

October 2015

Don Morrison Correspondence

Don Morrison

Elbert Hubbard III

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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MORRISON, Don
b. Skowhegan, 1882

Announcing the publication of

REASSURANCE *and Other Poems*

by **DON MORRISON**

REASSURANCE *and Other Poems* by Don Morrison

OF FAITH, AND THE EASTER MESSAGE. This Book has faith in God's all-embracing One-ness with our life, and lives. It compares our lives with the life-cycles of the Waters of the earth. The Romance of In-land Rivers moving inevitably down to the open arms of the In-coming Tides from the Seas. The Passion of the Waters as they merge to Flood-tide! Then together, slowly start their journey out to far places of Sea and Sky, home to their Clouds.

It tells the analogy of "Three-fold is the Birth of a Statue." Passing on, from its Inception in Clay, to the flesh-like ivory warmth of Plaster, finally to its 30000 year Immortality in Bronze.

OF PEOPLE AND THINGS. There are Three Songs, written for Children. The first two, The Snorkbeagle, and the Sad-eyed Shoe, explain the mood and *vagrancy* of the minor scale (Safronia, eleven years, speaking . . . "Mr. Morrison, that *minor* scale is a *funny* scale! It goes *up* one way, comes *down another* way! How come?). The third, Bad Baker from Jamaica, is a joyous return to the *reliable Major* (Safronia . . . "Old *Major* scale, Mr. Morrison, knows it way *round, up and down the same way*, and it's *Glad!*).

OF MUSIC, AND THE CHURCH. An invocation for Peace, a Lasting Peace for all time. A Ten-fold Amen. Mary, of Ellis Island, and her Virtue's Flower. Deity, expressed in several ways, but ultimately in Mary the Mother of God, and Motherhood Love.

SIX OF THE TWELVE MONTHS. September, January, Late February, Late March, Early April, and Mid-May. The Story of a dear Older Couple, who were captivated by, and chose a Cape Cod home. An Affirmation: There is no Sadness, for griefs are Jewelled Memories of Happiness, each like a beautiful melody, replayed long after, on muted strings.

Attractive "Gift-Type" Brochure

\$2.50 *per copy*

AVAILABLE WITH A BRIGHT MAILING JACKET

ADDRESS ORDERS TO

CO-OP BOOK STORE

OBERLIN, OHIO

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

About the Author . . .

DON MORRISON, born 1882, Skowhegan, Maine. 1897, entered the Old Academy of Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with the last official class in 1899.

1900-1902, two years in THE ROYCROFT SHOPS with Elbert Hubbard in East Aurora, N.Y., his official title, "The Roycroft Violinist." A.B., Tufts College, 1905, Mus.B., 1910, Mus.M., 1924, Oberlin College. Professor Emeritus Oberlin College, 1948.

1906-1914, playing, studying in Oberlin, New York, London, as a violinist. In 1913, in London, became interested in Music Education, attending an exhibition of English Public School instrumental-class pupils mass-playing in the Crystal Palace.

1916-1948, teaching in the Oberlin Conservatory, active member of the Ohio and National Music Education Associations, originator of the Radio Young Artist Series out of WHK Cleveland, over the Mutual chain.

Creative compositions, written progressively, for Violin and Strings: Sad-Eyed Shoe, The Snorkbeagle, Bad Baker from Jamaica; Rumpy Dudgett, The Three Friends, Sunday Morning; The Drum, Faery Trumpets, Little Susan, Ballade, Carnival, Lyric Concerto. Methods for Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Bass: Vested String Choir, Morrison Class System, Ditson Demonstrated Pieces, Morrison Orchestral Unisons.

Avocational Writings: *The Garden of Youth*, 1911, published by an early Lafayette Press; *Houses of Clay*, 1916, published by the Roycrofters; *Poem Panels*, copyrighted 1959; *Reassurance and Other Poems*, 1960, Co-op Book Store, Oberlin, Ohio, sole distributor.

May 19, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
Franklin
Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Congratulations on the publication of your book REASSURANCE AND OTHER POEMS. We hope that we shall have the opportunity of seeing a copy soon. Is it to be available in book stores? We should appreciate knowing the price, and the publisher, for we shall want to purchase the book for the library, and note its publication in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? This is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or written about Maine, numbering nearly three thousand volumes at present, and still growing, of course. Most of the books are inscribed presentation copies, the originality, humor, artistry, and sincerity of the inscriptions lending a special distinction to this outstanding and valuable collection. We also gather all possible information about our authors, biographical and critical; and we are elated when we can welcome a new name to the roster of Maine writers.

We hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of REASSURANCE AND OTHER POEMS to the Maine Author Collection. Meanwhile you have out good wishes for the success of your new book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

IMPROMPTU
Ode to a Slogan
(On your Envelope)

"EGGS
ADD APPEAL
TO ANY MEAL"

(Incongruous, I recalled
Le Gallienne's Immortal
"WAR, I do ABHOR!")

But BACK to the EGGS!
I ordered a Dozen
From my Groc'ry Men

And They (THE EGGS),
Before Lunch,
Pleased as could BE!

(And even AFTER)

ELEVEN, in the G.E.
And the EGG
In ME!

Don Morrison

To Mrs. F.W. Jacobs

May 24, 1961

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Maine State Library, Augusta

Dear Mrs. Jacob: Please understand, I think the attitude towards Poetry in **Maine** is unique. The seeds were planted far back in the early Academies, particularly, The Hallowell Academy. You asked me in your gracious letter to add something personal, and I was thinking of something far more in keeping: Its just that the Slogan on your envelope caught my eye, and EGGS seem so human (Humpty-Dumpty, and the like)- They just seem to TICKLE my FUNNY BONE, and set me OFF! I hope you understand.

June 2, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
26365 Normandy Road
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

How delightful to have your generous gift of a copy of REASSURANCE for the Maine Author Collection, and to have the IMPROMPTU, which is delightful and unique. Has any other mail slogan been so distinguished, we wonder?

Thank you so much for your friendly response and interest. We are placing REASSURANCE in the collection with great pleasure, and a sense of real discovery.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

DON'T FORGET THE EGGS
(Ode to a Maine Slogan)

"EGGS
ADD APPEAL
TO ANY MEAL!"

(INCONGRUOUS! I recalled
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"WAR, I do ABHOR!"

But BACK to the EGGS!
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And They (THE EGGS),
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(And even AFTER)

ELEVEN, in the G.E.
And the EGG
In ME!

May 24, 1961
"Poem-Panel" 25

Don Morrison

The 24 Members of the "Panel"
were so glad that there now
would be the LAY OF THE EGG
in their growing Membership.

Decoration Day, 1961

Nieda McLeod Jacob,
In Charge,
Maine Author Collection. . .

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Have succeeded in making the enclosed EGG more practical, by relating him directly to Maine, and the closer it comes to Maine, or particularly the Kennebec Valley and River, the better I like it.

Also, by capitalizing the words that should be accented in reading, the chances of its being understood in a quick reading of a Newspaper column, would be much improved. An EGG either arrives in one reading, or, it just doesn't get there.

Also you will doubtless be pleased (because he arrived on your Envelope) that he has been un-nan-i-mouse-ly elected by the "Panel" Club as a very welcome member. Quite a few of the Panel Club take themselves ~~shel~~we say quite seriously, and several members have been trying to remedy this.

But from the moment he arrived, the EGG and I, have been just like two thumbs on the same hand.

If you would think it worthwhile, you might show this to Mrs. Catherine Cates, a member of the Library Staff, who earlier tried to get a review of my book in the Kennebec (since a long time ago I knew Ed Hinckly (of the Good-Will-Farm-Hinckleys)) who was at that time writing for the Journal ~~o~~-certainly over my depth in parenthesis. And I should add that she found they were at that time out of Poet-Space.

However there are a lot of "Butter-and-Egg," for you will remember that Pucini found room for them in La Boheme- so if she would be interested to get a note about my Book by medium of the EGG in either the Journal, or preferably in the Waterville Sentinel since my Mother as a girl Estella Sawyer, lived in Waterville. This would be very much appreciated be me.

Coming back to these famous Old Academies and Institutes which have proved over the years to have had such an influence on present day Maine and its cultural interests, have in my possession an original copy of the ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE WATERVILLE CLASSICAL INSTITUTE dated Monday, July 11, 1870, in which Estella Sawyer read her Essay on "Music," under which on the program was pencilled "I won five dollars." And in the same envelope is a yellowed pen written letter dated 1861 from Virginia, from Captain Thomas Sawyer, starting "To My Dear Little Girl Estella- and finishing- "We are rather expecting within a few days to be fighting a battle near Bull Run. . ."

Sincerely,

Don Morrison

June 6, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
23635 Normandy Road
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Thank you for the most interesting information about Estalla Sawyer, and for the EGG ode.

We brought the matter to Mrs. Cates' attention, and if we are fortunate enough to see the ode in the Kennebec Journal or the Waterville Sentinel, we shall certainly let you know.

Thank you for your interest, and for the pleasure which your letter brought us.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mr. Don Morrison Thursday, June 8, 1961

Box 103, Franklin, Michigan

Hilda McLeod Jacob,
The Maine State Library,
In Charge,
The Maine Author Collection. . .

*really selfish
to have 2
backs*

Dear Mrs. Jacob: Your friendly letter gave such real pleasure, and this whole experience of my orienting myself back back to the Maine that I have come to know by early experiences with the River Steamers, (Nahanada, Islander ((with the deep whistle)), and the many other smaller ones), and in my later reading of the books of Emma Huntington Nason, Robert Tristram Coffin, Louise Coburn, and Wight's "Doorways of Old Hallowell" opening my eyes to the historic and cultural influences of the State on the Nation.

Have consulted with my Franklin Press Print Man, and have decided that the only practical way of getting a newspaper to bother with such a person as the EGG, is to have Newspaper Stereotype Mats made of the ODE OF THE EGG, and a later cut of myself away from the Romantic Era of the early 1900's, after going into Music Education with the problem of making your Young Music Supervisors realistic enough to get along with a principal (the earlier ones) who would think "I wish the Hell He or She (the new Supervisor of M.) would get out of my hair, to say nothing of Parent Teachers Associations, Service Clubs, and the Committees who hire and fire). As well as becoming ~~me~~ so myself, at least after a fashion.

So in about two weeks will send some along, where no problem of either the cut or type setting is necessary. Just the "space" and the inclination.

Have never placed copies of my 1911 "Garden of Youth", or the "Houses of Clay" by the Roycrofters in 1916, in any Library, as some things were in them which were personal- But I would like to send on to you two of the remaining copies, and if after reading you would so advise, I would love to place them in the Maine Author' Collection Library along with Reassurance. (Over)

So be looking for them in a day or so, and remember the first one was "Very Young" and to me full of wonderful experiences, living over in Weehawken with a very wonderful Sculptor Edwin Ellwell, 244 steps up from the Weehawken N.Y. Ferry, high above the spot where Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton fought their famous duel, and only a short drive to the West to the Old Joe Jefferson Homestead: Jefferson was alive, in his eighties, and we used to fish Trout in the Spring-fed Pond on the premises, where earlier Ellwell, Cleveland and Jefferson used to go. Over in New York I was studying, and far more interesting Promoting Background Music, playing myself, and with my Sister Margerie's Young Singers she was coaching with the Metropolitan: all in the original Balasco Theatre, with the famous Cat that came out casually on any first performance, and either Foretold,*or by his absence, foreordained a failure.

Also this was the period when I knew Flagg, and the then unknown young John Barrymore, who was in disgrace with his sister Ethel by having thrown one of her first night performances by having been given a chance to be in the Company with his first small part, BUT, put on trial by his sister by being put in the Prompter's Box - where he thought it was a huge joke to mix them up COMPLETELY- for which he was promptly fired within ten minutes, cut off from the family "Payroll"- the only thing that saved him was that his friend Montgomery Flagg took them both on a European trip, paying all expenses, and it was at a musical given for them on their return by Flagg's Aunt with myself and Margery furnishing that Flagg drew my picture(as I played), tore the sheet off a small pad and gave it to me. He was famous enough by that time so I certainly knew I had a real gift.

*Music

*success

With love will

Don Morrison

June 19, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
Box 103
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

THE GARDEN OF YOUTH and HOUSES OF CLAY arrived safely, and we are indeed delighted to place them in the Maine Author Collection.

We realized, when we learned that we were privileged to claim you as a Maine author, that your REASSURANCE would not represent all your writing, but we hardly dared anticipate that the earlier books would be available.

You are generous to share them with us, and we appreciate being able to place them beside the copy of REASSURANCE. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

The Perfect Easter Gift-Book

REASSURANCE

and other Poems . . . by Don Morrison

A Book Review by Florence Burrill Jacobs, the well known New England Poetess, whose Books have long time been published by Harper's and by the Gorham Press of Boston.

“ . . . We are so delighted with REASSURANCE! The Book itself is perfect — format — paper, type. Its illustrations, the quizzical Cow upon your Dresser, the Elbert Hubbard Sketch, both fine. The Flagg drawing completely expressive. The sensitive portrait-photographs beautiful beyond words.

“The poems themselves . . . I have loved REASSURANCE since you sent it to me in the Poem Panels, and also THE HOME MAKERS. VIRTUE'S FLOWER is a complete picture. DEDICATION and AFFIRMATION come from the heart's depth. THE BAD BAKER, JEALOUSY, all in this group, have a delicious humor! In fact I can't decide on a favorite, unless it is that first REASSURANCE.”

Sole Distributor: *CO-OP BOOK STORE*, Oberlin, Ohio

The Perfect Easter Gift-Book

REASSURANCE

and other Poems . . . by Don Morrison

Above all, does a Book have Variety of Feeling, does it have a Dominant character, or Recurring Motive for its writing that evokes a reply from the Layman Reader? In this Book, the Theme would be Faith, and The Easter Message.

The Layman's Letter

St. Patrick's Day

Your card and letter, Mr. Morrison, illuminated the entire month of March for me and my family. How thoughtful of you to do so! Especially since the hours we had together were so few.

Yes, I lived on a farm until the age of 18. And I hid now in my mind's ear the thud of apples of the "first hard frost." I hadn't thought of our family orchard for years. Your letter plunged my thoughts deep into memories covered by the dust of many many decades.

Wishing you health and calm,

John Hyshka

(Copy)

THE HOUSE OF HUBBARD
(Elbert Hubbard II)
East Aurora, New York

March 7, 1961

Dear Don:

I like your REASSURANCE and other Poems immensely. It's beautifully done, just about like the Roycrofters might have printed it. It's hard to say which of your poems I like best. They all display such very fine sensitive feeling and understanding.

You couldn't have done this job back in your Roycroft days. One has to live a good many years to reach the point you have. Quite naturally I liked your "Hubbard Dines Out." Your "February" strikes me right at the moment because you give such a lovely description of just what's happening around here right now.

Whence cometh the inspiration you get to do these beautiful things? I don't believe you can tell. Carrie Jacobs Bond built a beautiful home on top of a mountain south of San Diego where she could see all around the horizon, and in particular the blue Pacific. This was long after she had done her masterpiece, A Perfect Day. She expected in this lovely home and outlook she would be nearer Heaven, and thus get much inspiration. She never wrote a song in that place.

Her inspiration came to her in the oddest places but never where she expected them. A Perfect Day came to her in a taxi cab while riding home one night. She told me all this when I visited her once down there. I guess you just have to be in tune with the verities and have a soul that is receptive.

Our love to you,
As ever yours,

Elbert Hubbard II

*Comments by
Elbert Hubbard II
re:
"Reassurance and
Other Poems"*

DON MORRISON
Emeritus, Oberlin College

Hilda McLeod Jacob,
Maine Author Collection,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob: Always envy your signature writing- It has
the sure touch of the engraver, or more truly, of the "Etcher!"

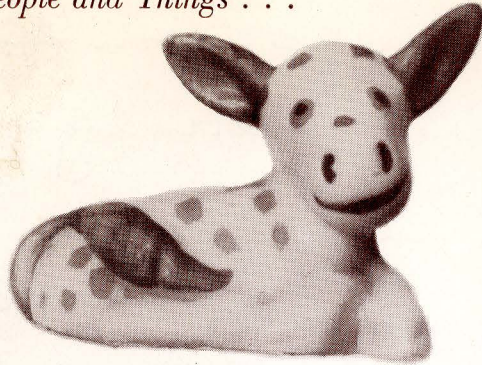
Appreciate your letter, and will follow it ~~up~~ Out, and my
thanks to you again. Am very pleased that the Fellowship (Poetry) of
Maine has made me a member. Am so improved in my recovery of last
year, wish very much to return to Maine next Summer.

Have enclosed a Friend of mine- Am sure you will find her
helpful, particularly in the gray mornings of the "Downs!"

It is nice to come to know the Friendly People-

Don Morrison

Of People and Things . . .



• | *The Cow Upon My Dresser* | •

Seraphic Ceramic

*A White Cow with Blue Ears,
Same color Tail, A Placid Cow
Whose Calm will Never Fail*

*Since When upon My Sight
She did Unveil, Her influence
Benign does silently Prevail*

*Gazing Outward, far beyond
This World Travail, Her Home
The Stars, above all Earthly Ail!*

DON MORRISON

Mr. Morrison has
spoken so highly of
you and F. W. -

Just know we will
get along!

November 9, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
Box 103
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Your ceramic friend should have been acknowledged before now. She is a serene creature, is she not? We hope her influence will be increasingly widely felt in today's world.

Thank you for the kind thought.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

DON MORRISON
Emeritus, Oberlin College

Hilda McLeod Jacob,
In Charge,
Maine Author Collection

Dear Mrs. McLeod:

Hope the Maine Summer is as beautiful and varied
as ever, and that you are having pleasure from it.

Selected the Aroostook Farm and Home Magazine
of Caribou, from the list in your considerate letter of
July 12.

Yesterday there was a return of the Egg, with
the post Master's cross-out of ~~Caribou~~ "unknown."

Would the Library have in its files a copy of
the National Grange Magazine, or it's address: Might try
that Magazine with a Matt of Reassurance, since you sug-
gested that it carried Maine subscriptions probably in
limited numbers.

Imagine you are, or have been vacationing.

Best wishes,

Don Morrison

September 12, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
Box 103
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Your request for information should have had
a prompt answer.

The National Grange Monthly gives as its address
National Grange Headquarters, 1616 H Street, N.W.,
Washington 6, D. C.; but we think a contribution
should be sent to

Managing Editor
National Grange Monthly
Myrick Building
Springfield 3
Massachusetts

Good luck!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mr. Don Morrison

Saturday, July 8, '61

Box 103, Franklin, Michigan

(This is an identical letter, the other being sent Mrs. Catherine Cates, since one or the other of you may be on vacation at this Season.)

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob,
In Charge of The Maine Author Collection,
The Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine. . .

Dear Mrs. Jacob: The Newspaper Cut of the EGG may have arrived before this letter. Since it requires no type-setting, and is the result of what appealed to me in a local slogan, it may help in getting Reassurance known to Maine Readers.

As it has turned out in the cut, think enough of it to make it one of a continuing group of "Poem - Panels" especially as it has what Cerf thinks we need in the manner of "Literary Pepper and Salt" on the Salad.

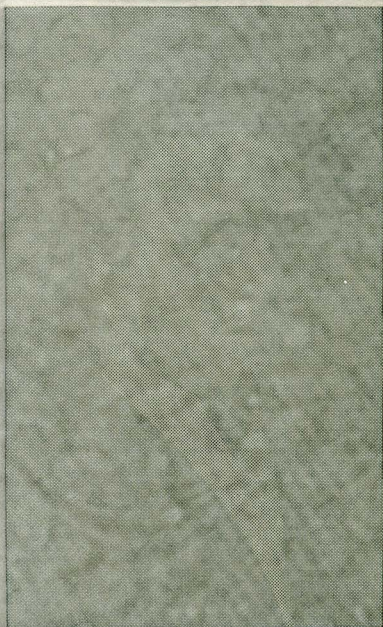
Also it would help me if someone in the Library Department of Periodicals could give me the names of the Maine Farm Magazines- And does the Library have a list of the Book Stores in the State.

Hope I'm not wearing out my welcome with busy People in a busy World- Just remember that "I'm a Mainite" and far, far from Home.

My regards to you, and Good Will, .

Don Morrison

DON'T FORGET THE EGGS
(Ode to a Maine Slogan)



OBERLIN - 1916

**"EGGS ADD APPEAL
TO ANY MEAL!"**

*(INCONGRUOUS! I recalled
Le Gallienne's Immortal
"WAR, I do ABHOR!"²²)*

*But BACK to the EGGS!
I ordered a DOZEN
From my Groc'ry Men*

*And They (THE EGGS),
BEFORE Lunch,
PLEASED as could BE!*

(And even AFTER)

*ELEVEN, in the G. E.
And the EGG
In ME!*

DON'T FORGET THE EGGS

(Ode to a Maine Slogan)



OBERLIN - 1916

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In ME!*

July 12, 1961

Mr. Don Morrison
Box 103
Franklin, Michigan

Dear Mr. Morrison:

The newspaper cut of the EGG has arrived, and we acknowledge it, and hope that it can be used before long.

Your search for Maine farm magazines is, we fear, destined for disappointment. Maine Farm Research is published by the Extension Service of the University of Maine in Orono, but is probably not precisely what you have in mind. The National Grange magazine serves the Maine Granges, so it is not especially Maine in falvor. The Aroostook Farm and Home Magazine is published in Caribou, and would more closely approximate your idea, we think.

Down East is a most attractive magazine published in Camden, but it is not a farm magazine; nor are the Maine Coast Fisherman and Outdoor Maine; so we are unsure what to recommend to you.

We do not have a list of book stores, but the larger cities all have them, and of course the college communities do. Betts' Book Store in Bangor, Campbell's Book Store or Loring, Short and Harmon in Portland, and the Corner Music and Book Store in Augusta are all excellent book stores.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection