

September 2015

Lee Kingman Correspondence

Lee Kingman 1919-

Mrs. Robert H. Natti 1919-

Lee Natti 1919-

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Kingman, Lee 1919-; Natti, Mrs. Robert H. 1919-; Natti, Lee 1919-; and Jacob, Hilda McLeod, "Lee Kingman Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 299.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/299

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.

KINGMAN, Lee
(Mrs. Robert H. Natti)

November 4, 1954

Mr. Lee Kingman
c/o Doubleday & Company
575 Madison Avenue
New York City 22

Dear Mr. Kingman:

When KATHY AND THE MYSTERIOUS STATUE was published, we noted it in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and included the book in our traveling libraries and bookmobile divisions. It is always a delight to find a good book for young people, and we are naturally especially interested in any with a Maine background.

We have been so far unable to find biographical information about you. Do you come from Maine? We write at present because of the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of books by Maine people, or with the state as a setting for books. The two thousand volumes are nearly all inscribed presentation copies, making a fascinating and valuable collection which attracts visitors and students because it is the only place where all the books of all Maine writers are gathered as a unit. We are proud of the collection, and happy when we are able to add another book to its shelves.

It seems to us that KATHY should be here, too. We hope you share our view, and that we may look forward to including an inscribed copy.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Blood Ledge . Lanesville
Gloucester . Massachusetts
16 November . 1954

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Your letter about KATHY AND THE MYSTERIOUS
STATUE has been forwarded to me by Doubleday, and you
are indeed kind to inquire about my background.

Unfortunately, I do not come from Maine,
although I spent many summers around Casco Bay and Ocean
Park, and have many happy memories of Maine. At present
I live on Cape Ann, in Massachusetts; am married to a
school teacher, and have two small children. Although my
maiden name - under which I write - does sound masculine,
as you can see, it is not. At one time I was editor of
children's books for Houghton Mifflin Company in Boston.

Since I am not a Maine author, I gather
that my book would not be so apropos for your collection.
And as I have eighteen ~~nieces~~ nieces and nephews, there isn't a
spare copy of the book in the house. But perhaps someday
I will be able to send you one.

Sincerely yours,

Lee Kingman
(Mrs. Robert H. Natti)

November 23, 1954

Mrs. Robert H. Natti
Blood Ledge, Lanesville
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Natti:

Your friendly letter encourages us. We regret that we cannot claim you as a Maine-born author; but would it be presumptuous of us to say that some of our favorite writers are "adopted"? -- Laura E. Richards, Henry Beston and Elizabeth Coatsworth, Ben Ames Williams, and Rachel Field, for instance. Since the Maine Author Collection is intended to include writing pertaining to Maine, as well as books written by natives, it is not unfitting that KATHY should be included. We do not, however, feel that we can be at all insistent, and we understand that your own copies of the book would be inadequate to go around among your family. Perhaps some day we shall be fortunate enough to welcome KATHY; we hope so.

Coincidentally, the day that your letter arrived also brought a package which I had ordered as a Christmas gift for my sister. It contained your exquisite "Flight" place mats. At least, I now assume that you are the Lee Natti who designed the lacy free gulls. It is beautiful, and I am delighted with it, and shall find it difficult to part with it, even with the prompting of the Christmas spirit!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

November 23, 1954

MRS. ROBERT H. NATTI
BLOOD LEDGE, LANESVILLE
GLOUCESTER, MASS.

4 January 55

Dear Mrs. Jacob

As we emerged from Christmas with one spare copy of KATHY, and I should be very pleased to have it in your Maine collection, it is enclosed herewith. (on second thought - I'm sending it under separate cover.)

It is so interesting to know that you had met up with my "Flight" design, and that it appeals to you. I'm sure the Maine seagulls influenced it as well as the Cape Ann ones. Perhaps you'll find a place in your home for the mat enclosed. I hope so.

Cordially,
Lee Natti

January 10, 1955

Mrs. Robert H. Natti
Blood Ledge, Lanesville
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Natti:

How extraordinarily generous of you! KATHY is welcomed warmly, and we add to the Maine Author Collection this delightful story with appreciation of your interest, and gratitude that there was a spare copy, with all the demands you had.

As for the mat with those wonderful free gulls, I am enchanted. Indeed I will find a place for it. I know two other people who had Christmas gifts of the set, because they were heard to exclaim over the one I had bought. I just couldn't resist bringing it to the library and showing it off! This is very kind of you, and I feel that the new year has begun most auspiciously.

Thank you for both the book and the mat.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj