

## Maine State Library Maine State Documents

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Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

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October 2015

# Katharine E. O'Brien Correspondence

Katharine E. O'Brien 1901-

Hilda McLeod Jacob

*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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O'BRIEN, KATHARINE  
b. Amesbury, Mass

September 25, 1969

Miss Katharine O'Brien  
130 Hartley Street  
Portland, Maine 04103

Dear Miss O'Brien:

No, we do not have your book EXCAVATION AND OTHER  
VERSE in the Maine Author Collection. May we be  
so fortunate as to anticipate a copy?

As you probably know, the exhibit contains  
inscribed presentation copies, and we also make  
an effort to collect biographical information  
about our Maine writers. Would you be willing to  
let us have a few paragraphs of this nature?

You are indeed kind to think of the collection  
and we shall hope to have a copy of your book to add  
to the other Maine writings.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection



SEP 9

130 Hartley Street  
Portland, Maine 04103  
September 8, 1969

Librarian  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Madam:

I am writing to inquire if there is  
a copy of my book "Excavation and other verse", Anthoensen Press,  
1967, in the Maine Writers' Collection at the Maine State Library.

Sincerely yours,

*Katharine O'Brien*

Katharine O'Brien

(Miss)



October 8, 1969

Dr. Katharine E. O'Brien  
130 Hartley Street  
Portland, Maine 04103

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

Thank you so very much for both books. Such varied intellectual gifts! Are we reminded of Marsden Hartley because of your address or because of his dual talents?

At any rate, we are grateful for your calling our attention to these publications, for your gracious response, and for the presence of a mind which encompasses such rollicking verses and such abstruse mathematical problems. (I do hope you sent a copy of Reflections on a lower level to the Bowery!)

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

130 Hartley Street  
Portland, Maine 04103

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am sending under separate cover  
a copy of "Excavation and other verse" and a copy of "Sequences", both  
for the Maine Author Collection. Biographical data is enclosed  
herewith, as you suggest.

With good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*Katharine E. O'Brien*  
Katharine E. O'Brien

P.S. I do not use the middle initial "E" in poetry publications.

*October 3, 1969*

Katharine E. O'Brien

Born Amesbury, Mass., daughter of Martin W. and Catherine Higgins O'Brien.

Deering High School, Portland, Maine, class valedictorian.

A.B., Bates college, with Double Honors.

A.M., Cornell University, in mathematics.

Ph.D., Brown University, in mathematics.

Sc.D. in Ed., Honorary, University of Maine, 1960.

L.H.D., Bowdoin College, 1965.

*Honorary.*

Taught at College of New Rochelle, instructor, associate professor, professor and chairman of mathematics department, eleven years.

Is head of mathematics department, Deering High School (30th year) and lecturer in mathematics, University of Maine, Portland (9th year).

For several recent summer sessions (1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1967) has been lecturer in mathematics at Brown University.

Member of:

Phi Beta Kappa (Bates)

Sigma Xi (Cornell)

New York Academy of Sciences

Mathematical Association of America

Poetry Society of America

International Platform Association

Bates Key

Society of Bowdoin Women.

Has served as:

Speaker at meetings of The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England.

Book reviewer for The American Mathematical Monthly.

Referee and book reviewer for The Mathematics Teacher.

Maine representative to The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Member of the board of governors of Mu Alpha Theta, national mathematics club.

Listed in:

American Men of Science

Dictionary of International Biography

International Who's Who in Poetry.

Publications:

Papers in Bulletin of The American Mathematical Society and other journals.

Poems and light verse in Saturday Review, Christian Science Monitor, Ladies' Home Journal, New York Herald Tribune, and numerous other periodicals, and in anthologies.

Music: "When I Set Out for Lyonesse", choral setting of a Thomas Hardy poem, Hall & McCreary Co., 1947.

"The Logarithmic Function", Service Bulletin #3, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1964.

"Sequences", booklet in the Houghton Mifflin Mathematics Enrichment Series, 1966.

A book of poems: "Excavation and other verse", Anthoensen Press, 1967.

The class of 1964, Deering High School, established the "Dr. Katharine E. O'Brien Mathematics Award", to be awarded annually to a senior in recognition of excellence in mathematics.