

## Maine State Library Maine State Documents

---

Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

---

September 2015

# Joseph Cummings Chase Correspondence

Joseph Cummings Chase 1878-1965

Hilda McLeod Jacob

*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalmaine.com/maine\\_writers\\_correspondence](http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence)

---

### Recommended Citation

Chase, Joseph Cummings 1878-1965; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Joseph Cummings Chase Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 167.

[http://digitalmaine.com/maine\\_writers\\_correspondence/167](http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/167)

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](mailto:statedocs@maine.gov).

CHASE, Joseph Cummings

b. Kents Hill, Maine, 1878

December 15, 1950

Mr. Joseph Cummings Chase  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. Chase:

Congratulations on your new book, MY FRIENDS LOOK BETTER THAN EVER. We have ordered a copy for the library, and look forward to its arrival with eagerness. The host of people who enjoyed MY FRIENDS LOOK GOOD TO ME will welcome the new volume warmly.

It is odd and regrettable that your books are not in the Maine Author Collection. Do you know of this permanent exhibit of the writing of Maine people? It was begun thirty years ago, and includes about two thousand volumes, inscribed presentation copies for the most part. The inscriptions are as varied as the books -- pen-and-ink sketches, bits of verse, an autobiographical anecdote, a tribute to the State of Maine -- and all lend distinction and added value to an outstanding collection which constantly attracts the attention of visitors and students. It is our intention that the books of all Maine people shall be here, permanently preserved, available for consultation by anyone interested in Maine's contribution to literature.

We hope that you may want to inscribe your books and present them for inclusion in the collection. They would be happy and notable additions.

You have our very good wishes for the immediate and enduring success of MY FRIENDS LOOK BETTER THAN EVER, and our cordial invitation to call at the library, and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in Maine.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

is the direct wire  
of Studio 31.

GRamercy 5-3424  
is the Club's switch-  
board number; it con-  
nects both with the  
studio and with 52,  
the Chase abode.

*Joseph  
Cummings  
Chase*

Dear Hilda McLeod Jacob:

Thank you for your kind  
letter of December 15th..

Perhaps the new book will be the more properly  
located in your library, since it contains a re-  
production of your portrait of Gene Powers and a  
story about the painting of it.

Authorshipping is not a hobby of this portrait  
painter, but once in a while publishers have sort-  
of demanded something, and when I'm stuck with  
a task I try to carry-on. It all began a long way  
back when the Editor of SatEvePost demanded three  
articles. I shied away from the idea, but finally  
said I'd try. I knew I couldn't write anything the  
Post would print. Two weeks later a telegram from  
Lorimer (Tuesday a.m.) read, YOUR FIRST ARTICLE HOW  
DO YOU PAINT A PORTRAIT MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE FRIDAY  
MORNING 7000 WORDS. I handed the messenger boy a  
telegram to Lorimer: I DON'T KNOW 7000 WORDS AND IF I DID  
I COULDN'T SPELL 'EM. Half an hour later another  
from Lorimer: YOU WRITE 'EM WE'LL SPELL 'EM.  
That's how I got stuck with it.

When World War shaped up, the  
Government asked publishers to  
ask their authors to permit the  
lead of their books to be melted.  
I agreed, and all the previous  
books are "out of print."  
"Creative Design and "An Artist  
Talks About Color" had been run-  
ning along for many years. Now  
once in a while I'm able to get a  
copy of one of the books from a  
second-hand-book store. If any of  
them should turn up, I will be happy  
to send them to you. It is a promise.

Those several articles  
for The Post were asked  
for by a book publisher  
and appeared under the  
title, THE ROMANCE OF AN  
ART CAREER. Ever since  
publishers have been  
suggesting. Sometimes  
I've done what they've  
asked for. That's the  
story.

With appreciation,

*Joe Chase*

January 22, 1951.

March 29, 1951

Mr. Joseph Cummings Chase  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York City 3

Dear Mr. Chase:

After your friendly letter of January 22, 23 started searching for your early books. We have been able to secure MY FRIENDS LOOK GOOD TO ME, and we shall not need to ask for your inscription, since this copy already bears one. It is being placed in the Maine Author Collection.

We still hope that you may want to inscribe and present to this collection the new one, MY FRIENDS LOOK BETTER THAN EVER; and we shall continue to look for the older titles.

Meanwhile it is encouraging to have a start!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

April 23, 1951

Mr. Joseph Cummings Chase  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York City 3

Dear Mr. Chase:

The inscribed copy of MY FRIENDS LOOK BETTER THAN EVER arrived this morning, and it is with a great deal of pleasure that we add it to the Maine Author Collection.

It is a distinctive volume, a fascinating one, and does much to prove again the versatility of Maine people: you can not only paint, but also write!

Thank you very much indeed for the exhibit copy.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

March 26, 1963

Mr. Joseph Cummings Chase  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York City 3

Dear Mr. Chase:

Your new book, FACE VALUE, sounds wonderful, and of course we added it to our order list at once. We anticipate seeing a copy soon.

We hope that your past generosity to the Maine Author Collection will render you agreeable to inscribing and presenting a copy of FACE VALUE for this purpose. Your earlier writing is represented here, and we should very much like to have the new volume included.

Good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

April 8, 1963

Mr. Joseph Cummings Chase  
2228 East Woodstock Place  
Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Chase:

Thank you so much for the delightfully inscribed copy of FACE VALUE. It is added to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation, not only for the gift and for your interest, and for the buoyant pages of your writing, but also for the claim Maine has upon you, and the proud satisfaction we have in your life of experience and achievement. As you say, the Maine birth-right is a tough one to alter!

May your zest and your palette continue unabated for a long, long time.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection