

September 2015

# Robert F. Durden Correspondence

Robert Franklin Durden 1925-

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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**NOISEAR**

STANDARD B & P "NOISEAR"

ST

DURDEN, Robert F.

August 6, 1957

Mr. R. F. Durden  
c/o Duke University Press  
College Station  
Box 6697  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Durden:

When we first saw an announcement of your book on James Shepard Pike, we added the title to our order list. We are of course particularly interested in Maine books, and this promised to be unusual, inasmuch as it was written about a comparatively unknown Maine man.

We wonder whether perhaps you would not be interested in the Maine Author Collection. Although we judge that we cannot claim you as a Maine person, the subject of your book is certainly a Maine one. The collection is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or about the state in any way. It included about twelve hundred volumes at present, most of them inscribed presentation copies. The subject matter is wonderfully varied, and the inscriptions distinguish an already outstanding exhibit.

If you agree with us that JAMES SHEPARD PIKE would be a most fitting addition, we shall indeed be delighted to have the opportunity of adding it to the other Maine books.

Meanwhile, you have our very good wishes for the success of your book.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

August 17, 1957

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you for the kind letter with reference to my book on James S. Pike and the possibility of its being placed in the Maine Author Collection. I am flattered by the invitation, and realize that Mr. Pike, and not I, deserves it; but I regret that the Duke Press only gave me ten copies and since I had to purchase four additional ones already I simply can't be in the market for my book. (over)

I am sorry, for in writing the book and doing some of the research in Calais, Maine, I came to feel a warm attachment to the state and should be delighted to be even semi-adopted by the Maine State Library.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert F. Dunden

September 11, 1957

Mr. Robert F. Durden  
Department of History  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Durden:

Thank you for your friendly letter about your book on James Shepart Pike. We do understand, and quite agree with your position. It's too bad that both authors and libraries seem to be harrassed by inadequate funds, isn't it?

Perhaps a happier day will come; meanwhile, we shall regret the omission of your biography, and hope that we shall still have, somehow, the pleasure of including this book with other Maine volumes.

Thank you for writing it, and for the pleasant things you say about our state. Do return, even though you are not occupied with research another time.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj