

September 2015

Margaret Page Hood Correspondence

Margaret Page Hood 1892-1983

Mrs. Alex C. Hood

Cecil Goldbeck

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

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HOOD, Margaret Page

b. Connecticut

October 20, 1950

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Vinalhaven
Maine

Dear Mrs. Hood:

The publication of your novel is good news indeed, and we hope that it is enjoying a most satisfactory career.

We are especially interested in the work of Maine authors, and have for some years given earnest attention to the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of the work of Maine people and Maine books. These volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions being as varied and original as the books themselves, which range from history to novels, cookbooks to juveniles, religion to art. It is always a happy occasion when another book can be added, and we hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of *TEQUILA* to this collection.

You have our very good wishes for its success, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the collection when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Box 401
Vinalhaven, Maine
October 25, 1950

Mrs. F. W. Jacob,
In Charge Maine Author Collection,
Maine State Library,
Augusta.

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks so much for your good wishes for
"Tequila". I will be very pleased to send
an autographed copy to add to the library
collection, and am writing today to my publishers
to send me a copy for you. Although "Tequila"
is strictly New Mexico in background there's a vein
of Maine running through it since one of the
main characters "El Viejo" - the Old Man - is
a good old adventurer from the Pine Tree State.
As was my own grandfather. Again thanking you for
your invitation (which I will be sure to accept some
day) and for your good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Margaret Page Hood
(Mrs Alex C. Hood)

November 17, 1950

Mrs. Alex C. Hood
Box 401
Vinalhaven, Maine

Dear Mrs. Hood:

It is delightful to know that we can claim you through ancestry as well as residence. You and your heroine have that in common, though we are not going to suggest that the novel is autobiographical!

Would you be so kind as to let us have a sort of Who's Who item, at your convenience? We like to have information on our Maine authors as complete as possible, and we seem to lack vital statistics about you.

We share your sentiment as expressed in your inscription of the Maine Author Collection copy of TEQUILA, and there is certainly no reason why this, and other, states shouldn't read such an exciting dramatic novel. A long and rewarding life to it! Thank you for making it possible for the collection to include TEQUILA. We add the book to the shelves with unusual interest, and look forward to the next with confidence and eagerness.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection



Vinalhaven
November 20th

My dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thanks for your nice letter and good wishes.

About that biographical sketch: my ancestors were good old Down-Easters, my great-grandfather, who was a building and railroad contractor, built the house where my grandfather was born right next door to the old wooden house of the Longfellow family. The family name was Hartshorn. Altho I was born in Connecticut and went to school in Massachusetts (graduated from Simmons College, Boston) there was never a summer we didn't spend among the islands of Casco Bay.

I've spent about twenty years in New Mexico where I did newspaper work - A P correspondent - feature writer for the El Paso, Texas Herald Post, folklore writer for Cyrus McCormick's weekly feature paper the New Mexico Sentinel. I've been particularly interested in the amazing folklore of the native Mexican people in the southwest, am a director for the New Mexico Folklore Society and done a lot of short story stuff along that line for New Mexico state publications. I've also been a member of the board of regents of the New Mexico University, and a member of the New Mexico State Public Welfare Board.

Two years ago my husband sold his business, and we decided to retire to Maine (he's an Englishman brought up to the salt water life of that island). So sight unseen - much to the horror of our New Mexico friends - we bought our hundred-year old home on Lane's Island (which is connected by a stone bridge to Vinalhaven). The house was built by an old sea captain and is wonderfully pleasant (in spite of the dire predictions of

our doubting thomasas) and we love the island life. Altho we did skip back to New Mexico this fall. It's sort of a case of "were tother dear charmer away").

That about explains me, mas o menos, as my New Mexico amigos would say.

By the way, since I've been here on the island I've done a bit of informal lecturing on New Mexican native customs. Our Maine neighbors seem to like it. I thought perhaps I might spread my wings a bit, but how to go about it? I notice in the newspapers that now and then Maine authors do a spot of lecturing. Could you give me a tip or two as to how I might break into the field?

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Page Hood

November 29, 1950

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Vinalhaven
Maine

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Thank you ever so much for the biographical information.

With your background and knowledge, your lectures should be fascinating. Unfortunately, we suspect that most clubs have already engaged their winter season speakers, but it might do no harm to make inquiries. Perhaps the best thing to do is to write to secretaries of clubs, to the colleges or other schools, or to any special groups which interest you. Mrs. Gilbert E. Loeb is President of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs; her address is 43 Burlington Street, Waterville. A letter addressed to her might bring helpful information.

We hope this field of your activities will be presently successful, and that we may have the good fortune to hear you one day.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

September 10, 1954

Mrs. Alex C. Hood
Vinalhaven
Maine

Dear Mrs. Hood:

THE SILENT WOMEN was noted in the Maine in Print column in the quarterly Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, but we are only now writing to you about the Maine Author Collection. We were especially delighted when it was published to note the Maine background and characters. We hope that you have found its popularity encouraging, so that you will give us more books utilizing your knowledge of coastal scene and people.

