

October 2015

Kenneth Lewis Roberts Correspondence

Kenneth Lewis Roberts 1885-1957

Mrs. Kenneth Roberts

Anna Roberts

Allen Boswell

Miss Bell Nason

See next page for additional authors

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Creator(s)

Kenneth Lewis Roberts 1885-1957, Mrs. Kenneth Roberts, Anna Roberts, Allen Boswell, Miss Bell Nason, Miss Page Cooper, Chilson H. Leonard, Mrs. Helen Crosby, Karl Taylor Compton 1887-1954, Miss Clara Claasen, Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938, Marion Cobb Fuller, Hilda McLeod, Hilda McLeod Jacob, and Margaret A. Whalen

ROBERTS, Kenneth Lewis.

Born at Kennebunk, Maine, December 8, 1885.

Died, July 21, 1957

KENNETH LEWIS ROBERTS

Kennebunk, Maine, December 8, 1885; Son of Frank Lewis and Grace Mary (Tibbets) R.; A.B., Cornell University, 1908; married Anna S. Mosser of Boston, Massachusetts February 14, 1911. Editor in chief, Cornell Widow, 1905-1917; editorial staff, Puck, 1916-1917; staff Life, New York, 1915-1918. Captain Intelligence Secretary, Siberian Expeditionary Force, 1918-1919. Staff correspondent Saturday Evening Post since 1919. Member of Authors' League America, American Press Humorists, Chi Psi, Quill and Dagger, Mummy Club Savage Club (Cornell). Clubs: St. Botolph, Papyrus, Newspaper (Boston); Players (New York); Racquet, Overseas Writers (Washington).

Author:

Europe's Morning After, 1921

> Why Europe Leaves Home, 1922

> Sun Hunting, 1923

> The Collector's Whatnot (with Booth Tarkington and Hugh McNair Kahler), 1923

> Black Magic, 1924

> Concentrated New England, 1924

> Florida Loafing, 1925

> Florida, 1926

Play: (with Robert Garland) The Brotherhood of Man, 1919

Home, Kennebunk Beach, Maine; Address: Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

(Source, Who's Who in America-1928-1929)

July 1, 1929

Kenneth L. Roberts
Kennebunk Beach, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

For several years, the Maine State Library has been assembling a Maine Author Collection with the idea of creating here a permanent exhibition collection of books written by persons born in this state, or intimately associated with it. We are sending you a Maine Library Bulletin which contains an article about the Collection, written by Mr. John Clair Minot, at the time it was started, in 1922. We have met with a cordial response from every author to whom we have written, and the collection of the works of contemporary writers is steadily increasing.

At the recent session of the Maine Legislature a resolve was passed providing for a new State Library building. A feature of the building will be a room devoted to the Maine Author Collection, adequately accomodating the books and with facilities for research work by persons interested in Maine's literary development.

Since Maine has the honor of claiming you as one of her native authors, we wish the privilege of adding your books to the collection. We do not ask you to give us the books - we are very willing to pay for them - but we do ask you to autograph each book, and any explanatary notes relative to the writing of the book which you care to add will greatly enhance its present interest and future value. In connection with the collection we are assembling first hand biographical information about our authors, so will you please send us data about yourself - a photograph, and, if possible a photograph of your birthplace. We realize that we are asking a great deal, but we hope that your interest in your native state is great enough to induce you to take the trouble of assembling and autographing for us a complete collection of your works.

Will you please send us, when it is convenient for you to do so, the books on the enclosed list, with any others which may have escaped our attention. Please make your bill in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

We shall be very appreciative of your co-operation in making the Maine Author Collection complete.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

July 6th, 1929.

My dear Mr. Dunnack:

I am mailing you seven of the books you ask for, duly autographed. I will try to get the others, though they may be out of print. One, The Collector's Whetnot, is also autographed by the co-authors, Booth Tarkington and Hugh MacNair Kahler. I am very happy to donate these books to the library, not only because it is the State library, but also because of the assistance I received last autumn when I was assembling material for my new novel, Arundel.

I had thought a little of putting some of the material that I used in writing Arundel in our local library. It is a very long historical novel, running in time from 1759 to 1776, and having as a background Arnold's Ex-

pedition to Quebec. Much of its action
is laid on the Kennebec River. I am told
by Mr. Tarkington and the publishers that
it ranks high among American historical
novels; and it may be, in view of its
locale, that the Maine State Library
would like to have this material; and
be better equipped to display it ^{upon} than
our local library. The book has
just been revised and sent to the
publishers, Doubleday Doran, and will
not appear until November or possibly
December.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts.



Henry E. Dunnack, Secy,
Maine State Library,
Augusta,
Maine.

July 10, 1929

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We are very appreciative of your prompt and generous response to our request for copies of your books for the Maine Author Collection. We have this morning received the seven books which you are giving to the library. We thank you for them, and for taking the trouble to autograph them for us. It was very thoughtful of you to add to the interest of our copy of "The Collector's Whatnot" by obtaining for us also the autographs of your co-authors.

Your books are a delightful and interesting addition to the Maine Author Collection. One of the charms of the completed collection will be the great variety of the books included in it, and the books which you have sent us add a distinctly new note to the collection as it is at present.

Ever since you talked with us last fall about your forthcoming historical novel we have been wondering about its progress, and we are delighted to hear that it is on its way to the publishers. We are looking forward to adding a copy of it to our collection. We shall be very glad indeed to receive the historical material which you have assembled in the preparation of this book. To be able to display with an historical novel some of the sources used by the author will make "Arundel" an item of unique interest in our collection.

Very truly yours,

HD/f

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

August 30th, 1929

Dear Mrs. Fuller:-

I am blocking out a novel that needs, for a part of its background, the experiences of a Maine ship-captain in Dartmoor Prison in 1815---during, that is to say, the War of 1812.

I have The Prisoners' Memoirs, of Dartmoor Prison, N.Y., 1852; and a similar book compiled by Nathaniel Hawthorne; but I want all available material on the subject. I would be very grateful if you would look through your shelves and see if you can locate some books that might be valuable to me. There might be something along the line of voyages, made around that time by local men, that would help me to lick my plot into shape. If you could send me a list of books that seem to you to be along the line of what I need, I will check off the ones that I might use.

I spent a day recently with your friend Ensign Otis, and he helped me in the purchase of a piece of land on the Georges River. He thought that there was a great deal of genealogical material in the Augusta library: possibly even records of Maine ships. If this is the case, please let me ask you whether there can be found any record, anywhere, of my great-grandfather Daniel Nason, who was a ship-

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

captain and ship-owner all his life, but of whose ships I find only four in the local custom house records. His home was in Arundel, old Kennebunkport, and the ships of which we are sure are: Brig Neutrality, 1808; Brig Orestes, 1822; Brig Commodore Preble, 1824; and Brig Watchman, 1826. He was captain of all of these, and owned the last. My grandmother told me that he was captured and imprisoned in Dartmoor.

If you have any books that deal with the outfitting of privateers in Maine during and before the War of 1812, I would like very much to see them too,

With best wishes I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts

September 6, 1929.

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

My dear Mr. Roberts;-

I am much interested in your new novel and I wish that we could send you a great deal of material which might be useful and interesting to you. It is a continual source of regret to us that we have so very little on the maritime history of Maine. It has not been adequately written about in even one section of one period, and, so far as we know, there are only scattered, fragmentary and unsatisfactory references. We have no documentary material, and our catalog lists only one or two log-books, only one of which (The log of the Grand Turks, by Robert Peabody) is of the period in which you are interested. There is one log of the Revolutionary period; the others are much later than 1812.

Some time ago, I heard that Lincoln and Joanna Colcord were writing a history of the ships and shipping of Maine, and surely they must have assembled a great deal of sea stuff, even if they haven't progressed far on the history, and undoubtedly they have log books. If you haven't visited the Peabody Museum and the Essex Institute of Salem, it might be worth while for you to go there.

We have a number of genealogies but not one of the Nason family, and we have not, as yet, found any references to Daniel Nason. Both Bradbury's and Remich's History of Kennebunk refer to the building and the capture of the McDonough and probably your great grandfather was sent to Dartmoor at that time. You mention that besides the Prisoner's Memoirs you have another book similar to it. Is this "A green hand's first cruise; together with five months in Dartmoor", by Cobb, Boston, 1841? We do not have this book, but probably you can borrow it from the Boston Public Library or the Essex Institute Library. If your local librarian can't get this for you, let us know and we will try and borrow it for you.

We have the Memoirs of Rev. Andrew Sherburne. We are sending it to you, with Coggeshall, the log of the Grand Turks, and the old Massachusetts Report. We shall be glad to lend you any other books that we have which might help you.

I looked in the Annual Register for the years of the war, but in a hurried examination I didn't find much of interest. As you probably know, the Chronicle section is quite newsy, not like the general history section, but there seemed to be more about murders and accidents than about the war with the United States. Sometimes it is quite an interesting source of reference since it is contemporary.

I was so interested to hear that Arundle had gone to the publishers. Surprised, too, because it didn't seem possible that you could have completed in so short a time a book requiring so much research. Evidently I don't know much about how real authors work. I hope that the book will be out before Christmas, because I plan to give it to several of my friends. I can't think of any historical novel of Maine that is really readable, and I am very glad that you have written one.

I enclose a list of references on the War of 1812.

Many of the books are old; unfortunately most of them are without indexes, which makes them a bother to use for reference. Perhaps you have already seen Coggeshall; if you haven't you may find it interesting. Also the old Massachusetts report. Lossing has a picture of Dartmoore, but perhaps you have found it elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

November 6th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

Francis Parkman, in his Half Century of Conflict, made use of Bourne's History of Wells & Kennebec, and of Charles Bradbury's History of Kennebecport. The latter was published in 1837 and is now quite valuable. I assume that you have it. Today I ran across a long letter from Bradbury to the governor of Maine in 1842, complaining violently over his low financial state and the contemptibleness of a job that had been offered him by the state. It occurs to me that this letter is one that might be very interesting in your author's room when you get it, displayed with a copy of ~~his~~ Bradbury's history. If you agree with me, I will have the letter donated to the state library by its present owner. ~~if the library will agree to frame & hang it.~~

Sincerely,
Kenneth L. Roberts.

(COPY)

November 7, 1929.

Mr. Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach,
Maine.

My dear Mr. Roberts;-

The Bradbury letter sounds very interesting. If you can persuade the owner to give it to us we shall be very grateful to you and to him (or her). We will have it framed, and when we have room to hang it will do so. Until then, we will keep it very carefully in the safe.

I think it is possible that the "state Job" referred to in the letter is making a transcription of the early court records and other important documents pertaining to the early history of Maine, the originals of which are in the York County Court House. A copy was made for the state, "On appropriations of \$100, \$200., and \$100. by the Legislatures' of 1843, 1844 and 1845, to be expended by the Governor and Council, and they appointed Charles Bradbury their agent". This copy is in the archives of the Maine State Library. It is in four volumes but they are not all in the same handwriting so perhaps Mr. Bradbury definitely struck before the job was ended. Last year the first volume of these records was published by the Maine Historical Society. A number of years ago, Mr. James Phinney Baxter had a copy of them made. Otherwise, there are only the original documents and the copy owned by the state.

Thank you very much for your interest in our collection. If ever we have a real place to display our treasures we shall, I think, have a very worthwhile exhibit.

Very truly yours,
signed by M.C.F

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

November 8th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Thanks for your letter, which I have forwarded to Miss Bell Nason, who has the Bradbury letter, which I am sure you will receive in a few days.

ARUNDEL, according to Doubleday's notices, will not be published until January 10th; so, to my deep pain, you will not be able to make a ny Christmas gifts of it. They sent me the jacket to read proof on two days ago; and I saw with some trepidation that the front-flap proof read "Arundel---said by Booth Tarkington to rank with The Three Musketeers, Lorna Doone, The White Company and A Gentleman of France." I can easily see how such a statement may oblige me to hunt a cyclone cellar for some little time.

I missed the Black House; but Bill Abbott's description of it sounded real swell and expensive.

I am about ready to retire to my Italian funk-hole to incubate The Lively Lady, having rounded up all available books, documents and diaries from the Congressional Library, the British Museum and Kennebunkport attics. If I send the manuscript of ARUNDEL before I go, see that it isn't opened until after the book is published, please.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts x

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

September 11th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Thank you very much for the books and the list. I would like very much to look at 923.5S79, Statham, Privateers and Privateering. I will buy Roosevelt. The Congressional Library has sent me Coggeshall and Maclay on American privateers, and I have been fortunate enough to get some seven narratives of American prisoners in Dartmoor from dealers in Washington and Boston, as well as some of the Essex Institute material. I think, in fact, that I am pretty well set to make a start on plotting the new novel.

I could never have written the 250,000 words of Arundel in seven months unless I had removed myself from the influence of telephones, telegraphs, automobiles, out-board motors, synthetic gin and visiting acquaintances to an Italian hill town where there was nothing to do except write 2000 words a day, Sundays and fiestas included.

I correct myself: it was Maclay on Privateers that the Congressional Library sent me. The Coggeshall came from you. Can you stretch the time I can have it? Otherwise I know where I can buy a copy. I have been spoiled by the Congressional Library, which lets me have books indefinitely.

I was lucky enough to find one of the big original colored prints of the Massacre of Americans in Dartmoor. Did I tell you that one of the hand-made pike-heads, made by Arnold's blacksmiths for the attack on Que-

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MAINE

bec, was discovered in the excavation of the old Intendant's Palace in Quebec, which was used by Arnold's men as a sniping post before the attack. This was presented to me by Mr. Allen Boswell, whose men turned it up when they were excavating on the site of the Palace for the foundations of Boswell's Brewery. I will see that this pike-head eventually finds its way to the author's room in the State Library. Mosher's has bound the manuscript of Arundel; and after ^{the book} ~~it~~ has been distributed I will bring ~~it~~ or send ^{the manuscript} ~~it~~ to Augusta. I think I should say what I intended to say in my letter to Mr. Dunnack, but may have omitted----that this manuscript is a loan to the State Library and not a gift.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

Nov. 13, 1929.

Dear Mrs. Fuller —

La Donna, as you
may have heard, is mobile;
and the owner of the Bradbury
letter proved no exception to the
rule. When it came down to
brass tacks, she developed a
feeling that since he lived and
wrote in Kennebunkport, his ^{library}
letter belonged in the Kennebunkport.
I felt obliged to tell her, when
she demanded my opinion, that
her only duty in the matter
lay with herself: that she must
do what she felt would give her
the greatest satisfaction. So she —
unless she changes her mind and
doesn't do anything at all — is
going to have it framed and give
it to the Port library, where, I
fear, it will mean nothing to
anybody. I am sorry that I said

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

anything to you about it. I long ago
learned that our people hereabouts have
changed very little from their forebears
of 1729, who received suggestions with
great enthusiasm and freedom, and then
acted contrariwise. However, it's not
as bad as though I had bungled the
job of getting you a George Washington
letter or a Button Gwinnet autograph.

I send you my regrets
and best regards.

Kenneth L. Roberts.

COPY

Sept. 18, 1929.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

We shall be very glad to extend the time on the Coggeshall book. The one by Statham we sent as soon as we recieved your letter and probably you already have it. If you should recieve an overdue notice for any of the books we have sent please disregard it. Mr. Dunnack intends for your books to be kept renewed but sometimes circulation clerks make mistakes.

Your letter is tremendously interesting, and I hope that the new novel will be shaped soon. Will you have to go to an Italian hill town to find the quiet necessary, for writing it or will your new Knox County place be detached enough?

Let us know if we can assist you in any way. I am very anxious to see the manuscript of Arundel.

(Signed) Marion Cobb Fuller

November 19, 1929

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

My dear Mr. Roberts;-

So long as nothing happens to make you change your mind about the Arundel manuscript we shall bear up very well under such minor disappointments as not having a Bradbury letter. Mr. Bradbury's communication may be an interesting historical item, but I am sure that it is not so entertaining as your letter about it. Thank you, again, for your interest in our collection.

I will see that the manuscript of Arundel is not opened until the book is out.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY MCF

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

November 24th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Yesterday I mailed you a package containing the bound manuscript of AR-UNDEL, a nine-foot strip detail map of the Kennebec used in the writing of the book, a modern map of the country from the Height of Land to Quebec, and an inscribed photostat copy of a hitherto unpublished French engineer's map of old Quebec, obtained from the Congressional Library. As a matter of record I would like to have these acknowledged as loans at any time that suits your convenience. As I have said, I would prefer to have these unopened until the book is out, so you needn't bother with an acknowledgement until later. I am leaving here tomorrow anyway, though letters directed to me here will be forwarded at once.

I do not know how you propose to display this material, or even whether you propose to display it at all until you have your new building. If you do display it, however, I hope you will have in mind a feeling that I think is common to a great many authors----that rejected sections of a manuscript are not the author's final thoughts, and therefore should not be displayed. If it should be shown, I trust that it will be guarded from the gay and carefree army of souvenir hunters who have no objection to ripping pages out of manuscripts for no apparent reason whatever. When I was preparing to do this work, I ac-

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cumulated a number of very rare books, some of them beautifully bound, bearing on the Arnold expedition----Dearborn's diary, two Melvin's diaries, Henry's diary, two Codmans, Arnold's LIFE OF ARNOLD, George Canning Hill's worthless Life of Arnold, Thayer's diary, Caleb Haskell's diary, the defence of Col. Enos, Maj. Robert Rogers' Journals, ~~xxxx~~ Lt. Thomas Anbury's TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR PARTS OF AMERICA, etc., as well as some unusual Arnoldiana----one of his pike-heads, dug from the ruins of the Intendant's Palace in Quebec, prints of him, a very fine letter, and so on. If I thought that the whole thing was going to be cased and shown together, I would be tempted to loan you the works, as we girls say.

Mr. Tarkington has predicted to the publishers that if they can get the sales of the book through the 10,000 mark, it will go to 200,000. Apparently the tough job is the first 10,000. If you, with your wide experience of the Maine reading public, should have an idea that you think would be valuable to the publishers in the early marketing of the book, I wish you would drop a note to Mr. Russell Doubleday, Doubleday Doran & Co., Garden City, N.Y., and tell him about it. He would appreciate it very much.

With best wishes I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts

C O P Y

November 27. 1929.

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach,
Maine.

My dear Mr. Roberts;-

The package addressed to me arrived Monday of this week and was placed in the library safe unopened. When ^{Arundel} Arundel is out, we will send you a receipt for the contents of the package, acknowledging the items it contains as loans to the Maine State Library. Probably it will be kept in the safe until we have the new building. Of course we have no idea when that will be, but I am afraid it will not be very soon. I hope you will consider lending us all your Arnoldiana, as you suggest in your letter; it would, with the manuscript, make a wonderfully interesting exhibit.

Perhaps a list of the towns in Maine which have tablets commemorative of Arnold's march might be of interest to Mr. Doubleday. I will send him one.

I hope that you will have a delightful and successful winter.

(signed)

Marion Cobb Fuller

LIVIDONIA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO
(GROSSETO) ITALY

December 20th, 1929

My dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Thank you for your note of November 27th.

Mr. Doubleday and his sales manager, Mr. Longwell, came to see me the night I sailed and outlined their very elaborate selling campaign for ARUNDEL. Longwell seemed to want the bibliography of the book, and I told him he could get most of it by writing you and having you copy the partial list that appears toward the end of the manuscript. I had originally intended to append a bibliography on the book's final page; but I finally decided that it would detract somewhat from the fictional aspect of it. Consequently I didn't bother to put down a lot of the reference books I used. You got so me for me, for example, which I took notes from, etc., without copying the titles, authors and publishers. At any rate, if Longwell writes you, please let him have what he wants. I also insisted that in the event of a Canadian edition, they should use a sketch made from my map of old Quebec; and it may be that they will want to borrow it for a while, in which case let them have it.

THE LIVELY LADY is leaping along at the rate of 2000 words a day; and at the present writing she looks very good and very lively indeed. General Dawes got me the complete Dartmoor records on the crew of the Arundel privateer McDonough, of which my great grandfather was Sailing Master. In another year I shall be able to give you another large mass of Maine material.

I thank you for your wishes for a delightful winter. If you call it delightful to lock yourself up in a room for five months, Sundays and Saints' Days included, emerging only for meals and to scream in foul Italian for some-

Dec 20
1929

LIVIDONIA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO
(GROSSETO)

one to bring enough wood to keep yourself from freezing,
then my winter is going to be delightful. Anything, how-
ever, to further the cause of Art and Literature!

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Roberts.

C O P Y

December 28, 1929

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of "Arundel", Kenneth Roberts' great Maine novel which we are bringing out on January 10th.

In "Arundel" Mr. Roberts has written the one untold news story of the Revolution, Benedict Arnold's secret expedition to Quebec. The march of the indomitable half-starved army up the Kennebec, through the great Maine woods following the Dead River, carrying impossible green leaking bateaus across cruel portages, is a story rich in human drama. And the visualization of pioneer life in Maine: the inns with their rough panelled gathering rooms and their kegs of buttered beer, the traders, the Indians, the sloops bringing back latest news of Boston fashions, village politics, the boisterous birth of the "Cons of Liberty" Mr. Roberts makes as vivid as our contemporary life and much more fascinating.

If you find the book as interesting as I venture to believe you will, we shall be very happy to have a quote from you.

Cordially

Page Cooper

C O P Y

January 14, 1930

Doubleday Doran and Company,
Garden City, New York.

Attention of Mr. Cooper

My dear Mr. Cooper;-

I have been eagerly anticipating the appearance of "Arundel", but I can truthfully say that it far exceeds my expectations. Not only is it a most interesting novel, but Mr. Roberts has handled the historical background in a remarkably convincing manner.

We shall mention "Arundel" in the Spring issue of our Library Bulletin; I wish it were a monthly, instead of a quarterly, so that we could at once note that from a Maine author has come a real historical novel of Maine.

Mr. Roberts writes me that you, or Mr. Longwell might wish a copy of his bibliography. I shall be glad to send it to you any time that you wish it.

Does Mr. Roberts accent the first syllable, the second, or does he make "Arundel" a two syllable word, like the English town? I mentioned it in a book talk last week and had to take a chance on the pronunciation.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of "Arundel".

Sincerely yours,

Marion Cobb Fuller

January 10, 1930.

The Maine State Library has received from Kenneth Lewis Roberts, as a loan, the following items:

The manuscript of Mr. Robert's novel, Arundel, together with several letters to his publishers regarding the book. Bound. A nine-foot strip detail map of the Kennebec used by Roberts in the writing of the book and annotated by him.

A modern map (Canadian) of the Height of Land to Quebec. Annotated. An inscribed photostat copy of a hitherto unpublished French engineer's map of old Quebec, obtained from the Congressional Library.

The items above were received at the Maine State Library November 26th, 1920, but in accordance with Mr. Robert's request the package was not opened until the publication date of the novel, January 10, 1930.

(Copy of Receipt sent to Mr. Kenneth Roberts, Lividonia, Porto Santo Stefano, Italy.)

PLEASE RETURN THIS LIST
REFERENCES USED BY MR. KENNETH ROBERTS IN WRITING ARUNDEL

(Revised Copy)

Adams, James Truslow	Revolutionary New England	1923
Arnole, I. N.	Life of Benedict Arnold,	1874
Anburey, Lt. Thomas	Travels through the interior parts of America	1776-1783
Baxter, Rev. Joseph	Journal of several visits to the Indians on the Kennebec River	1867
Bourne, Edward E.	History of Wells and Kennebunk	1875
Bradbury, Charles	History of Kennebunkport	1837
Codman, John	Arnold's expedition to Quebec	1902
Colman, Emma Lewis	New England captives carried to Canada	1925
Dearborn, Samuel Gardner	Book of the Indians	1835
	Aboriginal races of North America	1860
	Tragedies of the wilderness	1842
Douglas, James	New England and New France	1913
Fobes, Simon	Journals of a member of Arnold's expedition to Quebec	1775
Graham, James	Life of Daniel Morgan	1856
Hanson, J. W.	History of Gardiner, Pittston and West Gardiner	1852
	History of Norridgewock and Canaan	1849
Haskell, Caleb	Diary of Arnold's expedition to Quebec	1881
Hayden, Rev. H. H.	Gen. Roger Enos; a lost chapter of Arnold's expedition to Quebec	1885
Henry, John Joseph	Campaign against Quebec	1844
Knapp	Life of Aaron Burr	1835
Leland, Charles Godfrey	Algonquin legends of New England	1884
Maine Historical Society Collections	Arnold's expedition, compiled by Wm. Allen. Vol. 1	
	Arnold, Benedict, letters of his expedition to Quebec. Vol. 1	

Meigs	Journal of the expedition against Quebec. Maine Historical Society Collections 2nd series Vol. 2.	
Melvin, James	Journal of the expedition to Quebec.	1864 (1892)
Nash, Charles	Indians of the Kennebec	1892
Parkman, Francis	The conspiracy of Pontiac	1851
	A half century of conflict	1893
	Montcalm and Wolfe	1899
Parton, James	Life and times of Aaron Burr	1864
Pope, Saxton	Hunting with the bow and arrow	1925
Pote, Capt. Williams	Journal during his captivity in the French and Indian War	1896
Reed, P. M.	History of the lower Kennebec	1889
Remich, Daniel	History of Kennebunk	1911
Senter, Dr. Isaac	Journal of a secret expedition to Quebec	1846
Smith, Justin H.	Arnold's march from Cambridge to Quebec	1903
Squier	(Magazine of American History) Diary of Ephraim Squier	
Thayer, Simeon	(Rhode Island Historical Society Collections) Journal of Capt. Simeon Thayer	
Ware	(New England Register vol. 6) A journal of a march from Cambridge against Quebec in Col. Benedict Arnold's detachment	
Vetromile, Re. Eugene	The Abnakis and their history	1866
Willis, William	History of Portland (Vol. 2)	1833

The above list includes the books listed in the bibliography at the end of the Arundel Manuscript, with several additions suggested by Mr. Roberts. See letter of February 26, 1930.

January 15 1930

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Porto Santo Stefano, Italy.
My dear Mr. Roberts:-

I read "Arundel " before the publication date and then I was more than impatient to open the package which had been waiting in our safe until the tenth of January. We are delighted to have the manuscript and the maps here, and we will take the best of care of them. At present, they will stay in the safe, since we have no room for an exhibition case. We hope that when we have our new library and a place to display our treasures (as we shall have, if we have anything!) you will consider lending us the collection of Arnoldana which you mention in your letter of November twenty-fourth.

We enclose a receipt for the manuscript and maps, as you requested.

I have written to your publishers that I shall be very glad to send them a copy of the Bibliography if they wish it. I think that your list includes nearly everything that you had from here, except, possibly, "New England Captives Carried to Canada" (Coleman) and "Histoire des Abenakis" (Maurault). Did you have these?

We shall make it a point to save all reviews of Arundel. Would you care to have them placed on the blank leaves at the end of the manuscript? I haven't seen the New York Times Review, but I am sending for it. Mr. Abbott says it is a very good one. What fun you will have opening your mail and reading the reviews of your book and all the congratulatory letters about it. Will you declare an extra special Saint's Day, unlock your door, turn your back on the Lost Lady, and read your American mail?

I believe that you returned all of the material about privateers except Privateers and Privateering by Statham. We assume that you are still using it, and are keeping it renewed.

I think that the state is to be congratulated because a Maine man has written a historical novel of Maine which will, undoubtedly, have a place among the very best historical novels America has produced.

With very sincere congratulations,

signed [M.C.F.]

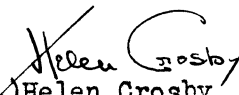
DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY--GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK
COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

January 20
19 30

Dear Miss Fuller:

"Arundel" is a three
syllable word with the accent on the
second syllable.

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Helen Crosby
Publicity

Miss M. C. Fuller
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine.

HC:EB

LIVIDONIA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO
(GROSSETO)

February 26th, 1930.

My dear Mrs. Fuller:-

I regret very much that your last letter was mislaid, so that it wasn't answered when it should have been.

I have the Statham book, and am taking good care of it, and if you will bear with me a few weeks more, I will return it in good condition.

Allen French, the historian, wrote me recently for some references for his new book on the Revolution. I couldn't recollect them off-hand, so told him I was sure you would be willing to send him a copy of the ARUNDEL bibliography. That should have added to it the names of the two Drake books on Indians, the N.E. Captives carried to Canada, the biography of Daniel Morgan, Fobes' Diary, Meigs Diary, Thayer's Diary, the History of the Kennebec Valley that you got for me. the History of Norridgewock & Canaan, ~~Burkhardt~~ Knapp's Life of Burr.

I would like to see your clippings of reviews on ARUNDEL, but I think the manuscript is just as well off without them. I like to lead a peaceful life, and some of the reviews I have seen make me mad.

The LIVELY LADY has squirmed through twenty-one ~~pages~~ chapters, and if the old bean holds out, she ought to be fairly well rounded out in another six weeks.

With best wishes and many thanks for your letters I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

COPY

April 28 1930

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts
Kennebunk, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

The Staham book reached the library some time ago so I assume that the Lively Lady and you will be leaving Italy very soon.

I enclose a clipping from our Library Bulletin which has just been published. I continue to regret that the January issue had gone to press before the book reached me, because this mention of it seems as belated as it is inadequate.

I wish it had been possible to relay to you all of the interested and enthusiastic comments on Arundel which I have heard. It always seems too bad that an author can't know as a librarian does when a book meets with an enthusiastic response from its readers.

I sent Mr. French a copy of the Arundel bibliography, as you requested with the additions which you mentioned in your letter. Shan't I send you a copy of it when you get home? I am sending a copy of the Bulletin notice to Mr. Page Cooper.

I am looking forward to reading the Lively Lady.

Signed M.C.F.

LIVIDONIA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO
(GROSSETO)

May 21st, 1930.

My dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Thank you very much indeed for your letter and for the very comprehensive and gratifying article from the Maine Library Bulletin. I was very much touched and pleased by it, and I appreciate the care and time that was put on it. An author would be fortunate indeed if he could have reviews as well done in the New York book review sections. And I am more pleased to have it in your bulletin now than in January----much more. The tendency will be to hold up the interest a little longer.

Except for the last two chapters, THE LIVELY LADY is finished. It's a good book----better in some ways, I think, than ARUNDEL; but it's going to need more revision. Three weeks ago I was obliged to drop it and go on a hurried trip through France, England and Germany to get three stories for the POST; and now I must write them. When I have finished them, I shall hope to have another week or so to put on the last two chapters, and then I shall catch a boat from Naples, which should get me back to Maine late in June. THE LIVELY LADY moves more quickly than ARUNDEL, and the privateering and the Dartmoor sections make for very exciting ~~more~~ movement, though they have been very much harder to write. General Dawes had a permit for me to get into Dartmoor when I reached London; and I made a trip to Plymouth and then went over the moor, which is one of the meanest sections of country that I have ever seen----and particularly interesting to me in view of the thousands of forgotten Americans who spent such a long time there in 1813, 1814 and 1815. I was also fortunate in being able to spend some time with the director of the Marine Museum of the Louvre in Paris; and as a result I have uncovered some ~~of the~~ most interesting ~~and thrilling~~ and thrilling details connected with New England privateering in the War of 1812.

I am very grateful for what you say about ARUNDEL. Persis-

LIVIDONIA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO
(GROSSETO).

tent talk, in the end, will sell more books than advertising; and I am in hopes that if Maine people keep on talking, it will still take hold. This it has not yet done. The first three months sales were terribly dosappointing, being slightly under 7000. Mr. Tarkington had confidently predicted that if the publishers could once get it to 10,000, it would go to 300,000. This, it seems to me, is pretty violent predicting; but I am still in hopes that something will happen to give it the shove that puts it over. God only knows what it is that makes a book take hold I hope that some day the state itself will realize what a tremendous advertising value such a book has, if it can attain a sufficient circulation; but I know, of course, that such things are not readily sensed. It is something that I cannot talk freely about, since practically everyone that I spoke freely to would think that I was trying to make capital for myself out of it-----whereas if I had been trying to do that, I would never have written that sort of book, any more than I would have written THE LIVELY LADY. If I'd wanted to make money out of it, I'd have written it serial length----from 70,000 to 80,000 words long; and it would have been almost entirely lacking in color, texture and accuracy. Well, it's a funny world.

With best wishes and renewed thanks I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

I was very sorry to hear from Bill Abbott that he is leaving the Maine Development Commission, and I hope that something may occur to change his mind. The Page Cooper of whom you speak is Miss Cooper: not Mr. Cooper.

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

September 18th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I have been hoping to be able to get to Augusta all summer, but I have been prevented by work and summer visitors.

I do not know whether the Maine State Library would like me to do the same thing with the manuscript of The Lively Lady, as I did with Arundel; but if so, I am open to suggestions.

When finished, The Lively Lady was as long as Arundel; but since length seems to distress modern readers, I cut it in two — to 120,000 words — for book publication, and then to 85,000 words for serialization in the Saturday Evening Post.

I figure on preserving a full set of materials in the manufacture of a book: manuscript: revised

KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

manuscript: typescript for book:
typescript for magazine serial:
galley proofs for magazine: galley
proofs for book; page proofs for book:
revised first edition; and specimens
of original illustrations for the serial.

This is a collection seldom seen;
and if you had a place to display
it, I think you would find it
to be one that would arouse
some interest.

I still hope to get to
Augusta before long.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts.

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

November 4th, 1930.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:-

Doubleday is going to make a number of changes in the next edition of ARUNDEL, some typographical, and some having to do with tomatoes and whatnot. It just occurred to me that possibly I'd better have them slip in a fine-print bibliography as well. Can I trouble you, therefore, to send me my own bibliography (an odd request), and to add to it the dates and publishers of such books as do not have them----the two Drake books, for example, and the History of the Kennebec Valley.

I was in Philadelphia last week and saw most of the oil paintings that Anton Otto Fischer has done as illustrations for THE LIVELY LADY. They are gorgeous----by far the finest things that Fischer has ever done. All of them are in color; and when they're put together, they'll make a great collection. As now planned, the POST will start publication somewhere around March 1st, and Doubleday will bring out the book around May 1st.

With best wishes I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

COPY

November 8, 1930

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

I am sending the list of references used by Mr. Kenneth Roberts in writing Arundel, as given in the manuscript of Arundel, now at the Maine State Library. I could not add the publishers of all of the books because some of them are not in the Maine State Library, and I could not find them in the general (publishers) catalog, probably because they are pamphlets or out of print. Perhaps you have them in your collection and can refer to them there. If you can't and need to know the publishers write me again and I will make further search. The items which I did not find are: "Travels Through the Interior Parts of America, Thomas Anbury; Life of Aaron Burr, M. L. Davis; New France and New England, James Douglas (1913) Journal of a Member of Arnold's Expedition to Quebec, Simeon Fobes; The Siege of Boston, Allen French (1911) and The Life of Aaron Burr, Knapp (1835)

Rale's Lettres Edifiantes are crossed off your list, so I did not add them to this one. Also the History of Swan's Island. I don't know anything about Williamson's History of Falmouth, but probably I ought to, although I haven't found it in the Bibliography of Maine. Did you use "Histoire des Abnakis", by Maurault, (L'Abbe J. A.) Imprime AL'Atelier Typographique de la Gazette de Sorel? Also, did you have "Arnold's March from Quebec" by E. D. Hines, published by the Essex Institute, Salem. These are not on your list.

Have you happened to see "My Story; being the Memoirs of Benedict Arnold", a semi-fictional thing by F. J. Stimson, published in 1917? It isn't in this library, and although I have seen it I haven't read it. I think that it isn't of either interest or importance.

Signed . MCF

Writes Novel Of Early Maine



Kenneth Roberts

Mr. Roberts has written a thrilling story of Colonial Maine, the Revolution and the heroic march of Arnold's small army through the wilderness of this State. When this photograph was taken he was seated at his Summer home at Kennebunkport. He is now in Italy.

Maine And The Greatest Tale Of The Revolution

Kenneth Roberts Writes Stirring Account Of Arnold's Expedition And The Rebellion In This State

ARUNDEL. By Kenneth Roberts; Doubleday, Doran and Company, Garden City, New York. \$2.50.

Novels less distinguished than this have brought their authors fame.

Kenneth Roberts, who summers at Kennebunkport, turned from magazine writing to produce this amazing novel, a work that lay in his mind for a long time and, while there, received enthusiastic endorsement from the late Theodore Roosevelt and Booth Tarkington.

"Arundel" is a novel of Maine and the Revolutionary War. It is a powerful story, exciting, glamorous and romantic. Colonial frontier life at Arundel, now Kennebunkport; the outbreak of the Revolution; Arnold's heroic march through Maine's wilderness, and the courageous but disastrous attack on Quebec are the main pegs supporting the lengthy story.

Roberts And Maine

Roberts is well qualified to write such a tale as this. A lover of Maine and her out-doors, his fishing excursions, hunting trips and pleasure jaunts through the State have familiarized him with the country through which Arnold's brave army passed. He is a lover of nature and this book is evidence of the extent of his knowledge of nature lore.

In addition, he has read widely, saturating himself with historical facts. In this research he was aided by General Dawes and other friends. The result is that his book is vividly colored with the atmosphere of the Revolutionary period. But for the whiteness of its pages, the newness of its binding and the spelling of some of its words, one could readily believe that it was some old story, written by Steve Nason himself and handed down through his family.

"Arundel" is one of the best American novels of recent years. That statement needs no qualification. It is brilliant. It is American throughout. It is authentic, recording events that heretofore have been curiously neglected. Launched into a world of light, bobbing books, over-laden with modern froth, unable to withstand the storms of time, this book is impressive, promising to staunchly endure, as have "The Three Musketeers", "Lorna Doone" and other famous tales with which Booth Tarkington has properly ranked it.

The Story

The story is told by Steve Nason of Arundel, whose father, Steve Nason, Sr., was the proprietor of an inn and a friend to the Abenaki Indians of Maine. The story itself is simple. When young Steve is a boy, a Frenchman, Guerlac, visits his father's inn, angers those gathered there, and leading some unfriendly Indians, kills one of the settlers and escapes to Quebec with his young daughter, Steve's sweetheart. Steve and his father follow the murderers into the wilderness but fail in an attempt to rescue the girl.

The boy swears that he will hunt out Guerlac and lives for the time when he can go to Quebec. When the Colonies rebel against England and Arnold and Washington plan the expedition to Quebec, he, with other Maine men, volunteer their services as guides. At last, after enduring the hardships of the journey through the forests, Steve manages to enter Quebec and there finds the sweetheart of his youth. But she is no longer the girl he knew back at Arundel and he is made to realize that he has not loved her, but only his dream of her.

The story, however, is only the smallest part of the novel. Looming above it are many vivid pictures, whirling action, humor. These are like majestic mountains and the story like some caravan passing at their feet. Looking, one is aware of the caravan and deeply interested in its progress, but one can never forget those mountains in the background.

Early Maine

In the first part of the novel, Roberts draws a clear picture of life as it was

lived in Colonial Maine. It is a human picture, unlike those presented in patriotic history books and unlike those sketched by certain modern gentlemen who seek to belittle our forefathers. Roberts' picture is colorful but it is honest enough to include the drab with the vivid, the sad with the gay and the bad with the good.

He shows us that all of our ancestors were not brave, loyal Colonists as some would have us believe and that some of us would do well to investigate before boasting of family tradition and origin. He shows us that people then were not unlike people now, that human qualities have not changed. And while perhaps this is nothing original, the manner in which he recalls these things is decidedly brilliant.

When he is writing of life, habits and manners of those early days, Roberts writes most interestingly. He tells us of foods, the manner of preparing them; of clothing and their construction; of dwellings, furnishings. He explains many things: the hunting of scores of animals and birds; fishing, boating; scouting, woodlore, camping, tracking; Indian customs, religion, traditions. He writes of many things unknown to most of us today, things which most of us would be hard pressed to dig out of old books. In this respect alone he has made a valuable contribution to American literature, collecting under one cover a multitude of historical facts that have been faced with an unfortunate death.

Maine Indians

Roberts displays an unusual knowledge and understanding of Maine's Indians. He compares them favorably with Maine's settlers; indeed, he often characterizes them as better people. The Abenaki Indians he tells us, were peaceful people, victimized by unscrupulous settlers who were responsible for most of the bloodshed that followed in the clashes between red and white men. He shows how the Indians were driven from their land, cheated, robbed, imprisoned, sold as slaves, beaten, taught to drink liquor, and drafted as fighters by both the French and English who fed them with lies.

We see conditions in Maine just prior to open hostilities between the Colonies and the mother country. There were many, we learn, who did not favor rebellion; many who would not support the rebel cause until the Sons of Liberty, resembling the Ku Klux Klan of Civil War days in some respects, began to function with tar and feathers, fire, lashes and fists. We learn, too, that liquor played a great part in the lives of these patriots, and that labor versus capital was one of the elements in the pre-war controversy.

When war broke out, we meet Washington, Arnold, Aaron Burr and many others who played prominent parts in the fight for freedom. We are with the armies encamped about Boston. We see Washington and Arnold plan the expedition to Quebec and return to Maine and the Kennebec River to watch the construction of the bateaux for the Army.

On To Quebec

Then it is that we begin to read the greatest part of Roberts' story, the famous but ill-fated journey of Arnold's little army. About 1,000 men, including Morgan's Virginians, riflemen from Pennsylvania, soldiers, woodsmen and guides from Maine and troops from other New England States, left Fort Western, where Augusta now stands, in September, 1775. They started up the Kennebec in four divisions, carrying bateaux and supplies around the falls and rapids and finally reaching the Dead River in bad condition. Provisions had been lost and spoiled. The bad weather of the Fall had taken its toll of sick. Clothes were worn and the men tired.

Then came a terrible rain storm which brought floods and destroyed more supplies. Colonel Enos and his troops then deserted and Steve was held responsible. The army moved

slowly up Dead River to the Chain of Ponds, suffering from exposure, hardships, labor and lack of food. Steve and his Indian friends, whom he enlisted in the expedition unknown to Arnold who believed them friendly to the English, served as guides and hunters and saved the lives of stragglers and the sick who fell behind.

Winter snows added to the misery. The men were barefooted without food. They ate their garments, anything. They died of exposure. Most of them had colds, pneumonia, rheumatism. Yet they continued onward, dragging at bateaux that were not destroyed, clutching their muskets. They crossed the Height of Land and reached Lake Megantic. They passed down the Chaudiere and finally arrived before Quebec, a ragged, half-starved army of scarcely more than 600 sickly, unclothed men. It was mid-Winter and severely cold.

There they waited for the arrival of General Montgomery and his army, recovering their strength and health. But new sickness, small-pox and pneumonia developed. Montgomery arrived and clothed the army in the British uniforms which he captured at Montreal. The attack was planned and the two American armies waited a favorable opportunity. Finally the assault was made on the night of Dec. 31, 1775.

A driving snow fell and the troops crept up the heights to the fortifications. They carried scaling ladders and were confident that they would wrest the city from the English. But they were met with a terrible fire of cannon and rifles. Their own powder was dampened by the snow and they could shoot but little. They were cut down like grain, their bodies buried in the ever mounting snow, to lie there until Spring. Those brave men pushed on, engaging the enemy in hand to hand fighting. But the odds were against them. The British were behind solid fortifications. Their guns would not shoot. Their leaders were gone, Montgomery killed and Arnold wounded. Their comrades were dead and wounded in the darkness. Plans went wrong. Many were taken prisoner in the confusion and the attack failed. Their heroic march was in vain.

Roberts' account of the expedition's progress through Maine and into Canada and his picture of the gallant attack on Quebec are masterful. He makes you live with that army, in the ranks, so that you experience everything that it did. It is a great piece of historical writing. He reveals the horrors of that trip as they have never been revealed. Reading, I found it almost impossible to believe that any man, writing today amid modern conveniences, accustomed to the ease of our civilization, could produce so vividly such suffering, hardship, fortitude and courage. I doubt that Roberts could have described the march any better had he taken it with Arnold.

Inadequate Review

As long as this review is, it does not mention many of the interesting features of "Arundel". It tells you nothing of the rough and ready Captain Huff, of Phoebe Marvin, the game and accomplished miss who followed the army to Quebec and returned with Steve's heart; the Rev. Mr. Hook, whose treachery helped to ruin the expedition; Natamis, Paul Higgins, Jacataqua, Hobomok and other Indian friends of Steve and scores of others. It neglects to mention that Roberts presents an interesting picture of old Portland and of other places in Maine. It fails to speak of hundreds of exciting little incidents that crowd the book.

To be honest, this review is sadly inadequate. You had better read "Arundel" for yourself.

Robert B. Beith

KENNETH ROBERTS, author of "Arundel", reviewed today, was born in Maine and is a direct descendant of a member of the brave but ill-fated expedition to Quebec which he so vividly describes in this book. He is a graduate of Cornell, began writing as a Boston newspaper man, served as captain in the American Siberian Expeditionary Force, and is a staff correspondent of "The Saturday Evening Post." He spends his summers at Kennebunkport and has written a number of travel books.

Books and Authors

JAN 21 1930

NOVEL OF EARLY MAINE

"Arundel" by Kenneth Roberts, (Doubleday, Doran & Co.) is a brilliant novel of early Maine of the time of the Revolutionary period, of the famous march of Arnold up the State and the attack on Quebec.

Roberts is well qualified to write this stirring story. He is a lover of Maine and has a summer home in Kennebunkport. At the present time he is in Italy.

The story is of a boy, Steve Nason, of Arundel whose father runs an inn. When Steve is a boy a Frenchman by the name of Guerlac comes to the inn, makes trouble, leads unfriendly Indians against the inn, kills one of the settlers and escapes to Quebec with a young girl who is Steve's sweetheart. Of course Steve is unable to follow her as one would today, so when Arnold comes along with the expedition planned, Steve joins, goes with them to Quebec and there finds his boyhood sweetheart but not the girl that he dreamed of. He found that he loved an ideal not that girl. There is however a girl who followed him to Canada and returned with his heart. But the strong part of the book is the understanding of early Maine. Conditions in Maine are described minutely, the good and the bad people, the foods, the manner of preparing them, the clothing, dwellings, furnishings, how they earned living, how the soil was tilled and how hunting and fishing was done. And an intimate knowledge of the Maine Indians.

But the greatest part of Robert's story is the ill-fated journey of Arnold's men through Maine. Robert Beith in the Portland Telegram says:

About 1,000 men, including Morgan's Virginians, riflemen from Pennsylvania, soldiers, woodsmen and guides from Maine and troops from other New England States, left Fort Western, where Augusta now stands, in September, 1775. They started up the Kennebec in four divisions, carrying bateaux and supplies around the falls and rapids and finally reaching the Dead River in bad condition. Provisions had been lost and spoiled. The bad weather of the fall had taken its toll of sick. Clothes were worn and the men tired.

"Then came a terrible rain storm which brought floods and destroyed more supplies. Colonel Enos and his troops then deserted and Steve was held responsible. The army moved slowly up Dead River to the Chain of Ponds, suffering from exposure, hardships, labor and lack of food. Steve and his Indian friends, whom he enlisted in the expedition unknown, to Arnold who believed them friendly to the English, served as guides and hunters and saved the lives of stragglers and the sick who fell behind.

"Winter snows added to the misery. The men were barefooted without food. They ate their garments, anything. They died of exposure. Most of them had colds, pneumonia, rheumatism. Yet they continued onward, dragging at bateaux that were not destroyed, clutching their muskets. They crossed the Height of Land and reached Lake Megantic. They passed down the Chaudiere and finally arrived before Quebec, a ragged, half-starved army of scarcely more than 600 sickly, unclothed men. It was mid-winter and severely cold.

"There they waited for the arrival of General Montgomery and his army, recovering their strength and health. But new sickness, small-pox and pneumonia developed. Montgomery arrived and clothed the army in the British uniforms which he captured at Montreal. The attack was planned and the two American armies waited a favorable opportunity. Finally the assault was made on the night of Dec. 31, 1775.

"A driving snow fell and the troops crept up the heights to the fortifications. They carried scaling ladders and were confident that they would wrest the city from the English. But they were met with a terrible fire of cannon and rifles. Their own power was dampened by the snow and they could shoot but little. They were cut down like grain, their bodies buried in the ever mounting snow, to lie there until spring. Those brave men pushed on, engaging the enemy in hand to hand fighting. But the odds were against them. The British were behind solid fortifications. Their guns would not shoot. Their leaders were gone, Montgomery killed and Arnold wounded. Their comrades were dead and wounded in the darkness. Plans went wrong. Many were taken prisoner in the confusion and the attack failed. Their heroic march was in vain.

"As long as this review is, it does not mention many of the interesting features of 'Arundel.' It tells you nothing of the rough and ready Captain Huff, of Phoebe Marvin, the game and accomplished miss who followed the army to Quebec and returned with Steve's heart; the Rev. Mr. Hook, whose treachery helped to ruin the expedition; Natamis, Paul Higgins, Jacataqua, Hobomok and other Indian friends of Steve and scores of others. It neglects to mention that Roberts presents an interesting picture of old Portland and of other places in Maine. It fails to speak of hundreds of exciting little incidents that crowd the book."

Mr. Beith concludes by saying that his review of the book is wholly inadequate and to half appreciate the book, one must read "Arundel" for them selves.

Edited by Dorothy F. Whipple

*Along the Old Abenaki Trail
With a Noted Maine Author*

ARUNDEL, By Kenneth L. Roberts

Doubleday Doran. \$2.50. 618 pp.

Reviewed by CHARLES J. NICHOLS
Portland Attorney



Kenneth L. Roberts in the garden of his Kennebunk Beach home

The story begins with a vivid scene in an ancient hostelry in the township of Arundel, now known as Kennebunkport in this State. The characters in that scene, "Cap" Huff, Steven Nason, Sr., Steven Nason, Jr., a Frenchman later known as Guerlac, Master Mallison, his daughter Mary, and a few Abenaki, play an important part throughout the entire narrative. Cap Huff, hilarious from imbibing liquors of that period, following a heated argument with the Frenchman over the cause and results of the French and Indian Wars, throws the latter out of the house into the mud. Guerlac departs in the darkness and soon Mallison and his daughter, Mary, approach the path where Guerlac with his Indians are lying in ambush. Mallison is killed and the daughter Mary is carried away to Quebec. It is Phoebe Marvin, a rollicking country lass, seeing the Frenchman snatch Mary, who spreads the alarm.

Steven Nason, Jr., who has a childhood affection for Mary, and who has at the age of twelve promised to marry her, determines to follow and recapture his future wife. His father, ever ready to avenge a wrong, an experienced hunter, familiar with and a friend to the Abenaki Indians,

tells his son that they will start to capture the stranger and bring back Mary.

In hot pursuit, they followed Guerlac and his Indians through Falmouth (now Portland), through Brunswick, Cushnoc and up the Kennebec, passed Fort Halifax where Guerlac and his party were overtaken and a fierce engagement took place. Steven Jr., received a deep gash from the hatchet of the Frenchman, while Guerlac himself was disfigured by a slit ear. However, he continued on his journey to Quebec with Mary whom he passes off as his sister, while Steven Jr. and his father are forced to return to Arundel. It was on this return trip, near Pownalborough, that the Nasons, father and son, first met Master Benedict Arnold who was sailing a schooner up the Kennebec and who tells them of the capture of Quebec by Wolfe. Their anxiety for Mary Mallison then increased and Steven Jr. vows that if even an opportunity comes, he will go to Quebec and bring back Mary.

Nearly sixteen years of waiting when the news of the Boston Massacre reached Arundel, followed quickly by Lexington, Concord, Ticonderoga and Bunker Hill, and the call to arms came for all Sons

of Liberty to go to Cambridge.

In the meantime, the elder Nason had died after he had saved the Rev. Mr. Hook, a Tory, from drowning. Many from Arundel volunteered to fight for freedom from the oppression of the Mother Country. Phoebe, being an expert sailor and "Master" of a sloop took the volunteers to Newburyport.

On reaching Cambridge, Washington and Arnold requested as many "Woodmen from Maine" as possible to go on the expedition through our State to capture Quebec; Cap Huff, Steven Nason, Noah Cluff, Jethro Fish, Asa Hutchins and James Dunn, all from Arundel, and Paul Higgins, the white man who had become a great sachem among the Indians on the Androscoggin. Phoebe Marvin sells her sloop, marries James Dunn, "the grave and handsome young man from Arundel" and joins the expedition.

Approximately eleven hundred men under Col. Arnold set out by transports for Gardinertown where it was necessary to wait until more bateaux were built, the soldiers being quartered at Fort Western in the present city of Augusta. During the last days of September, 1775, the army leaves Fort Western in four divisions. Two Indians, Eneas and Sabatis act-

ing as guides, Daniel Morgan leading the first division and Col. Enos having charge of the provisions and supplies, the rear division. In that order they proceeded up the Kennebec in leaking bateaux of which many were lost and abandoned.

It was necessary for the men to carry all the bateaux around the many falls and rapids. The army left the Kennebec at Caratunk and took the twelve-mile carry, so called, aided by three ponds, to the bank of the Dead River.

In this region, two Indians, Natamis and Hobomok, friends of Steven Nason, Sr. and of the young Steven, secretly aided the soldiers by providing food, huts, shelter and fire. These

Indians dare not appear before the army as orders had been given to shoot them as spies employed by the British. Meanwhile the other two Indians, Eneas and Sabatis are entrusted by Arnold with messages to Gen. Schuyler.

On the Dead River a terrible storm arose lasting for three days. All was confusion and most of the provisions were either lost or rendered unfit for use by the water. Here Col. Enos deserted with nearly three hundred men, taking with them a large quantity of supplies and food.

After a few days the army pushes on up the Dead River, enduring great hardships, hunger and suffering. James Dunn dies from exposure and Phoebe leaves his body in the forest covered with leaves. At length they reach the "Chain of Ponds" and the Height of Land, the head of the Chaudiere, at it is now called. With great difficulty and by the aid of the unseen Indians, Natamis and Hobomok, they reach Lake Megantic. All the time there is in the army one Treeworgy, the adviser and counselor of Arnold, and upon whose supposed knowledge of the route to Quebec and of the habits and hostility of certain Indians, Arnold entirely depended. This man had advised Arnold not to use canoes; not to trust Natamis, but to trust Eneas. He later turns out to be the Tory, the Rev. Mr. Hook.

After reaching the Chaudiere which is described as "a hissing caldron of water whenever there is any water at all in it" the army would have again met sad disaster had it not been for Natamis.

On their arrival at Quebec, they found the fortifications strengthened and outside supplies cut off, but Arnold set a demand for surrender of the city under a flag of truce, which, of course, was received in derision. Word reached them that Montgomery had taken Montreal and was marching to Quebec to assist in the capture of that city.

On the last day of the year 1775, the attack was made in a blinding snow storm, Montgomery killed, Arnold wounded and many of the others killed or taken prisoners after several hours of hand-to-hand fighting. Steven, Cap, Natamis and Hobomok get into the city and enter an elaborate home, driving the servants to the cellar, discover Mary Mallison, who scorns and spurns Steven—calls the Colonists, outlaws, and denies that she ever loved him or promised to marry him. He is so enraged at her that he binds her to a chair and while there, in comes Guerlac, Eneas and Hook. Sharp and fierce

fighting follows. "Cap" is wounded and Hook is killed. The Indians, Natamis and Hobomok, taking Guerlac as their prisoner, followed by Steven and "Cap" made their way out of the city but in getting over the wall, Guerlac fell and was severely injured while the others made their escape and being joined by Phoebe outside the city, whom Steven then and there marries, the five make a safe return to Arundel where the mother and sister of Steven are awaiting him and his bride.

The author has described the hardships, suffering and obstacles of that expedition with remarkable accuracy and in historical detail, even giving the names of the officers who, during the flood on the Dead River, voted to return.

Col. Arnold is described as a fighter, a brave and determined commander whom every soldier would follow where he led. The author shows that the march through the wilderness of Maine is a lasting monument of the fortitude and bravery of Benedict Arnold. However, the author, in almost every instance, gives the credit of getting out of the various entanglements to the two Indians, Natamis and Hobomok, and to Steven Nason and Cap Huff.

While the Indians were of assistance to Arnold on this march, we should not lose sight of some of the brave white men who guided the army through that region and whom the author fails to mention.

At times the story seems to take on the aspect of Steven leading an army to Quebec to capture the city and bring back his Mary rather than a well planned Military Campaign for the purpose of winning the French of Canada to the American cause.

Jacataqua, the Indian girl, whom, it is said, accompanied Burr, is given a prominent place on the expedition

by the author. The acts and doings of Phoebe, who accompanies her husband, and her bravery throughout the journey, is an excellent description of the historic account of Mrs. Warner, one of the two white women who were in the army, and whose husband died and was buried in the wilderness.

The author fails to give any prominence to the encampment by Arnold at Flagstaff when the flood was subsiding, nor does he mention the name of any pond after leaving "Chain of Ponds" such as Lost Pond, Horse-shoe Pond, Crosby and Moosehorn Pond, as set forth in various journals of the expedition.

In a novel, history must give way somewhat, to romance, but the author places Arnold as master of a vessel sailing up to Quebec before its fall to Wolfe, when he was only years old, and supposed to be serving his apprenticeship as an "apothecary clerk."

On the whole this story ranks with the "Seats of the Mighty" and other such historical novels.

If more of our modern writers would bring out such novels dealing with the characters of our colonial days, our present generation would learn more about the history of our country than by the reading or reciting dry facts from a book in our grammar or high schools.

The final chapters of "Arundel" move more swiftly. The romance spreads its wings and lifts the reader with it. The end is happy; the inevitable love-romance develops into fact and the final words are "I was at home again—in Arundel." Mr. Roberts has done a good work for us. We repeat that if 50,000 words were cut from this book, it would be one of the greatest of our historical novels—and we are not sure that it is not, as it is. But we like "action" personally; and as the eminent Supreme Court Justice said of his choice between five-centers and ten-centers in his fiction "I prefer the five-centers; because there is quicker action." Hence, I am no critic.

KENNEBUNK STAR JANUARY 24, 1930.

PUTS KENNEBUNK ON THE LITERARY MAP

Kenneth Roberts Writes An Historical Novel About His Native Town

Of the making of novels, with real history for a background, there always has been,—and doubtless always will be,—no end. We readers,—and true lovers,—of tales like a strong flavor of fact with our fiction.

When one recalls the work of any famous novelist it is nearly always one of their historical stories that first comes to mind. Walter Scott suggests "Ivanhoe"; Dickens, the "Tale of Two Cities," Thackeray, "Henry Esmond"; Robert Louis Stevenson, "Kidnapped," and so on. If an author has one big historical tale in his brain, can get it safely out and down on paper, his niche in the Hall of Fame is secure, no matter what he has written previously, or may write subsequently. Kingsley's "Westward, Ho," Charles Reade's "Cloister and Hearth," and Conan Doye's "Micah Clarke," would alone be enough to make their authors famous.

But there is another side to the picture. When an author adventures, with his hero or heroine, into the Land of Fact, and among Real People, he must watch his step and tread warily.

Anything might have happened to Gulliver in the Kingdom of Lilliput, or to Crusoe on his island. We have never visited either place. The inhabitants, manners and customs are unfamiliar and we cannot "check up" on them so to speak, but in actual history and among historical figures,—well, that is something else again, and demands an author's very best.

With "ARUNDEL, the Recollections of Steven Nason of Arundel in the Province of Maine, Attached to the Secret Expedition Led by Colonel Benedict Arnold Against Quebec," Kenneth Roberts, our own particular author and townsman, comes to us in a new role. It is not only his first historical novel, but it is his first book-length work of fiction and the reader is naturally prepared to make allowances.

There is no need. With "Arundel," Mr. Roberts has hit the bull's-eye square in the center at the first shot.

Measured by almost every rule of

what an historical novel should be, "Arundel" is "all there." Romance and reality, tragedy and comedy, character and plot, sustained interest, thrill, and noteworthy absence of "padding" of any sort or description. This may sound like fulsome "blah," but it is not. "Arundel" is truly a great piece of fiction. In this flood-tide era of sublimated dime novels, known as "mystery tales," and pathological "sex stories," a good clean book of this sort is as welcome as a raft.

To those of us who know and love Kennebunk and its shore line and rivers, "Arundel" has an added charm. The opening scenes are laid in and around that portion of the township lying between Oak's Neck and the Kennebunk River, the sea and Gooch's Creek, in the time of Harding's garrison house, mill, and ferry. The author knows his Kennebunk and pictures it with a loving hand. Here the story begins,—and ends,—meanwhile taking the reader, along with the actors in the drama, from Washington's camp at Cambridge, up the Kennebec valley with Arnold's heroic,—though ill-fated expedition, and through the wintry wilderness of northern Maine. Then the desperate, though futile, storming of the citadel of Quebec—but there! Read the tale for yourself. It's well worth it.

To anyone interested in the earliest history of Maine and particularly the part played in it by the much misunderstood Abenaki Indians, Mr. Roberts's story has additional value. On pages 96 to 99 inclusive he explains, accurately and concisely, the five great divisions of this famous tribe, their characteristics and mode of life, and the important part each division played in the French and Indian wars, extending over a period of nearly a century and a half. It shows long and careful research on the author's part and a thorough understanding of the Indian, his manners, customs, mode of life and mental attitude toward the first white settlers.

That the reader will agree with me that the blundering, though honest and gallant hero of the tale, "Steven Nason," is all that a hero should be, and that the heroine, "Phoebe Marvin," who designs and sails a trading sloop, wears "pants" and teases Steven almost beyond endurance, is a "dear," I am perfectly confident. "Taken From Captivity" Huff, the roaring, ranting and deplorably light-fingered comedian of the cast enforces an unwilling admiration, almost amounting to respect, and "Eunice," the seal, as a "nature study," equals Ernest Thompson Seton at his

best.

Perhaps the reader may detect a trifling anachronism here and there in the tale. Tomato sauce for baked beans, when tomatoes were held to be highly poisonous in New England well into the nineteenth century; a steel engraving of "Philadelphia from Cooper's Point," when even wood cuts were beyond the artistic skill of American illustrators, and the famous settling of the disputed boundary line between Wells and Kennebunk for a rum bill almost a century later than it really occurred, for instance.

Still, Shakespeare put a striking clock into "Macbeth" a century or two too soon, and gave Bohemia a seacoast, so Mr. Roberts has precedent to go by, and these are but trifles. What is a mere anachronism or two between friends after all?

That the writer of these lines has ample backing in his opinion of "Arundel" read what Booth Tarkington, — another author-resident we claim with pride,—has to say:

"A book that will be liked by anybody who liked 'Lorna Doone,' the 'Three Musketeers,' 'The White Company,' or 'A Gentleman of France.' Whoever reads the great episode and climax of this story, 'the American march on Quebec,' will not only better know the history of our Country, but must almost feel that he took a part in that Homeric struggle through the wilderness himself."

My honest opinion is that "Arundel" will not only be a "best seller,"—that is assured,—but that it is on the broad highway to become a "classic."

