

## Maine State Library Maine State Documents

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Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

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October 2015

# H. P. Davis Correspondence

H.P. Davis 1878-

Harold Palmer Davis 1878-

Owen Davis 1874-1956

Donald Davis 1904-1992

Mary Gould Davis 1882-1956

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Creator(s)**

H.P. Davis 1878-, Harold Palmer Davis 1878-, Owen Davis 1874-1956, Donald Davis 1904-1992, Mary Gould Davis 1882-1956, Bob Davis, and Hilda McLeod

DAVIS, H

P

February 16, 1935

Mr. H. P. Davis  
The Brevoort  
Eighth St. & 5th Ave.  
New York City

Dear Mr. Davis:

Recently we noticed a most interesting article about you and your active life, and we learned with great pleasure of the forthcoming book, MANY INTERVENTIONS.

Possibly you may know of the Maine Author Collection, which was started by the State Library over twelve years ago. We intend to include the works of all contemporary Maine authors. This exhibit collection now numbers several hundred inscribed volumes, most of them contributed by the authors themselves. We take great pride in this collection, and also in our biographical file, which we maintain in connection with it.

We hope when the new book is published that you will want to inscribe it for our Maine Author Collection and send to us. We assure you we would greatly appreciate your kindness.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary

October 21, 1935 letter filed ?  
in Me. Author volume. No  
reply received from Mr. Davis.

H.P. DAVIS -

15-W-76 ST NYC.

Dear Miss McLeod -

Some time ago you wrote me suggesting that I send to you for the "Maine Authors Collection" of your library a copy of my book "Black Democracy".

A copy of the revised (4<sup>th</sup>) edition of this book - will be sent on publication - Early next month -

Please tell me something about the Maine authors collection -

If you have not included the books of my sister Mary Gould Davis - supervisor of the Childrens Department of the N.Y. Public Library - why dont you write to her - they are Sweet Books -

My brother Owen and his son Daniel should be glad to send to you a copy of Ethan Frome their new play <sup>which will be published by Scribner</sup> and as a matter of fact Owens book and many of his published plays should be included in a Maine authors library -

What are you doing about my very dear Gill Patten?

Yours Sincerely  
H.P. Davis

January 31, 1936

H.P.Davis  
15 West 76th Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your very kind and interested letter. We will write to Mary Gould Davis at once regarding her books, also to Owen and Donald Davis. Due to strictly limited appropriations, we have not been able to add all the books we wished to our Maine Author Collection, and have had to rely a great deal upon the generosity of our writers. For this reason only, Gilbert Patten's splendid array of literature has not been included. We hope to number these volumes among the others in the near future, as Mr. Patten certainly is a native of whom Maine should be proud.

The Maine Author Collection is an exhibit collection of the writings of persons who have been born in Maine, who have lived here, or have written about Maine. Of course well-known names such as Edna St. Vincent Millay, Robert Peter Tristram Coffin, Lincoln Colcord, Mary Ellen Chase, Rachel Field, Laura E. Richards, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Kenneth Roberts, Shailer Matthews, and Edwin Arlington Robinson are included, as well as the noted Davis family.

The books are frequently presented, and nearly all are at least autographed. Some of them carry original and distinctive inscriptions. The books are kept in Dr. Dunnack's private office, and are not available for loan. They will form a valuable background of Maine literature for future students. We maintain a biographical file in connection with the books, in which much material is found that is not readily available elsewhere. The correspondence of our authors is filed here, together with biographical material, photographs, and such data.

\* the unusual interest which our patrons display in Maine authors is indeed gratifying.

H.P. Davis  
15 West 76th Street  
New York City  
January 31, 1936

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We also have a biographical file which includes, besides material on the authors' lives, reviews of the books, portraits which have appeared in magazines, miscellaneous bits of information and writings. This material is available for loan.\*

I'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN, by Owen Davis, we are glad to report is already in the Collection; also his ICEBOUND and THE DETOUR. We realize that there are many more plays from Mr. Owen's remarkable pen which should be included, but again, our only excuse is that our finances have been severely limited in the past few years, and we cannot hope to have every author present us with his books, especially when there are a great number. We hope to add many books to our Collection, which is always growing in size, interest and value; and of course among them will be the Davis plays and Mr. Patten's stories.

We are anticipating the arrival of BLACK DEMOCRACY, and we do hope you will add an inscription. We hesitate to trouble you further, but we find that we lack biographical material under your name. At your convenience, would you be so kind as to send us the more important dates and facts in your life. We appreciate the cooperation and generosity of our authors, and are always eager to assist them when possible.

Thank you again for writing to us and manifesting such interest. We are glad to know that our writers recognize the worth of such a collection. May we extend to you a very cordial invitation to visit the library and the Maine Author Collection when you are in Maine.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary

March 21, 1936

H. P. Davis  
15 West 76th Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Davis:

The inscribed presentation copy of BLACK DEMOCRACY has reached the library, and we are indeed grateful for your kindness.

It is a splendid volume, and we can find no better words to describe it than those of "Bob" Davis, when he says it is "a singular achievement." It is a distinctly valuable addition to the Maine Author Collection, and we are proud that the author is a Maine man.

We consider it necessary in our Haiti section, and are ordering a copy at once for the general library.

Thank you again for your generosity and your interest. Mary Gould Davis has very kindly presented us with two books, and we hope to have a copy of ETHAN FROME in the Collection. Then we shall feel that we have, at least, made a beginning on the literature from the Davis family.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary