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September 2015

# Mark Hennessy Correspondence

Mark William Hennessy 1904-1965

Hilda McLeod  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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HENNESSY, MARK.

Born at Bath, Maine, May 13, 1904.

HENNESSY, MARK -

Born at Bath, Maine, May 13, 1904; son of William H. and Margaret L. (Conley) Hennessy; educated in public schools of Bath; studied art at summer school Boothbay Harbor, Maine during the summer of 1923; attended School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, during the autumn of 1923. Bath correspondent for Portland Press Herald, Portland Evening Express, and Portland Sunday Telegram; became staff photographer in these papers in 1936-37. Works: SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL. Was married September 8, 1930 to Flora I. Fraser of Bath.

(Taken from Author's letter of March 2, 1938 to  
Maine State Library.)

February 28, 1938

Mr. Mark Hennessy  
150 Centre Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mr. Hennessy:

You are to be congratulated on such a comprehensive, valuable and fascinating contribution to historical literature, as your splendid book, SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL, has proven already to be. We have a copy in the general lending section of the library, and are now about to add one to the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of several hundred books, most of them inscribed presentation copies, written by persons born in this state, or intimately connected with it. We are sending your book to you, and enclosing a return label and postage.

We also enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. At your convenience, would you be so kind as to send us some biographical information for our files? We particularly like to know authors' birthplaces, birthdates, educations, families, avocations, and such data.

We assure you that we will deeply appreciate your kindness in inscribing the book and providing us with the desired biographical material. You have our best wishes for the book's success, which we feel certain is assured.

Very truly yours

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label  
envelope

SECRETARY

BATH, MAINE  
Mar. 2, 1938

Miss Hilda McLeod, Sec.,  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McLeod:

I greatly appreciate the kind remarks in yours of Feb. 28 relative to SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL. Your Maine Author Collection copy will be duly inscribed and returned; and the biographical material you requested follows:

Born May 13, (Friday) 1904, at Bath, Maine, son of William H. and Margaret L. (Conley) Hennessy. Educated in Bath, Maine, public schools; graduated (without honors) from Morse High School, Bath, in 1923, despite an unbalanced interest in athletics.

Studied (?) art at Summer school, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, during the Summer of 1923; attended School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, during the Autumn of 1923.

April, 1924, entered the employ of the Portland, Maine, Press Herald as Bath correspondent. Took over the Portland Evening Express and Portland Sunday Telegram correspondence as they were acquired by Guy P. Gannett; have no newspaper obligations other than to the Gannett newspapers. In 1936-37 studied practical photography, (learning, for instance, to pull the safety-slide before pulling the trigger,) and now rate as staff photographer as well as correspondent.

At the suggestion of Fred R. Lord, vice-president of the Gannett Publishing Co. and a former resident of Bath, I began in January, 1930, to uncover material on Bath sailing vessels, their masters, and their builders with the object of publishing a book on the subject. Mr. Lord offered full cooperation, and SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL is one result of his offer.



Maine State Library #2

We had intended to do a volume on the general maritime story of this old port but the letters about the Sewall steel ships, a fleet unique in our national history, were judged to be too distinctive, too interesting in their own right, to incorporate in such a work.

In process of completion are (1) the originally considered general story; (2) the story of the Sewall wooden ships, one of which was the largest of her kind to carry our flag; and (3) the story of the Bath schooners. Much has been done on each of the three proposed manuscripts but no order of publication has yet been selected.

Was married Sept. 8, 1930, to Flora I. Fraser of Bath, a high school classmate.

SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL is my first book. With the exception of a few trade magazine articles, it is my only published work other than run-of-the-mill newspaper copy and special stories.

Your kindly letter arrived almost contemporaneously with news of the death of Mr. Dunnack who had, Mr. Lord told me some time ago, been much interested in my book, and I deeply regret that he and I can never sit down to discuss the book's faults and whatever good points it may possess, an experience that I had long anticipated.

Sincerely,

*Mark W. Hennessy*

Mark W. Hennessy



March 4, 1938

Mr. Mark W. Hennessy  
119 Front Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mr. Hennessy:

Your inscription in SEWALL SHIPS OF STEEL delights us, and we thank you for taking the time to add it to the book, which is being placed at once in the Maine Author Collection.

Thank you, too, for sending us just the kind of biographical information which we wish all our authors would write.

We hope that the three proposed books will materialize shortly. They are the type of informative and interesting literature which is extremely valuable, and we anticipate their publication with pleasure. Meanwhile, you have our best wishes for a successful completion of the project.

Very truly yours

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