

September 2015

Lew Dietz Correspondence

Lew Dietz 1906-1997

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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Dietz, Lew

Born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1906.

Resident of Boothbay Harbor. *Receipt*

Born in Pittsburgh, Penna. 1906. Moved to New Jersey
three years later. Attended New York University.
Tried advertising, publicity, house to house canvasing.
Married in 1932 to an adopted daughter of Maine and
became an adopted son of Maine. Has published many
short stories.

Taken from a letter from Mr. Dietz.

September 30, 1937

Mr. Lew Dietz
32 Commercial Street
Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Please accept our congratulations upon a book that is at once valuable and interesting, your recent THE STORY OF BOOTHBAY. We are anxious to see this book, and would very much appreciate your sending us a copy, with the bill, for our general lending section of the library.

Perhaps you know of the Maine Author Collection, which was started some years ago, and now numbers, through the generosity and interest of our authors, several hundred volumes. Most of these books are inscribed and presented by the writers, and they are also very kind about supplying us with biographical information.

We have not been able to discover any material of this nature concerning you, and would therefore be very grateful if you would use the enclosed envelope to send us this information. We hope that you will also want to inscribe a copy of THE STORY OF BOOTHBAY for the Maine Author Collection. Your gift would be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY.
BY

Hm
Encl--2

SECRETARY.

New Boothbay Book

Filling a long-felt need, Boothbay has her story retold in a new decorative booklet by Lew Dietz on sale today.

Mr. Dietz' book, "The Story of Boothbay", takes up the tale from that distant day over 300 years ago when the look-out in the cross-trees of John Weymouth's ship "Archangel" saw Monhegan loom out of the dusk. He takes us on through the years of fire and torture. We see Boothbay in the heroic struggle for Independence, the War of 1812. We see Boothbay sailing down through the homeric age of sail to the present day.

The booklet includes illustrations by Ruth Lepper, well-known for her fine sketches of the Region, as well as a full-page map by A. Reeb Jr. Copies are now on sale at the Smiling Cow.

October 14, 1937

Mr Lew Dietz
32 Commercial Street
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Since we know that you will be leaving Maine shortly, we are taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of our letter of September 30, requesting for the library a copy of your recent book, THE STORY OF BOOTHBAY. A bill should be sent with this book.

We also continue to hope that you will want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection, and send us some biographical information for our files.

We hope that the book is meeting with an attractive success.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY.
BY

hm
Encl--1

SECRETARY.

LEW DIETZ
BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE

Miss Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

My dear Miss McLeod,

Sorry to have been so slow in replying to your note concerning my pamphlet which you have so flatteringly termed a book. Such as it is you are certainly welcome to the enclosed copy.

And it is little wonder that you have failed to find any biographical material concerning this writer. You are one of the very few who have requested any.

Briefly: Born in Pittsburgh, Penna. 1906. Moved to New Jersey three years later. Attended in due seasons course of time New York University. Tried Advertising, publicity, house-to-house canvassing, Paris. Married in 1932 to an adopted daughter of Maine and became an adopted son of Maine. Have lived in Maine ever since. Have published short stories in many magazines you've never heard of and a few you have and hope to make a living at it soon. Love Maine; enthusiastic about Tennis; moderately fond of sailing and good Scotch whiskey.

Very cordially yours,

Lew Dietz

October 19, 1937

Mr. Lew Dietz
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Thank you very much for autographing and presenting a copy of your delightful THE STORY OF BOOTHBAY to the Maine Author Collection.

We still want another copy for the general lending section of the library, which we will purchase. We find that the Smiling Cow Gift Shop has copies, and we have placed an order with Miss Smith for a copy.

Apart from the attraction of the format, and the interest of the tale itself, your book is really a contribution to Maine history, and we congratulate you on the light and inviting tone with which you have treated the facts. The pamphlet should certainly appeal to many readers.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

SECRETARY

hm
Encl--15¢, refunding
postage.

January 9, 1950

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

When your book JEFF WHITE, YOUNG WOODSMAN was published, we noted it at once as desirable for our traveling libraries. It is encouraging to be able to find a really good story for young people with the accurate flavor of Maine. We congratulate you upon an excellent piece of work, and look forward eagerly to the publication of additional titles in the series.

Although you were not born in Maine, we regard you as a Maine person through residence, interest and writing; and so we feel free to mention to you the Maine Author Collection. You may recall that you very kindly presented THE STORY OF BOOTHBAY to this exhibit collection several years ago.

It is our hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of JEFF WHITE, YOUNG WOODSMAN also. We should be very happy indeed to include it on these shelves.

You have our good wishes for the success of the book, and an ever-widening circle of friends for the books to come.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

January 27, 1950

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

You are most kind to send not only JEFF WHITE, but also the attractive history of CAMDEN HILLS. No lovelier country could possibly be found than the Camden section, and this booklet does justice to it.

JEFF WHITE is a really good book for young people, and we see no reason why sisters and mothers wont enjoy it, too. It bears testimony to your knowledge of the country you write about, and of the people that appears in the pages of the book. We were glad to read that it is the first of a kind of series, and we shall look forward with great interest to more stories of the Maine woods with believable characters and exciting, but not improbable, adventures.

Congratulations, and thank you very much for inscribing and presenting these two books to the Maine Author Collection. When you are in Augusta, do come in and let us thank you personally.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

October 30, 1952

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Congratulations on JEFF WHITE, YOUNG LUMBERJACK. He is a versatile hero, and a popular one. We keep up with his adventures in our traveling libraries, but we are saddened to see that the Maine Author Collection trails far behind. We have JEFF WHITE, YOUNG WOODSMAN and JEFF WHITE, YOUNG GUIDE, but as a trapper and lumberjack, he has not yet come to grace the exhibit.

You have been so kindly and generously interested in the collection that we hope Jeff, in these guises, may yet be included with the two earlier ones.

Good wishes and success to the latest; and above all, good luck to the Aroostook War book -- how is it coming along?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hcm

May 19, 1955

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

It is a happy surprise to find an autographed copy of JEFF WHITE, FOREST FIGHTER, in the mail today. We are delighted to know that the empty space may now be filled. Thank you.

You will be happy, but not surprised, to know that the Jeff White books are very popular with our bookmobile patrons. We're glad that you wrote several before abandoning the field of juvenile literature.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Lew Dietz Writes His First Adventure Story

An exciting adventure story set in the "rich and splendid wilderness" of 18th century Maine has just been published, written by Maine author Lew Dietz.

"Pines for the King's Navy," has a realistic background of history dealing with the early settlers who wanted the pines set aside for ship's masts for the British Royal Navy, and the land on which stood the forest giants.

Also involved in the struggle were the Indians who were hostile to both settlers and the British, and were aided from afar by the French.

Against this troubled background is cast the story of Thadd Dunnican, a boy whose family lives on the edge of the great forest, dangerously far from the protection of the coastal settlement and its fort.

The author is known for his exciting "Jeff White" stories, and is as familiar with the Maine woods as his heroes are.

Educated in New Jersey and New York, Mr. Dietz now lives in his adopted State of Maine where he holds a Maine guide's license and considers himself "a shotgun and hound-dog man." "Pines for the King's Navy" is his first historical adventure story.

June 21, 1955

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

How encouraging to read in the paper that your new book, PINES FOR THE KING'S NAVY, has really been published. It will be added to our order list for bookmobile and traveling library use, and we anticipate a long and active life for our copies.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection will be distinguished by the addition of an inscribed copy.

Good luck to the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 11, 1958

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Our luck seems to have run out recently. The Maine Author Collection never did have an inscribed copy of your PINES FOR THE KING'S NAVY, and here is another wonderful new story to anticipate: FULL FATHOMS FIVE.

We shall order it, of course, for our travelling libraries and bookmobiles, and be grateful as usual for a rousing good story to recommend. Good luck to the book, and if the Maine Author Collection, which has seen the happy inclusion of your earlier books, should again be favored by your generosity, know that we would be delighted and appreciative.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

LEW DIETZ

ROCKPORT

MAINE

May 5⁵⁴

ROCKPORT

Mrs F.W. Jacob

Maine Authors Collection

Maine State Library

Dear Mrs Jacob ,

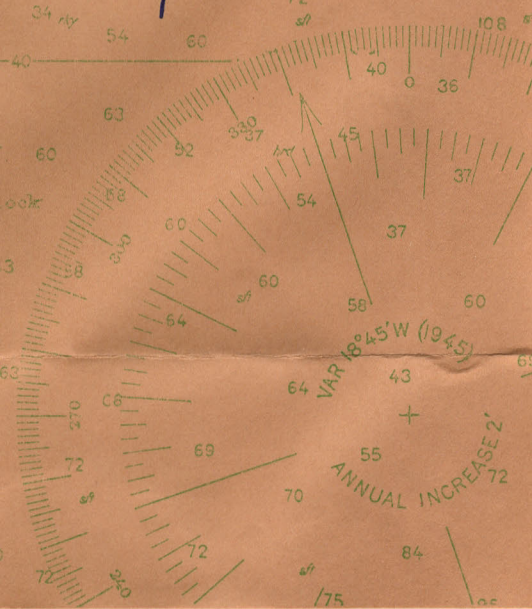
Sorry to be have so long answering your note
re my remissions . Let me hasten to say that

I'm sending along one copy each of PINES⁵⁴ and
FULL FATHOM FIVE for the Main^e Authors Collection .

I have been running here and there during the
past four month and am just now settled at my
desk . My best personal regards .

Sincerely

Lew Dietz



May 7, 1958

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

There can be no better cheer on a rainy spring morning than to welcome two of your lively books to the Maine Author Collection.

Thank you very much for the books. They are prized additions, and we are enthusiastic about them -- and so are our young readers.

Sincerely yours

HMJ

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

January 26, 1962

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

WILDERNESS RIVER is hailed with delight, and will shortly appear in our bookmobiles and traveling libraries. It is noted in the forthcoming Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, too, so we hope that other Maine libraries will take advantage of such a good story for youngsters.

Naturally we hope that the Maine Author Collection will continue to benefit by your generous interest. Shall we have an inscribed copy to place with your other books in the exhibit?

Good luck to the new one.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Feb 1

Dear Miss Jacob ,

The note caught me south re Wilderness River .
I see that you get a signed copy for the Maine Authors
Collection when I return sometime in May .

Sincerely



Lew Dietz

May 7, 1962

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Welcome back, and thank you very much
for remembering us. WILDERNESS RIVER is
added to the Maine Author Collection with
the happy confidence that your books always
bring to us.

It's a wonderfully exciting story, and
only one who has lived it can write it.
We expect WILDERNESS RIVER to enjoy a huge
popularity.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

July 31, 1964

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

It is good news that you have a book out this season, and we wish SAVAGE SUMMER a warm welcome and a vigorous demand.

You have been faithful and generous to the Maine Author Collection, and we hope that we shall have the good fortune to welcome an inscribed copy of the new book to the exhibit.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

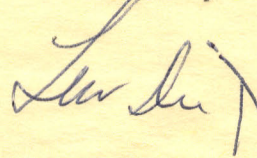
Oct 9

Dear Mrs Jacob ,

I got the books for which I thank you . I find this project I'm on (it's laying out tours for the American Petroleum Institute advertising campaign) takes me into New York and South Carolins . Would it be asking too much to add New York and S.C. to the packet of guide books I have at hand . There nothing better for background I've found than these WPA Guides for my purpose . It's a sticky job and I hope to unload it this month so I can have them back fairly promptly.

I appreciate your help on this .

Best ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lew Dietz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Lew Dietz".

October 12, 1964

Mr. Lew Dietz
Rockport
Maine

Dear Mr. Dietz:

It is high time that we thanked you properly for THE SAVAGE SUMMER. It's not everyone who remembers so vividly and sympathetically the pains and problems and occasional glories of the adolescent world. All your youngsters seem picked up bodily from their active pursuits, and put into your books. They are refreshingly authentic.

The American Petroleum Institute seems a far cry from Jason and Hardy, but we're glad that we can help, and New York and South Carolina will be on their way shortly.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj