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September 2015

Harold H. Kynett Correspondence

Harold Havelock Kynett 1889-1973

Hilda McLeod Jacob Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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Recommended Citation

Kynett, Harold Havelock 1889-1973; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Harold H. Kynett Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 306.

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Mr. Harold H. Kynett The Mermont Montgomery and Merion Avenues Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Kynett:

Not long ago we chanced upon your utterly charming book, MAINE HARBOR. Our first reaction was one of embarrassment, that we had somehow not known of it years ago. Then we noticed that it was privately published, and we reflected that we would have had no opportunity to become acquainted with its delightful pages.

The copy which we have is for the general library, but we think it would make a lovely and fitting addition to the Maine Author Collection. This is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or written about the state or by those closely connected with Maine. Certainly MAINE HARBOR is full of Maine, some of its pages sharply perceptive, and all filled with the radiant contentment which you so skillfully share with the reader.

The Maine Author Collection was started some years ago, and has gradually grown to include about two thousand volumes, most of which are inscribed presentation copies (including those of your friend Mr. Hallett). We also collect all available biographical and critical material, so that we may have as complete a file as possible on our writers.

Mr. Harold H. Kynett June 27, 1955

It is possible that MAINE HARBOR is no longer available. We should very much regret this. If, by good fortune, it is, and you agree with us that it would be a distinguished addition, may we tell you that we would be happy indeed to have an inscribed copy for the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection

HAROLD H. KYNETT 1400 SOUTH PENN SQUARE PHILADELPHIA

July 1, 1955

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your very courteous letter of June 27, asking for a copy of Maine Harbor. It so happens that I do have a spare copy of Maine Harbor and I know of no place where I would rather have it repose than in the Maine Author Collection. I am shipping it to you under separate cover.

For your information, Maine Harbor is one of a series of books which I have written for the last twenty-two years and have had privately printed to be issued as Christmas greetings. Mostly, these books reflect interests which I have had in various directions, and inasmuch as, with my family, I have been visiting Maine in the Boothbay Harbor region for more than thirty years, it is only natural that one of the books should be devoted to the Boothbay region where I spent so much time.

I am not a professional author; I am an advertising man and the writing of these books has been an avocation rather than a pursuit. While it is true that a number of libraries, including the Congressional, the Princeton, the New York Public Library, the Philadelphia Public Library and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, have asked to receive these books regularly, I have made no attempt to direct my writing into the hands of publishers. I prefer to remain an amateur and publish as I see fit.

Sincerely yours,

HHK:mh

July 8, 1955

Mr. Harold H. Kynett 1400 South Penn Square Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Kynett:

It is with the greatest pleasure and appreciation that we add MAINE HARBOR to the Maine Author Collection. It is a beautiful book and a gracious one.

Your series of books must be remarkable, and a source of utmost satisfaction to you. How fortunate to be able to capture experiences as you do, and save them for re-living in book form.

We are certainly fortunate, too, to be able to include your Maine book in the collection, and we send you our warm thanks and best wishes for a happy continuation of your avocational writing.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection