

October 2015

Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer Correspondence

Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer 1886-1948

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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PULSIFER, Susan N. (Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer)

February 22, 1945

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
Bethel Point Road, Harpswell
Brunswick, Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

Recent mention of your book SONGS OF LIBERATION brings again to our mind the fact that it has been a number of years since we have had the pleasure of adding to the Maine Author Collection a volume of poetry with the name "Pulsifer" on the title page. Your husband very generously inscribed and presented his work to this exhibit, and we have missed new volumes from his gifted pen.

Now it is with eagerness that we anticipate seeing SONGS OF LIBERATION, and we wonder whether you might not be interested in the Maine Author Collection, which, as you probably know, includes all the books of all Maine authors, and makes an effort to embrace as well those written by people closely connected with the state.

SONGS OF LIBERATION would be a happy addition to the collection. You have our good wishes for its warm welcome by the reading public, and our cordial invitation to call at the State Library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

hmj

Secretary

March 16, 1945

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
Bethel Point Road, Harpswell
Brunswick, Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

The very kindly inscribed copy of **THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE** has reached us this morning. At once, we dipped into its pages with keen interest.

It is highly satisfying to find such a maturely expressed affection and appreciation of France and her people. The French version, too, seems to have caught the spirit of your own words, and presents your thoughts and emotions with a sincerity which might well have been sacrificed, had a strict translation been followed.

We hope that many people devoted to that spirit of which you write will see and read these tributes. You are to be congratulated upon such fine work.

Thank you very much indeed for the generously presented copy for the Maine Author Collection. We find we do not have biographical material about you in our files; and, because we like to have all available information on Maine's writers, perhaps you would be willing, at your convenience, to send us a few paragraphs of this nature. Again, our thanks for your gift, and our good wishes for future work.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

November 18, 1954

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
Little Ponds
East Harpswell, Maine

Dear Mr. Pulsifer:

The lovely book COLLECTED POEMS OF HAROLD TROWBRIDGE PULSIFER was added to our order list as soon as we learned of it; and was noted in the Maine in Print list for the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, for of course we always regarded your husband as a Maine Poet.

It is for this reason that we write to you now. Do you remember the Maine Author Collection? It is a permanent exhibit of Maine authors' writings, and one of the most distinguished sections of it is that which holds Mr. Pulsifer's work. He was always very kind and interested, and inscribed a copy of each new book for presentation to the collection.

Is it too much to hope that we may be privileged to include this collection recently published? Somehow, it seems to belong there, beside his other books, and it would certainly give us happiness to know that his writing was really completely represented in the Maine exhibit.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

STANDARD B & P "NOISEAR" ®

DARD B & P "NOISEAR" ®

December 2, 1954

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
Little Ponds
East Harpswell, Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

It is indeed gracious of you to present a copy of Mr. Pulsifer's COLLECTED POEMS to the Maine Author Collection.

We add it to his other books with warm appreciation of its worth and of your kindness.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

July 25, 1960

Mrs. Susan Nichols Pulsifer
East Harpswell
Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

Your new book, MINUTE MAGIC, sounds charming, and we anticipate seeing a copy soon.

Do you remember the Maine Author Collection? We should very much enjoy the privilege of having an inscribed copy of MINUTE MAGIC on these Maine shelves, and we hope that the idea appeals to you. Because of your previous generous interest, and the fact that Mr. Pulsifer's books are represented in the collection, we feel that the new book would be a most suitable addition.

Our very good wishes to you for its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

"Little Ponds"
Brunswick-

R.D. 2

August 6th

Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob —

Thank you for
your kind letter of
July 25th and I
am delighted to
send you an in-
scribed copy of my
new book Albino

2 -
Waverly for the
wandering wanderer
I love about you
my other books;
Spirit of France
Life of Jesus in
House in Worcester

Would you kindly let
me hear?

I hope you may be
interested in my forth-
coming book, which
has as its background
my years of teaching
at Oak Grove Seminary

THE ANNOR COLLECTION

Magie for the
Waine Authors
Collection -

I am
wandering ~~where~~
I ~~love~~ sent you
my ~~other~~ books;

Spirit of France
Life of Jesus in
Woodcut -
House in Time -

31303372

3
Wanted you kindly let
me hear?

I hope you may be
interested in my forth-
coming book, which
has as its background
my years of teaching
at Oak Grove Seminary

THE VANDERBILT COLLECTION

Would you kindly let
me hear?

I hope you may be
interested in my forth-
coming book, which
has as its background
my years of teaching
at Oak Grove Seminary

at Vassalbos / Miami

I am enclosing a
little note by
this book -

Sincerely yours
Susan N. Pulanfa

August 25, 1960

Mrs. Susan N. Pulsifer
"Little Ponds"
Brunswick R D 2, Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

Our seeming delay in answering your generous letter is not really bad manners -- we thought we would acknowledge the arrival of MINUTE MAGIC when we answered. It has not yet arrived, however, and it occurs to us that probably you are waiting to hear from us, and to include those books which we do not have in the Maine Author Collection in one shipment.

We do have SPIRIT OF FRANCE, but we do not have the others, and we should be proud to place them in the Maine collection.

Thank you for letting us know about CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS. We are making a note of it. This will certainly be a most interesting book, not only for its geographical association, but also for its stimulating contents.

We look forward to having your books in the Maine exhibit, and we will write again when they are received.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Sincerely,
Ernest H. Pulver
Little Rock
Arkansas
R. D. 2

Dear Miss Jacobs, —

I am indeed sorry
to have been so forgetful
as not to have sent my
book Minute Magic along
with my last letter. It
is now waiting for you today
at the same mailing as
this note.

My juveniles book
A HOUSE IN TIME
is also asking the Citadel
Press to send immediately —

Parents, Teachers, Librarians
A New Classic of Children's verse . . .

MINUTE MAGIC:

Children are Poets

BY SUSAN NICHOLS PULSIFER

WITH FOREWORD BY DAVID McCORD

Ten full-page illustrations, two in color

Once in a blue moon there appears a candidate for admission to the select group of inspired verse for children. Such a volume is MINUTE MAGIC, the poems in which Mrs. Pulsifer has based on thoughts and actual sayings of children — her own children, children whom she has taught, and children who have lived in her home for extended periods. She has supplied the rhyme and the meter, the brilliant turns of phrase, but the basic thought and often the very rhythm has come directly from the child himself. The poems are indeed verse “ghost-written” for the very young.

Beside the poems (Part II), the vivid full-page illustrations and the thoughtful Foreword by David McCord, there is an essay (Part I — Children are Poets) containing Mrs. Pulsifer's theories and a most valuable list of “Suggested Readings,” both for school and home use. And, finally, there are (Part III) reproductions of poems written by school children themselves in a poetry contest conducted in Harswell, Maine.

MINUTE MAGIC, then, will take its place in that select group and give enjoyment for many years to come to the very young, to “children of all ages,” the audience for whom poetry really exists.

The children will clamor for repeated readings, so add this volume to your bookshelves. Merely complete the form below and mail it to us. The price is \$3.75.

Chapman & Grimes, Inc.
176 Newbury Street
Boston 16, Mass.

Please send copies of MINUTE MAGIC by Susan Nichols Pulsifer at \$3.75 per copy.

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE

Publisher pays postage when check accompanies order.

USUAL DISCOUNTS FOR BOOKSTORES AND LIBRARIES

Announcing
The Planned Publication of
CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS

BY SUSAN NICHOLS PULSIFER

with Introduction by Professor John Holmes of Tufts University



Mrs. Pulsifer discussing her technique with students.

. . . for the first time, as far as I know, a teacher has been able to bring the subterranean stream of letter-writing up into light, and successfully channel it . . . Something new has been done with the form, and something rich and powerful released.

— *from the Introduction.*

CHAPMAN & GRIMES, Inc.

Publishers

176 Newbury Street, Boston 16, Mass.

What John Holmes has to say in his Introduction:

The teacher has found specific ways of replacing privacy, the person-to-person life of the letter, by inventing enough varieties of recipient to put the letter-writer at unselfconscious ease. This invention is the extraordinary discovery, the barrier breaking fact, for which this book is notable and a milestone in the teaching of writing.

This use of the letter as a literary form, and a form of composition, is not, however, in any way dependent on the discoverer's genius, or presence; it is a transferable technique. It can surely be used by any teacher of writing, and any student can produce letters in this teaching plan.

Mrs. Pulsifer has devised specific assignments, bridging the gap left by the removal of an actual recipient of an actual letter. Write, she says, about letter-writing, but thinking of the hearer. Write a persuasive letter. Now the teacher-figure is all but done away with, and an imagined reader has become possible, and in fact real.

As a teaching-device, using the great and basic materials of the letter, freed and made available at last to the average and the superior student-writer, this application by Mrs. Pulsifer of a working-plan is nothing less than history-making. It has the simplicity of the inevitable, and the ease of the already-known, but the fact is that it has never been done before. The unlocking of a great hidden store of human experience has been achieved, and its fullest expression demonstrated.

Excerpts from text of CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS

As we have said, the letter is a prime necessity of living. If then we all **MUST** be letter-writers, why not "make a virtue of necessity" at least, and write as good, entertaining, and witty letters as are possible to each one of us?

And now, as you embark on this Letter-writing Course, what I am certain you wish me to tell you is how to secure for yourselves the most sympathetic, inspirational and interesting correspondents possible. And once having secured them, how to retain them? And this I aim to show you in these dozen or so suggestions and assignments:

YOURSELF YOUR CORRESPONDENT:

. . . just so surely as your letter may be concerned primarily with yourself and your own urges, anger, humor, grief, dreams, or inward contemplations, ask yourself frankly if this is not actually a letter written to yourself?

As a student has written for me: "Sometimes the letter itself can be your friend. For example, when you are having some troubles, you will feel better when you write your troubles down on your letter-paper . . ." Try out this helpful, healthful, entertaining and revealing correspondence.

TIME YOUR CORRESPONDENT:

. . . insofar as your letters are sometimes a collection of hopes, fears, morbid observations of the present, or exaggerated worries for the future, these kinds

of letters to oneself may be written to TIME. And they will be answered by Time, never fear. And this Time is perhaps the most interesting correspondent of all. . . . The way to post letters to Time is to put them safely and secretly away in your desk or drawer, and don't forget to exhume them in a week, a month, a year or even five years. The longer you leave them hidden away, in fact, the more full, rich and various will be Time's illuminating reply.

YOUR DIARY YOUR CORRESPONDENT:

Another ever-ready and ever-sympathetic and understanding correspondent is your own Diary. The more often and the more regularly you confide to the pages in your Diary, the more full and surprising will be its rewards to you. It will reply with an increasing keenness and minuteness of your own observation as recorded in its hitherto blank pages as the year advances. Yes, the more and more frequently you write, the more abundantly, richly and variously will your own Day-book give a reflection of deeper thoughts, more colorful and minute observation, keener feelings inscribed on each succeeding day and page.

First Course Assignment: Write a letter explaining or exposing your own viewpoint regarding the personal letter:

Let us have your very individual thought and opinion concerning this art and this practice of the personal letter. What do you think? Write a letter about it.

Address your letter to someone to whom you feel like writing, someone with whom you feel yourself already in some sort of communication. Place this name, and not mine or any other teacher's, at the head of your paper. Or if, by chance, you don't care to write this name, think it — the result will be the same. For that letter will be best expressed where a definite reader, one to whom you wish to write, is in your mind.

Second Course Assignment: Write letters telling of your own actual experience, giving in each instance your own reaction to sensation. These will be "Letters of Description":

. . . isn't it the most natural thing in the world that whenever you go away from home, take a trip, go to the theater, that you write someone an account of your new surroundings and impressions?

Description is a vague term, and holds in itself no clue or key to the kind of writing. *De scribere*, the Latin for "to write about, or concerning" is vague, general and not illuminating. So instead of asking you to "describe" I would say, "give your own reaction to whatever way your experience has impressed any one of your five senses; for actually what we call good "description" is the most truthful and telling reaction to sensation. So when you "describe" do not be afraid of recording your sensations of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling or tasting. For of such stuff is living description made. We all of us possess these same five senses, and as you describe in their terms, your readers will automatically be awakened to their own sensations by your words.

About the Author and her book:

This course started as an experiment in the interest of creative writing at Oak Grove School in Maine fifteen years ago and proved so successful before the end of the year that a room, the Susan Nichols Pulsifer Letter Room has been set aside in the school to be used and dedicated to the writing of letters. Here is to be found a small library and collection of the most important letter collections in history and bound volumes of the best letters of each year's Letter-Writing Course selected by Mrs. Pulsifer.

Deriving its first roots from Mrs. Pulsifer's early teaching experience at Bryn Mawr and her studies under the late authority on correspondence, Charles Sears Baldwin of Columbia University, the course developed as presented in this book. It was so refreshing in approach and effective in method that Professor Holmes offered to write the Introduction upon his first reading of the manuscript.

Publication planned for Spring 1961.

Approximately 224 pages. Pre-publication price, \$4.50

Chapman & Grimes, Inc.
176 Newbury Street
Boston 16, Mass.

