.

By the way, we never did get a copy of THE GIFTS for the Maine Author Collection. Do you suppose it would be possible now?

Best wishes to the new book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 12, 1959

Miss Sonia Levinthal
Publicity Director
McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.
330 West 42nd Street
New York City 36

Dear Miss Levinthal:

The gift copy of Dorothy Clarke Wilson's new book, DR. IDA, is gratefully acknowledged. We are always delighted at a new book by this Maine author, and it seems to us that she has done an exceptionally fine piece of work in this biography.

This copy will go into the Maine Author Collection, and we are of course ordering lending copies through a retail book dealer.

Very truly yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 5, 1957

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
211 West Broadway
Bangot, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Inasmuch as you are now in India, this word of congratulation will not reach you promptly upon the publication of your new book, THE GIFTS; but you will know that we are ordering the book with confidence and anticipation.

You will also doubtless know that we hope the Maine Author Collection is going to have an inscribed copy. We watch the section of your books growing in stature and success, and we are indeed happy.

Good luck to the new one.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 23, 1960

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
211 West Broadway
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Do you know we never did have a copy of
THE GIFTS for the Maine Author Collection?
And there seems to be a paperbound item, THAT
HEAVEN OF FREEDOM, which we lack. Do you suppose
something could be done about it? We do so hate
to have a gap in your section of the collection!

You'll be glad to know that DR. IDA has been
steadily traveling ever since the book was added
to the lending section of the library. We hope
you are pleased with its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

114 Forest Ave.

Orono ∴ Maine

August 3, 1961

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacobs,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I find that I never did answer you letter noting the fact that you have never received a copy of THE GIFTS for your Maine Authors' collection, and it was written over a year ago. That show how far behind I am on some of my correspondence.

I don't know how the publishers happened to slip up on this, because I have always included the library on my list for complimentary copies.. I will try to see that this is rectified.

I'm glad DR. IDA is in demand on your traveling library section. Yes, we have been quite pleased with the sale of the book.

My husband and I are now living in Orono and very glad to be back in the college atmosphere, where we spent some of our happiest years.

I'll see that you get the book.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Wilson

September 12, 1961

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you for promising THE GIFTS to the Maine Author Collection. We have not yet received it, but we'll let you know as soon as it comes.

Isn't it nice to be back in Orono with that beautiful campus near you? It's a perfect situation: a good-sized city nearby, and yet the informal atmosphere of a small town in which to live.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 6, 1961

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

THE GIFTS has arrived, and we are indeed grateful to you for this Maine Author Collection copy. Please accept our thanks and good wishes for whatever book is now in process (we hope).

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 19, 1963

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

How wonderful to have this morning a copy of your new book, TAKE MY HANDS. We are sure that you prompted its arrival, and we know that the Maine Author Collection was your generous thought. Thank you very much.

It is a stimulating, moving, humbling story which you tell, and a worthy companion to DR. IDA. It is also a warm and appealing book, and should enjoy success.

We'd like to send it to you for an inscription. May we do this?

And do you suppose that we shall have a copy of THE JOURNEY for the Maine Author Collection one day? We do so want your section complete if possible.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

*Orono, Maine
March 25.*

Yes, of course you may send me the copy of take my hands for an autograph. I shall be most happy to inscribe it.

MAR 27

And I'll certainly see that eventually you get a copy of THE JOURNEY. You have been most kind to take an interest in my work, and I appreciate having all the books on file there in the library.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Wilson

March 27, 1963

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you for being willing to inscribe
TAKE MY HANDS, which we are sending to you for
that purpose.

Enclosed are a label and postage for
your convenience in returning the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

April 2, 1963

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you very much for inscribing your
new book, TAKE MY HANDS, which arrived this
morning. We add it to the Maine Author
Collection with appreciation.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Social Justice Is Her Concern

Pen Is Pulpit To Minister's Wife

By CHARLENE M. HALL

ORONO — The urge to write and a talent for doing so, combined with a deep faith in Christianity and an intense concern for social justice has taken Dorothy Clarke Wilson far. She has gone far in terms of literary accomplishment, having published over 70 religious plays and six novels — which also were published in several foreign languages. And she has gone far in terms of travel as well — to such places as India, Egypt, Palestine and London, gathering material for her books. Since publication of the books, she has traveled to numerous points in the United States, meeting people and signing autographs.

