

October 2015

Clifford B. Orr Correspondence

Clifford B. Orr 1899-

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938

Maine State Library

Marion Cobb Fuller

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Recommended Citation

Orr, Clifford B. 1899-; Dunnack, Henry Ernest 1867-1938; Fuller, Marion Cobb; and Maine State Library, "Clifford B. Orr Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 413.

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ORR, Clifford.

Born at Portland, November 11, 1899.

FIFTY TWO WEST FIFTY SECOND STREET

New York
March 24, 1930

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack
Maine State Library
Augusta
Maine

Dear Mr. Dunnack,

I shall be pleased to send you a copy of "The Dartmouth Murders" within the next few days. May I present it to the Library without bill? It will be impossible, however, for me to send any clippings, and I am sure that the files will not care for a picture of an apartment house as proof of my birthplace, so that will be omitted also. But as for autobiographical material:

I was born at 108 Spruce Street, Portland, Maine, on November 11, 1899 (therefore forecasting the armistice). My father is George Clifford Orr who himself was a writer, chiefly for magazines, although he has done little in the literary line in the past twenty years. My grandfather was Captain Edgar A. Orr, sea-captain of the old type, most of whose ships were built at Bath. (I am seasick at the sight of a cance).

Educated in the Portland schools and at the Portland High School where I was active in literary and dramatic work and was editor of the school "Racquet." I was a member of the class of 1922 at Dartmouth College and went my full four years although I do not hold a Dartmouth degree. There I was head of drmaties, editor of the literary monthly "The Bema," and author of several plays and musical comedies.

Directly on leaving college I went to the Boston Evening Transcript as special feature writer, becoming there in the next three years, assistant to the literary editor, columnist, and

FIFTY TWO WEST FIFTY SECOND STREET

editorial writer. I left in September, 1925, and became publicity manager of Robert M. McBride and Company, Publishers, of New York. I was rotten at the job and left after six months to start free-lance writing, contributing to various magazines and newspapers. A year later, I joined the staff of the Doubleday, Doran Book Shops in New York, and for some months was manager of their bookshop in Wall Street.

Since November, 1928, I have held no regular job and have been entirely a free-lance.

"The Dartmouth Murders" is my first novel. It was written, for the most part, at Ogunquit Beach, Moody, Maine, during the summer of 1928, was serialized in College Humor, and was published in October, 1929.

Although I have not been a permanent resident of Maine for many years, my parents and sister still live in Portland at 108 Emery Street.

Cordially yours,

Clifford Orr

COPY

May 14 1930

Mr. Clifford Orr,
52 West Fifty Second Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Orr;-

I have been waiting with a fair degree of patience for the copy of the Dartmouth Murders which you promised for the Maine Author Collection, and today I discovered that it had, by mistake, been sent to another part of the library. Wherefore I am full of apologies on behalf of the Maine State Library. You must think us very negligent and unappreciative.

Thank you very much for sending us the book. Everyone who has read it has enjoyed it and the general opinion seems to be that it is one of the most interesting mystery stories of the year.

Thank you also for your interesting letter, an absolutely perfect example of the sort of letter we want our Maine authors to write. After you have taken the trouble to write at such length it seems very Oliver Twistish to ask for your autograph on the book but that is what we want and so we are sending the book back to you for your autograph, with the hope that you don't feel as I do about wrapping packages!

I enclose a label and postage for the book's return.

Thank you very much for your gift to the Maine Author Collection and for the interest that you have shown in it.

C O P Y

July 8, 1930

Mr. Clifford B. Orr,
52 West 52nd Street
New York City.

Dear Mr. Orr;-

We have again received from you "The Dartmouth Murders."
Thank you for taking the trouble to autograph it for us. We are
glad that you thought to mention in your inscription that your
book was written in Maine.

We anticipate having other books by you to add to our Maine
Author Collection.

Very truly yours,
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By MCF