Date.....

Please send me copies of CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS by Susan Nichols Pulsifer immediately upon publication at \$4.50 each.

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE

Postage prepaid when check accompanies order.

USUAL DISCOUNTS TO BOOKSTORES, LIBRARIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

September 21, 1960

Mrs. Susan N. Pulsifer
"Little Ponds"
Brunswick R D 2, Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

Now we have MINUTE MAGIC and A HOUSE IN TIME, and we are delighted. They are being added to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation and gratitude. And we are noting that CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS is to be published in the spring.

Both these books which have just come to us are full of enchantment and appeal, and we are fortunate to have them, and to claim you for the Maine Author Collection.

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Bookmarks...By Josephine Lawrence

ONE by one the careless generalization, often uttered automatically, dissolve under scrutiny. Perhaps some of us still believe that city children have never had a fair chance to be happy, since stone pavement and brick walls—so the theory runs—must stifle their longing for babbling brooks and green fields. Another popular notion is that the city family is without roots—that unless attached to the soil, the race of men must be nomads. Neither of these conceptions stands up under close study, but it remains for one happy and persuasive book to demolish both with charm and tact. In addition the writer has managed to write of the past without making comparisons with the present—a graceful feat in itself.

A city childhood spent in New York is described by Susan Nichols Pulsifer in "A House in Time," a book remarkable for a number of things, but most significant, perhaps, is the absence of the "then and now" method which weakens so many of the published biographies. Mrs. Pulsifer was born and brought up in the Washington Square section and except for summer vacations, lived in that section, in the house in which she was born, until her marriage.

Her story covers nearly 70 years and begins with the transplantation of her Bostonian parents. Their whole-hearted allegiance to their new environment might have been forgiven, but was never understood by the Massachusetts relatives.

Retrospect

The Nichols family, complete with six children, lived in a double house on West 11th St. (Mrs. Pulsifer lives there now.) It was a delightful time in which to be young—although the young today may doubt it. People walked—the Nichols girls walked or roller-skated from their home to the Brearley School in the '40s and walked home again in the afternoon.

The parks were pleasant and safe—and devoid of restaurants, cafes and dubious "attractions." The streets were safe, too, lighted by gas lamps attended to by the picturesque lamplighter who went his rounds each evening. Candles lighted the serene, spacious rooms for parties. Dancing school—to which little girls carried their slippers in small silk bags—was exciting and ceremonious.

This was the period when the pug dog was as popular as the poodle is today, but the Nichols children were loyal to "Gilley" their Boston



SUSAN N. PULSIFER

stripped prose that reflects the period of which she writes—the era when superlatives were disdained and to be conspicuous indicated a lack of good taste.

A HOUSE IN TIME. By Susan N. Pulsifer. Illustrated by Edward G. Caswell. 220 pp. Citadel. \$5.

bull terrier. Gilley, when scolded, used to retire to the pillows on the spare room bed. This was the period, too, when snorting horses dragged the fire engines like chariots through the streets; when the old Waldorf was in its glory, when mothers knitted and read aloud in the evenings, when the organ grinder and the knife grinder flourished; when girls were taught to ride side-saddle and city backyards grew thick grass and sheltered pet guinea pigs and rabbits. And when a nurse or cook spent a lifetime with one family and regarded the children of the family as her own.

Format

It happens that "A House in Time," is as beautiful to handle as it is lovely to read. The more than 70 exquisite drawings by Edward C. Caswell, the wide-margined pages, excellent type and even the restraint of the jacket blurb, add up to something far more attractive than the usual "gift book," an appellation few authors covet for their work. Mrs. Pulsifer is fortunate in having a superb framework for her quiet,

Maine Author Collection
from
Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
Susan Nichols Pulsifer -
Little Pards
Brunswick

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

NEWS, Newark N.J.
Jan. 18, 1959

To
Mrs. F. W. Jacobs
Maine Antha Alcott
Maine State Library
Augusta
(over -) Maine

February 14, 1962

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer
"Little Ponds"
Brunswick R D 2
Maine

Dear Mrs. Pulsifer:

Thank you for sending the copy of your most attractive and deeply interesting book, CREATIVE WRITING THROUGH LETTERS, for the Maine Author Collection.

We appreciate your generosity and interest, and are happy to add this to your other books in the Maine exhibit.

Our continuing best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Complimentary to =
Maine State Library
(Authors Collection)
Augusta -
Maine

Mrs. Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer