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September 2015

# Oscar Cargill Correspondence

Oscar Cargill 1898-1972

Hilda McLeod Jacob

*Maine State Library*

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June 24, 1963

Dr. Oscar Cargill  
New York University  
New York City

Dear Dr. Cargill:

Your book, THE NOVELS OF HENRY JAMES, should have had congratulatory word from us long ago. With the increasingly serious interest in James' work, your own book makes a welcome contribution to this study, and we hope you are finding that it is in satisfying demand.

When we learned that you are a Maine native, we determined to write to you about the Maine Author Collection. This, as perhaps you know, is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or written about the state. Most of the three thousand volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions of an original and distinctive nature, such as autobiographical highlights, tributes to Maine, pen and ink sketches, verse. We also gather biographical and critical material, so that our information on Maine writers may be as complete as possible.

We hope, of course, that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of your book to be included in the Maine Author Collection. Our good wishes go to you, and a hope that there will be more such books of literary criticism from one so well qualified to comment.

Sincerely yours

*Kenneth S. Jones*  
In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

CARGILL

## L. F. Native Author Of "The Novels Of Henry James"

Oscar Cargill, author of a wide range of articles on contemporary literature, Thomas Wolfe at Wash-

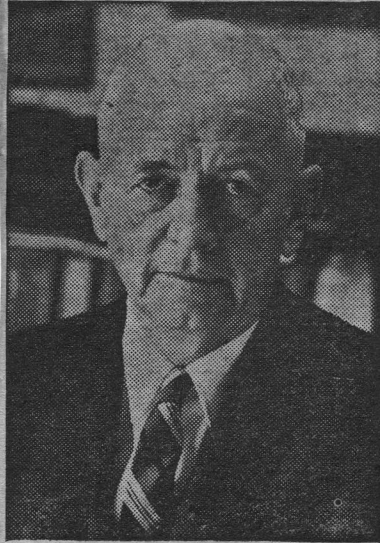


Photo by William R. Simmons,  
N. Y. University

**OSCAR CARGILL**  
Author of  
"The Novels of Henry James"  
(Macmillan)

ington Square and Intellectual America has recently completed a definitive study of all Henry James' novels and a complete review of the criticism up to the present. In "The Novels of Henry James" Mr. Cargill has been led to a new interpretation by his examination of the many articles and books on James and his careful re-reading of the novels themselves.

He has divided his study into five major sections, each corresponding to a phase of James' development. He devotes a separate chapter to each book under consideration. The first section covers the period from 1871 when James began magazine serialization of his first novel "Watch and Ward", through the publication of "The Portrait of a Lady" in 1881. The second part deals with James' experimentation with some of the methods of the French naturalists and in the third he shows the significant effect of James' theatrical experience on his work. The fourth part considers James' three major novels and the fifth his late fiction.

Oscar Cargill, a native of Livermore Falls, where a street is named for the family, is head of the All-University Department of English at New York University and has also taught at Michigan State University, Marietta College and the University of Southern California.

In 1954 he was a member of the Poetry Jury of National Book awards and in 1960 was one of the winners of the Great Teachers Awards given by N. Y. U.'s Alumni Federation.

He is editor of anthologies from the writings of Henry James, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau and of "American Literature: A Period Anthology."