The wife of Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, she spent 20 years with him in parishes in the Greater Portland area. For the past 20 years, they have been residents of Orono.

Mrs. Wilson recently has returned from Michigan where she was honored upon the publication of her latest biography, "Handicap Race". Participating in the festivities with her was the subject of her book, Roger Arnett, a man paralyzed from the waist down in an accident years ago. Although little was known of rehabilitation techniques at that time, Arnett "rehabilitated" himself, then went on to encourage other handicapped individuals in the Ann Arbor area.

THE URGE TO write was evident early in life for Mrs. Wilson, who wrote her first poem at 10. It began, "The witch in her very best gown went sailing away on her broom" — and launched a literary career when it was published in a local newspaper.

It was actually some years later that her career began in earnest. She and her husband had been unable to find an appropriate Christmas play for the parish in West Scarborough where he was minister — so she wrote one. Others followed, and ultimately a publisher asked her to develop a 3-act play, "The Brother" into a novel. "I had

three months to do it," she remembers. "That was a busy summer!"

She then turned to writing biblical novels and her religious background became even more apparent. She is the daughter of a Gardiner minister, Lewis H. Clarke, and comments that memories of ancient and beautiful things heard in his sermons will always be with her. Her more recent books have been biographical, but also inspirational in nature.

MRS. WILSON achieved her literary stature while being also a mother and a minister's wife — both demanding roles.

How did she manage to find time to write when her two children were young? She reports that she spent time at her typewriter faithfully each morning, letting housework go until afternoon. Now that her family is grown and she is a grandmother, she follows the same routine. For each book, she spends at least a year doing research and a year writing.

This Maine author is unassuming and modest about her accomplishments. As she discusses her books, one would hardly imagine that she is referring to thousands of pages, representing years of work and innumerable miles of travel,

which have reached millions of readers. She notes that the theme in all her writing has been the problems of social justice and the application of Christianity to human needs — racial tensions, economic justice and peace.

She feels that the high points of her career have been the "firsts" — her first prize, her first flight, and her first trip to India.

She returned from the trip with an understanding of and an affection for the people which she has shared with others by slide lectures. In past years she has delivered over 650 lectures about this trip and those taken to Palestine and Egypt.

ANOTHER MOMENT extremely meaningful to her was when a school boy in Calcutta told her that he had been influenced to accept Christianity through participation in a play which she had written.

She recently has completed a biography of Clara Swain, the first missionary doctor. Research for this book was done last year during her fourth trip to India. Presently she is working on a biography of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. She has traveled to London, Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., gathering material for the book, which she terms her most ambitious undertaking thus far. And she says she has no intention of "retiring" when it is finished. If some publisher does not have an assignment waiting for her, she has ideas of her own that she is eager to develop.

Although she doesn't have much time for hobbies, she enjoys playing the piano regularly. She and her husband also like to retreat to their wilderness cabin 14 miles from a main road in Springfield.

Mrs. Wilson graduated from Bates College in 1925 with highest honors, and in 1947 was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters there. She points out that three members of her class have become professional writers — the others being Gladys Hasty Carroll and Erwin Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor.



MAINE WRITER—Dorothy Clarke Wilson, author of best-sellers, sits by book shelves holding a full collection of her works, including translations in foreign editions, totaling 13 volumes. (Hall Photo)

September 26, 1967

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

From your publishers we have received a copy of your new book, HANDICAP RACE. We are grateful, and of course we'd like to send it to you for the special touch of an inscription. May we?

It is an inspiring book, the kind you do so superbly, and it is also a story of suspense and courage, which should make it of strong appeal to all sorts of readers.

Thank you for remembering the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

September 29, 1967

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Yes, of course I shall be most happy to autograph the copy of *HANDICAP RACE*. You may either send it to me here or wait until I come to Augusta. But I'm not sure when that will be.

I have been meaning to write you for some time to make an inquiry. Many of my books, especially the later ones, have been going into foreign editions. There are plans at the present time for *TAKE MY HANDS* to go into 14 of them. Some are hard cover, some are paperbacks. I would like very much to find some place where a full set of all the editions could be kept permanently, in addition to the set in my own files. After we had a serious fire a couple of years ago, when we almost lost everything, I became even more anxious to do this. What I wanted to find out was: Do you have room for these extra editions in the Maine Authors' Collection? If so, I would be glad to get together a copy of each one, and more as they come in, and get them to you.

Please be perfectly frank about this, and don't hesitate to say no if you don't have the room.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Wilson

October 2, 1967

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

We'd love to have the foreign editions, and how very nice of you to think of us! It has always seemed to us a little too importunate to beg foreign editions of our authors, though we do have a few -- Louise Bates Ames, for instance, gave us a couple of hers. More space and a better location for all our Maine items are anticipated in the new building, which is heartening. So do send the books along, and we will welcome them warmly and gratefully.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 13, 1967

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It is indeed a great pleasure to acknowledge the safe arrival of HANDICAP RACE and the nineteen other volumes, with your most thoughtful identification, and thus feel that we are going to have a really complete set of your books.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

December 15, 1967

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It's a real Christmas gift, isn't it?

Thank you for the Swedish TEN FINGERS FOR
GOD. Your international shelf grows, and we
are grateful. It was a rather good article in
the Portland Sunday paper last week, wasn't it?

Our very warm holiday greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

May 1, 1970

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke Wilson
114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Our thanks go to you for remembering that the Maine Author Collection would want a copy of your new biography, LONE WOMAN. It has been received, and we send you, as always, our thanks and appreciation; and our good wishes for the success of this latest volume.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Dorothy Clarke Wilson

114 Forest Avenue
Orono, Maine 04473

September 7, 1976

Ms. Shirley Thayer,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine 04333.

Dear Ms. Thayer:

I apologize for not replying before this to your letter of August 3. It has been a very busy summer, and my correspondence has suffered.

I assume that a copy of STRANGER AND TRAVELER, The Story of Dorothea Dix, was sent you from Little, Brown when the book came out. The special collections of the State Library has been on my list of editorial copies with all my books, and I assume it was sent as directed. Please let me know if you never received a copy.

It is always my intention to drop in at the library and autograph recent books when I am in the vicinity. Unfortunately this has been infrequent in recent years. I don't think I have even visited the library in its present location. The state library is a very special place in my memory. When in grammar and high school I lived directly behind the State House and used to haunt the library for reading matter.

At times I have tried to keep the collection up to date in the way of the foreign translations of my books, and I have some earmarked for that purpose now.

I hope you don't mind if I send you some mimeographed sheets on biographical material and writings instead of filling out your questionnaire.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Wilson

Orono Author Visits India

PALACE OF HEALING. By Dorothy Clarke Wilson (McGraw-Hill)

SOME INTANGIBLE factor in the Maine atmosphere has evidently proved to be a source of inspiration to writers, and the list of distinguished authors who have lived and worked within our borders is impressive.

One of our current writers who calls Orono home — Dorothy Clarke Wilson — has for many years brought us books that are well-crafted and gratifying. Her efforts include 60 religious plays and six historical novels, based mainly on Biblical characters.

In 1959 Mrs. Wilson began a group of biographies about medical missionaries and doctors with the publication of "Dr. Ida." Since then she has published four more in this category, her newest, "Palace of Healing," being the story of Dr. Clara Swain, the first woman missionary doctor, who was sent to Bareilly, northern India, in 1870 by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Swain came early in the history of woman doctors trained in America, graduating from the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia only a few years after Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor in this country had set up practice in New York City.

Arriving in Bareilly in the spring, Dr. Swain was quickly swept into the busy stream of service, reporting to her family that "India is far more beautiful than I expected." Immediately she began to treat sore eyes, abscesses, fevers, caring for Christian converts and families of servants. Inevitably she was plunged into the ugly side of a poverty-stricken country.

SINCE MALE doctors were not allowed to treat women, Dr. Swain was forced to learn the language and to establish the confidence of husbands in order to treat their wives. As the results of her work began to expand, she started a class to train native women to be assistants, and it quickly became obvious that a real hospital was needed.

Dr. Swain visited the Nawab of Rampore who owned a 40-acre estate beside the mission building and was dumbfounded when he generously donated the entire property for the purpose of building the first hospital in India for women and children.

From this point on, Mrs. Wilson's book becomes more the history of the hospital and Dr. Swain's successors. Painfully one department after another was organized and equipment — much of it second-hand — donated. The fight against ignorance and poverty began to gain ground. Native girls, many from a primitive way of life, were becoming excellent nurses and a prime source of visible expansion.

In 1939 two young American doctors, Charles and Wilma Perrill, joined the staff to reorganize the hospital and make provision for treating men as well as women. Before leaving America, Charles collected three tons of discarded hospital equipment and, after arriving at Bareilly, proved himself to be ingenious in adapting this antiquated material into useful forms such as lights for the operating rooms, running water for the hospital,



AUTHOR DOROTHY CLARKE WILSON, left, enjoys a tea given in her honor in the hospital compound. She is pictured with missionary Frances Allen, a public health nurse from Virginia who helped her with research for the book.

sterilizers made from pressure cookers.

During World War II many improvisations were necessary. A bone chisel was fashioned from the spring of an old Ford; No. 30 sewing cotton replaced catgut; overcrowded conditions forced early ambulation, long before this became general practice in the United States.

In 1950 Dr. Robert Petersen, a dentist from Portland, Oregon, brought his family to Bareilly and organized a dental department. A chest department to deal with the heavy incidence of tuberculosis was opened. Dr. Paul Brand came to visit from Vellore, demonstrating his famous surgical techniques on lepers. A blood bank was started. Even the hospital laundry was modernized.

Dr. Ernest Sundaram, an Indian national then took over as superintendent of the hospital and throughout recent years modern advances have surged forward, even though India still has only one doctor for every 5,000 people. Funds for trained superior staff must still be found; scholarships for Indian doctors, medical technicians and nurses must be established; foreign subsidy must still help provide new services and better equipment.

"IT WOULD TAKE cooperation, Ernest (Sundaram) knew, to meet the multiple needs of the area to which it might minister — the combined efforts of mission groups, local charities, Government, and hundreds of concerned Christians in America and India and around the world."

Mrs. Wilson's well-researched history of

the last 100 years in a hospital in a backward country provides inspiration, a sense of what people with initiative and the willingness to work hard and long can accomplish.

The author's fourth trip to India was made in the fall of 1966, when she spent six weeks doing research for this book, visiting not only Clara Swain Hospital but also the Doctors Perrill in Vrindaban and Dr. Sundaram in Hyderabad. Many doctors and nurses who have been connected with the hospital provided material, but the bulk of the early history came from Dr. Swain's published letters, "A Glimpse of India."

For a new book about Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (she has just completed the first draft), Mrs. Wilson completed her research in libraries in Boston, New York, Cincinnati, London, and Geneva, New York. Finishing three books in three years is an amazing feat for any writer, let alone one who takes her craftsmanship as seriously as this author.

"Take My Hands," the story of Dr. Mary Verghese, an Indian paraplegic, has been translated into 15 languages, and "Ten Fingers for God" was chosen for condensation in the "Reader's Digest."

Maine can indeed be proud of such a dedicated and indefatigable writer who has published so many absorbing books during her lifetime. The author shows intense interest and enthusiasm for her subjects, and her medical biographies have added to our knowledge of the contributions of these devoted people.

Florence H.