Do you remember that you most graciously inscribed and presented a copy of TEQUILA to the Maine Author Collection? We are hoping that THE SILENT WOMEN may join your earlier book on these exhibit shelves -- though what dissimilar companions they make!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico
September 20, 1954.

My dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thanks for your kind wishes for "The Silent Women", my mystery of Hurricane Island. By the way, do you have on your Maine shelf a copy of Harold Vinal's "Hurricane" - - they would make amusing companion pieces. Mr. Vinal is my neighbor on Vinalhaven.

I am very glad to send you the autographed copy you suggest and feel proud to be allowed to occupy the same shelf with so many of Maine's really great writers.

You will see from the above address that I'm back in New Mexico. Not a "catcher in the rye", but a sort of leaper across continents. But Maine is still my home and I wish its climate was more friendly to my throat, else I wouldn't have to seek a dose of sunshine now and then.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Page Hood
Mrs Alex C. Hood

Coward-McCann, Inc.

BOOK PUBLISHERS • 210 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

11 October 1954

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

At the request of the author Margaret
Page Hood we are planning to send you a copy
of her new book *THE SILENT WOMEN*, to be pub-
lished 1 November.

Sincerely yours,

Cecil Goldbeck

CG:mb

CECIL GOLDBECK, *Editor*

October 20, 1954

Mrs. Alex C. Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Many of us who live here the year round have
fault to find with the Maine climate this year!
We shall hope for your return, however, and trust
that the weather may cooperate with your throat
and the publicity bureaus.

THE SILENT WOMEN has arrived, and we are most
appreciative of your generosity in making it
possible to add the book to the collection. Yes,
indeed, we have HURRICANE (and a fine book it is,
too), and all Mr. Vinal's other works. He is one
of our favorite Maine writers.

You have shown that you understand the island
and people well; now we hope that there will be
more books using this background and knowledge.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 20, 1954

Mr. Cecil Goldbeck, Editor
Coward-McCann, Inc.
210 Madison Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Mr. Goldbeck:

The copy of THE SILENT WOMEN has arrived, and we send you our most appreciative thanks. It is being added to our Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

April 6, 1956

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Your SCARLET THREAD is an exciting book, and has been ordered for our traveling libraries and bookmobiles. There are few stories of suspense laid in Maine, but they all seem to be good ones, and we are delighted with the atmosphere and characterization of yours.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection, to which you have shown previous generosity, may benefit from your continued interest; and that we may be privileged to add an inscribed copy to place beside your other books.

Good wishes to you and the book.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Las Cruces, New Mexico
April 12th

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks so much for your nice letter,
I hope the Maine readers will enjoy
my book as much as I did writing
it, and remembering the beauties of
Penobscot Bay. I'm a true Mainiac
from way back, my great-grandfather
having settled in Portland in the
time of Longfellow. We spent some

time "down east" last summer and hope
to return this year for a few weeks -
Maine lobsters and Maine ocean breezes
always entice us, especially when
New Mexico's sunshine sends the
thermometer soaring.

As you request, I'm sending you an
autographed copy of "The Scarlet
Thread" which I'll be pleased to have
on your Maine Author Book Shelf.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Pagett Hood

April 24, 1956

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

It is a delightful privilege to welcome another of your books to the Maine Author Collection, and we thank you for THE SCARLET THREAD which is being added to your other books. We're delighted with the book itself, too, and anticipate a season of deserved popularity for it.

It is nice to know that you will be here for a few weeks, at least. Would that our contrary weather would cooperate to permit you to stay longer!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 7, 1957

Mrs. Alexander Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

How exciting to know that another Gil Donan story is on the way. We shall have it in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles, and we are counting on Gil to maintain his customary popularity.

Inasmuch as he is Maine, and you were (will be again?), we hope for an inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection. Good luck to the new book.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico
February 12

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your note with regard to my latest
Gil Donan. I hope you'll like my island
detective in his new adventure "In The Dark
Night". I will be pleased to send you an
autographed copy for your Maine writers' book
shelf as soon as I receive my copies from
the publisher. By the way, we hope to be in
Maine around June. If we're in Augusta I shall
surely drop in and say hello.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Page Hood

The NEW Maine mystery
featuring Gil Donan, by the
author of *The Scarlet Thread*
and *The Silent Women*

MARGARET PAGE HOOD

Was it murder and suicide?
Or double murder? Gil Donan, Fox
Island's young deputy sheriff, has
some tough questions to answer
in this chilling novel of love
and sudden death. If you haven't
already discovered Margaret
Page Hood's tense and
authentically flavored Maine
novels, now is the time! *In the
Dark Night* is her best yet.
\$2.95 at all bookstores

IN THE DARK NIGHT

Coward-McCann

Maine Setting For Murder Yarn

(Coward-McCann, N.Y.) (\$2.95)

6-22-57
Maine and Penobscot is the
scene for the third Gil Donan
mystery yarn by Margaret Page
Hood. Readers will remember her
previous stories entitled "The Si-
lent Women" and "The Scarlet
Thread." The latest story is aptly
titled "In the Dark Night."

It was in the "dark night" that
young, enticing Jeanne Marie
Wallace was killed. And also her
love-sick brother-in-law Dick who
met death in like fashion. They
were killed the night Jeanne's
husband Crie Wallace came back
from a fishing trip. Crie seemed
a likely suspect in view of Dick's
unquestioned attraction to Jeanne.

Other suspects included the wo-
man from Lost Creek and her
daughter Anna, the childhood
sweetheart of Dick Wallace; the
two young lighthouse keepers,
John Halloran; timorous Doug
Randall and old Uncle Judson, the
hermit of Huckleberry Hill.

Donan has a real puzzle to
solve in this one.—F.P.

June 25, 1957

Mrs. Alex Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Perhaps you are now at Vinalhaven, enjoying Atlantic breezes and the reports from your new book, IN THE DARK NIGHT. We hope so.

May the Maine Author Collection continue to claim you, and thereby anticipate a copy of the new Gil Donan story for its exhibit shelves? We love the real Maine flavor you put into these books, and look eagerly for each succeeding mystery. They grow better and better.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

July 23, 1957

Mrs. Alex Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Here is the new book, IN THE DARK NIGHT, and again it is our pleasure to thank you for your generous presentation to the Maine Author Collection. This is a rousing good story, one which we know will be immediately popular in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles. We await each new Gil Donan book with an eagerness whetted by the previous mysteries, and are not disappointed.

The only note of disappointment about IN THE DARK NIGHT was that it came to us from New Mexico, which must mean that you are not in Vinalhaven. Perhaps the next best thing to being on Penobscot Bay is writing about it, and you do that superbly.

Thank you very much for your friendly letters, and for the Maine Author Collection copy of IN THE DARK NIGHT. Accept our very good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

March 22, 1960

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

A re-acquaintance with Gil Donan is always good news, so congratulations on *THE BELL ON LONELY*, and we hope it is a most successful book for you.

May the Maine Author Collection hope to have an inscribed copy to place with your other books?

With the reluctant approach of spring, you are very likely thinking of a trip in this direction, and we trust that before many months you will be back with us, even if for the season only.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico
March 30th

My dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thanks for your note and interest in my latest Gil Donan. I solace my long months away from Maine by imagining myself back on my Penobscot island in the midst of the bubble, bubble, toil 'n trouble of its imaginary people. We're waiting until September this year for our annual visit - - the scarlet maples of Maine's October seems to be a must for me. I hope this time we will find time to stop off at Augusta and meet you and the library.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Page Hood

April 15, 1960

Mrs. Margaret Page Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Thank you, thank you, for THE BELL ON LONELY,
which goes into the Maine Author Collection with
continued appreciation and delight.

We refer to these books as a "Gil Donan story,"
but of course that's not accurate, because of the
many other people whose tangled lives pivot about
him. We hope lots of people will tell you what a
tingling story this is, and we hope that it will
be so successful that it will finance many a trip
back to the Bay.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

January 26, 1962

Mrs. Alex Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Aren't you amazed at Gil Donan? We are!

DROWN THE WIND is one more in a series of exciting, staisfying mysteries, and we look forward eagerly from one to the next. The book goes on to our bookmobiles, and into our traveling libraries, and thank you for writing it, and giving us not only a fine mystery, but also your usual excellent characterization and weather background.

The Maine Author Collection will have an inscribed copy, we hope.

Best wishes to the new book and to you, far from fog and foghorns.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 1st

My dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Thanks for your many kind words - - our
good friend Gil appreciates them. Next
summer when we go to Maine I hope I can
drop in and see all you nice people.

Sincerely,

Margaret Page Hood

February 12, 1962

Mrs. Alex Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Thank you so much for the Maine Author
Collection copy of DROWN THE WIND, which we
are delighted to have.

Thank you for your gracious note, too.
If you do drop in, it will give us the
opportunity of thanking you in person for
your generous interest.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 26, 1963

Mrs. Alex C. Hood
Box 506
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Spring again, and we can scarcely wait to get back to Fox Island. Advance notices of THE SIN MARK whet our appetite, and we hope that the Maine Author Collection will continue to merit your generosity.

Our good wishes for the new one.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Box 511
Las Cruces, New Mexico
April 2, 1963

My dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thanks so much for your kind wishes!

I'm sending the library today a copy of "The Sin Mark" for its Maine shelf. I hope you will enjoy this Fox island fantasy as much as the others. It was a lot of fun writing it last summer when the weather turned hot here in New Mexico and I dreamed of cool Maine breezes, white surf and green trees.

We expect to be in Maine sometime this autumn and I hope on this trip I may have the pleasure of calling on you and the other library folks.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Page Hood

April 12, 1963

Mrs. Alex C. Hood
Box 511
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Hood:

It would seem that your books couldn't improve, and yet they do. They get better and better, and even without Gil Donan! Of course it's just as well that all this happened before his day, and his flair for bringing everything to light.

THE SIN MARK is a breathless story, and we admire anew your feeling for the island and its individual weather and people, and your skill in tying up the loose ends and fitting each final piece of the jigsaw in place.

Our bookmobiles will certainly include this title in their spring orders, and we are happy to have the inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection. Thank you very much indeed.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection