

September 2015

# Alice Lounsberry Correspondence

Alice Lounsberry -1949

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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LOUNSBERRY, Alice  
New York City

June 24, 1941

Miss Alice Lounsberry  
c/o Charles Scribner's Sons  
597 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Lounsberry:

Your engaging biography of Sir William Phips has, we are happy to report, been in demand ever since we bought it for the lending section of our library. It was naturally of great interest to us, and an especial satisfaction to find the work one of such accuracy and readability.

At present we write to inquire of the possibility of claiming you as a Maine author. Some years ago we began a collection of books written by Maine-born people, by those living in the state, and by those who had written about Maine or used Maine settings. This permanent exhibit, inscribed presentation volumes, now includes over a thousand books. A part of the project has also been to gather all available data about these authors, with the result that we have a very complete file of biographical, critical and photographic material.

We hope that it is a project which will appeal to you, for certainly the subject material of your fine biography declares itself eminent Maine fibre. Our effort to discover biographical material about you has been unsuccessful, and we shall have to ask you frankly!

Our best wishes go to you for the book's continuing good fare; and may this be only one of many other equally outstanding contributions to our literature.

Very truly yours

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BY

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SECRETARY

August 20, 1942

Miss Alice Lounsberry  
c/o Charles Scribner's Sons  
597 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Lounsberry:

Some time ago we wrote to you about the pleasant possibility of including an inscribed presentation copy of your fine biography, SIR WILLIAM PHIPS, in the Maine Author Collection.

This collection, you may recall, is a large and fascinating exhibit of works by Maine people or residents, or about the state or its sons and daughters. Although we are uncertain as to whether or not we may claim you as a Maine-born author, it certainly seems that your book is one which should be represented in this Maine exhibit.

We dare to continue our hope that you will share this view, and that at some time the privilege of including an inscribed copy of your distinguished study to these shelves may be ours. Meantime, our best wishes continue.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY



RHINELANDER 4-1040

September 5, 1942

130 EAST 67TH STREET

To the Maine State Library,

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Yesterday I returned home after being away for a long time; and today I opened your letter. It is, I think, the first letter that I have received from you. But last winter I was seriously sick with pneumonia, and the young secretary who attended to my affairs, may have forgotten to show me your letter.

Now I must tell you that I was not born in Maine, but here in the city of New York. Nevertheless I love the state of Maine and have spent many happy summers there wandering about in different parts. If this would qualify me to be represented in your Maine exhibit, I should be very happy.

Unless you write to me that the happening of my birth disqualified me from representation on your distinguished shelves, I shall be glad to send you an inscribed copy of Sir William Phips.

I thank you for your compliment to my work and shall hope to visit you some day in the library at Augusta.

Yours most sincerely

*Alice Louiskerry*

September 8, 1942

Miss Alice Lounsberry  
130 East 67th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Lounsberry:

The fact that you were born in New York, instead of Maine, while in a way disappointing, certainly does not disqualify you or your fine book as representatives in the Maine Author Collection. It simply means that you will be in company with such writers as Laura E. Richards, Ben Ames Williams, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Booth Tarkington, Henry Beston, Elizabeth Coatsworth, and others who were not born here, but who have been "adopted." Because you have spent summers here, and have written about a Maine subject, we are delighted to call you a Maine author.

A copy of SIR WILLIAM PHIPS for the exhibit will be a happy addition, and we anticipate its arrival with pleasure.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

September 15, 1942

Miss Alice Lounsberry  
130 East 67th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Lounsberry:

The inscribed presentation copy of SIR WILLIAM PHIPS has reached the library, and we are very glad to be privileged to add this outstanding and vital biography to the Maine Author Collection, and we send our thanks to you for your interest and generosity.

It is curious that biographers and novelists have not produced books from the rich material of this man's life, but we are satisfied that you have written so eminent a study that it will stand as the authoritative word on Sir William Phips for many years. We are proud to place it in the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

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