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Maine Writers Correspondence

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October 2015

George Wharton Rice Correspondence

George Wharton Rice

G. W. Rice

Robert Catherwood Esq.

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

See next page for additional authors

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Creator(s)

George Wharton Rice, G. W. Rice, Robert Catherwood Esq., Hilda McLeod, Hilda McLeod Jacob, and Marion Cobb Fuller

RICE, George Wharton

November 23, 1939

Mr. G. W. Rice
West Southport
Maine

Dear Mr. Rice:

Notice of your book, THE SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY, 1775-1917, recently came to our attention, and we promptly ordered a copy for the general lending section of the library.

We are writing now with regard to the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of about a thousand books written by Maine writers or pertaining to the state, most of which are inscribed and presented to us. These books are shelved in the State Librarian's office, and are very interesting at present, attracting many visitors each year. We are, however, admittedly building for the future, and such a collection will of course present a veritable mine of information for future researchers and students of Maine's contribution to literature.

In connection with the exhibit, we gather all available material about our authors: biographical, critical, photographic; and we frequently have to rely upon the generosity and cooperation of the writers, for a great deal of the data is not in print.

We hope it will be possible for us to add an inscribed copy of such an outstanding book as THE SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY to the Maine Author Collection; and also that you will at your convenience send us some biographical information.

Please accept our cordial invitation to visit the library and collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

THE SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY

1775-1917

GEORGE WHARTON RICE

Hotel Thomas Jefferson
Tampa, Florida
9th January 1940

Maine State Library
Hilda McLeod, Sec'y
Augusta, Maine

My dear Madam:

In reply to your kind letter of Nov. 23 last, with order for a copy of "Shipping Days of Old Boothbay, " my nephew informs that one was shipped December 6 last. I thank you for the order. I sell the books at less than cost of production; if purchased from the bookdealer who handles them the cost would have been more.

Apropos of the Maine Author Collection, I hope to visit Augusta and see for myself just what it is; accordingly shall bear in mind your request. But I have no ambition to be considered an author; in fact, last summer I declined with thanks an offered honorary membership in the Eugene Field Society of Saint Louis. A better appraisal of my writings may be had from another and similar book, if it appears in print.

Sincerely yours,



January 12, 1940

Mr. G. W. Rice
Hotel Thomas Jefferson
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Rice:

Your letter of January 9, enclosing an invoice for SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY, has been received.

Your modesty is delightful, but we must assure you that, regardless of your inclinations in the matter, anyone who writes a book is considered by us to be an author. We cannot share your diffidence about including this splendid book in the Maine Author Collection, but we appreciate the fact that we have been challenged; and we trust that when you view the exhibit, the really valuable collection which we are assembling will favorably impress you.

Did we make it clear in our former letter that we are building primarily for the future? Of course the present interest is not to be denied; but it is mainly for historians and the students to come that we are gathering Maine-iana. In no other place are all the works of all Maine writers accumulated; and our zeal in endeavoring to secure biographical, critical and photographic material is intended to enhance the value of the whole collection.

We anticipate with pleasure your visit, and we hope that you will find that this enterprise is worthy of claiming your book among its other Maine-born volumes.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

August 18, 1942

Mr. G. W. Rice
West Southport
Maine

Dear Mr. Rice:

Perhaps you are again in Maine: we hope so, for then it is possible that we shall enjoy the call from you which you mentioned more than two years ago.

We are still ready to try to prove to you the worth of the Maine Author Collection, and we have not relinquished the hope that an inscribed presentation copy of your excellent book, SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY, may yet come to distinguish its shelves.

Should you not be in Maine, and therefore unable to visit us, we shall continue to hope that this good fortune may one day be ours.

Very truly yours

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BY

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SECRETARY



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GARAGE IN CONNECTION

TAMPA, FLORIDA

16 September '42

Maine State Library
Attention of
Hilda McLeod Jacob,
Secretary

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your kind letter of August 18. What with heat and humidity and rheumatism I have passed a most uncomfortable summer. This accounts for delay in replying.

I have been too feeble to visit Maine this year, nor have I been in Augusta, Maine, for many years.

I recall the earlier request for a copy of my book. Nothing was done then but more than a year ago I wrote to a relative, who occasionally visited Augusta, that she might deliver one to you and assumed that it had been done. If on examination of your collection you have none the matter will be given further consideration.

A circular of the book is enclosed for the information of anyone interested in it.

A gentleman at this hotel who once visited Bar Harbor has asked me after whom the capital of the state was named. I could not inform him; he thought it might have been named after a daughter of King George II, I think he said. Please be kind enough to inform him for which I enclose postage. His address:

Robert Catherwood Esq.
Hotel Floridan, Tampa

Very truly yours,

September 19, 1942

Mr. G. W. Rice
Hotel Floridan
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Rice:

It is very kind of you to write to us about your fine book, SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY. We do not, unfortunately, have an inscribed copy in the Maine Author Collection. When we first wrote about the matter, you had a copy sent to us by your nephew, with an invoice. This copy we purchased for use in the lending section of the library.

The Maine Author Collection, however, is quite separate from the lending section, and the collection books do not go out of the library at any time. They form a permanent exhibit, and include old books and new ones: from Madam Sally Wood's early novels, through John Neal, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Elijah Kellogg, and authors of this period, down through the years to Kenneth Roberts, Rufus M. Jones, Mary Ellen Chase, and other modern writers. It is the one existing collection that includes (or attempts to include) all the works of all Maine authors.

You can understand our disappointment at any omissions. There are such omissions, we confess, but we are steadily and earnestly trying to remedy this unhappy situation; and we shall continue to hope that when you are in more comfortable health we may receive a gift copy of SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY for the Maine Author Collection.

Mr. Catherwood's request regarding the naming of Augusta has been transferred to our Research Librarian, Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller, who will no doubt write to Mr. Catherwood about the matter.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

October 16, 1942

Mr. G. W. Rice
Hotel Floridan
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Rice:

The arrival of a copy of your book, SHIPPING DAYS OF OLD BOOTHBAY, brings us joy -- and not a little pride, because it must mean that you have decided that the Maine Author Collection is worthy to include a copy of the work. We are exceedingly glad to have the copy for the exhibit, and grateful for your generosity.

Please accept our thanks and best wishes for a comfortable winter.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
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Encl--postal refund 14¢

SECRETARY