F. L. H. Noble.

A copy of "Arundel" has been placed in the Kennebunkport library through the kindness of Mrs. Booth Tarkington. A copy has been purchased for the Kennebunk library and will be put in circulation in a short time.



Kenneth Roberts, the author, snapped while fishing at Kennebunk Beach where he makes his home.

Kenneth Roberts, Kennebunk, Writes Maine Historical Novel

"Arundel," Tale of Revolutionary Days, Laid in Locality of Mr. Roberts' Summer Home, One of the Best American Novels of Recent Years

ONE OF THE outstanding novels of the new year is the work of an author who has his permanent summer home in Maine—Kenneth L. Roberts of Kennebunk Beach.

"Arundel," a glamorous historical novel, based on the American march on Quebec, led by Benedict Arnold, and dwelling particularly on that portion which led the dauntless leader thru Maine, published by Doubleday-Doran Co., Garden City, New York, Jan. 24, has been pronounced by critics and writers who have already seen it, one of the best American novels of recent years. Booth Tarkington, the well-known author and summer neighbor of Mr. Roberts, has compared it to "The Three Musketeers" and "The White Company." It is said that the work was in preparation (it has been in Mr. Roberts' mind for years) it received the enthusiastic endorsement of the late Theodore Roosevelt.

This book is likely to bring fame to an author who has hitherto been known chiefly as a brilliant magazine writer. It is of great interest to Maine people, both because its author is a dweller in Maine and because the scene is laid to a large extent in this State and deals with Maine people.

At the time the book comes from the press Mr. Roberts is in Italy.

The march of Arnold to Quebec has always proved intriguing to the romanticist and to those for whom the heroic, the gallant and the daring hold a fascination.

Mr. Roberts has missed nothing of this fascination. The book is glamorous, romantic and thrilling. It also has a strong flavor of Colonial Maine for it is concerned with frontier life at Arundel, now Kennebunkport.

In the Portland Sunday Telegram Robert B. Beith writes of the book: "Roberts is well qualified to write such a tale as this. A lover of Maine and her out-doors, his fishing excursions, hunting trips and pleasure jaunts thru the State have familiarized him with the country thru which Arnold's brave army passed. He is a lover of nature and his book is evidence of the extent of his knowledge of nature lore.

"In addition, he has read widely, saturating himself with historical facts. In this research he was aided by General Dawes and other friends. The result is that his book is vividly colored with the atmosphere of the Revolutionary period. But for the whiteness of its pages, the newness of its binding and the spelling of some of its words, one could readily believe that it was some old story, written by Steven Nason himself and handed down thru his family.

"'Arundel' is one of the best American novels of recent years. That statement needs no qualification. It is brilliant. It is American thruout. It is authentic, recording events that heretofore have been curiously neglected.

"The story is told by Steve Nason of Arundel, whose father, Steve

Nason, Sr., was the proprietor of an inn and a friend to the Abenaki Indians of Maine. The story itself is simple. When young Steve is a boy, a Frenchman, Guerlac, visits his father's inn, angers those gath-

ered there, and leading some unfriendly Indians, kills one of the settlers and escapes to Quebec with his young daughter, Steve's sweetheart. Steve and his father follow the murderers into the wilderness but fail in an attempt to rescue the girl.

"The boy swears that he will hunt out Guerlac and lives for the time when he can go to Quebec. When the Colonies rebel against England and Arnold and Washington plan the expedition to Quebec, he with other Maine men, volunteer their services as guides. At last, after enduring the hardships of the journey through the forests, Steve manages to enter Quebec and there finds the sweetheart of his youth. But she is no longer the girl he knew back at Arundel and he is made to realize that he has not loved her, but only his dream of her.

"The story, however, is only the smallest part of the novel. Looming above it are many vivid pictures, virile action, humor.

* * *

"In the first part of the novel, Roberts draws a clear picture of life as it was lived in Colonial Maine—a human picture, unlike those presented in patriotic history books and unlike those sketched by certain modern gentlemen who seek to belittle our forefathers, Roberts' picture is colorful but it is honest enough to include the drab with the vivid, the sad with the gay and the bad with the good.

"Robert displays an unusual knowledge and understanding of Maine's Indians. He compares them favorably with Maine's settlers; indeed, he often characterizes them as better people. The Abenaki Indians, he tells us, were peaceful people, victimized by unscrupulous settlers who were responsible for most of the bloodshed that followed in the clashes between red and white men. He shows how the Indians were driven from their land, cheated, robbed, imprisoned, sold as slaves, beaten, taught to drink liquor, and drafted as fighters by both the French and English who fed them with lies.

"We see conditions in Maine just prior to open hostilities between the Colonies and the mother country. There were many, we learn, who did not favor rebellion; many who would not support the rebel cause until the Sons of Liberty, resembling the Ku Klux Klan of Civil War days in some respects, began to function with tar and feathers, fire lashes and fists. We learn, too, that liquor played a great part in the lives of these patriots, and that labor versus capital was one of the elements in the pre-war controversy.

* * *

"When war breaks out, we meet Washington, Arnold, Aaron Burr and

many others who played prominent parts in the fight for freedom. We are with the armies encamped about Boston. We see Washington and Arnold plan the expedition to Quebec and return to Maine and the Kennebec River to watch the construction of the Bateaux for the Army.

"Then it is that we begin to read the greatest part of Roberts' story, the famous but ill-fated journey of Arnold's little army.

"Roberts' account of the expedition's progress thru Maine and into Canada and his picture of the gallant attack on Quebec are masterful. He makes you live with that army, in the ranks, so that you experience everything that it did. It is a great piece of historical writing. He reveals the horrors of that trip as they have never been revealed. I doubt that Roberts could have described the march any better had he taken it with Arnold."

* * *

Against all odds those brave men pushed on. The fortifications are gained, the enemy engage in hand

to hand fighting. But the odds were against them. The British were behind solid fortifications. Their guns would not shoot. Their leaders were gone. Montgomery killed and Arnold wounded. Their comrades were dead and wounded in the darkness. Plans went wrong. Many were taken prisoner in the confusion and the attack failed. Their heroic march was in vain.

Not only does the story grip the attention, but the characters become living and personal acquaintances—the rough and ready Captain Huff, Phoebe Martin, the game and accomplished maid who followed the Army to Quebec and returned with Steve's heart; the Rev. Mr. Hook, whose treachery helped to ruin the expedition; Natamis, Paul Higgins, Jacataqua, Hobomok and other Indian friends of Steve and scores of others. Incidentally Roberts presents an interesting picture of old Portland and of other places in Maine.

It is a book every Maine person should possess.

Benedict Arnold On His Way to Canada



Kenneth Roberts

**Kenneth Roberts Writes the
Recollections of Steven
Nason of Arundel
in the Province
of Maine**

By Dorothea Lawrance Mann

THE leopard does not change his spots easily nor is it easy for a newspaper man to forget his trade. What strikes the reader first and last and always through this book is that it is a great news story which is breaking. We are not suggesting that Mr. Roberts has unearthed so large an item of undiscovered history as this, but that he has very successfully discovered a means of placing a new emphasis so that the story reads as the thrilling and tremendous adventure which it actually was. There has never been such a thing as non-partisan history, and naturally enough it has never been easy for American writers to see Benedict Arnold uncolored by the fact that he proved himself a traitor to the colonies. Nor is it in the American temperament to be able to view any of the important figures in the history of the country without prejudice of one kind or another. American reason is always intertwined with American emotion—a fact which makes it exceedingly difficult to discover the truth of things.

This book is not a brief for Benedict Arnold, nor does it contain any special pleading. All readers may not realize how much of this sort of thing Mr. Roberts has succeeded in keeping out of his story. He sticks quite closely to our modern ideal of a news story, for his effort is to tell the story as it happened, without emotional pleas either for or against the men who participated in it. As a matter of fact, it is not a tale which requires special pleading. The men who participated in this expedition across the wild country of Maine to the stronghold of Quebec may have had any number of faults or virtues, but they had to be men of extraordinary bravery and endurance to come through such a test as this one. This expedition against Quebec takes up only part of the book, but it is the part of the story which is going to make it remembered, and incidentally makes this expedition of Arnold's known and remembered, as in all justice it should be, quite without regard to whatever the men did either before or after this time.

The scene is the Kennebec country where Mr. Roberts lives part of each year, and where his family have lived for generations. The name Kennebec does not occur at this period, but the country itself is easily recognizable. Steven Nason's father conducts both the ferry and the inn, and even as a little boy Steven Nason knows a great deal about Indians and about the difficulties between the English and the French and Indians which made certain tribes extremely dangerous, while others were friendly and would teach the white boy much of the lore which the Indian children themselves learned. Steven tells the story in the first person, and he begins with a prologue describing how his family came to be in this particular section and introducing us to the life of a colonial child with the many points which differ from the life of a child of the present day. From the beginning Steven is a strongly individualized character made quite vivid to us with the rather ponderous faithfulness and perseverance and the accompanying heaviness of wit which so frequently goes with these other qualities in very large men. There are moments when we cannot but admit that Steven is inclined to be stupid. He takes a long while to perceive what more

nimble-witted persons would take in very quickly. Similarly, it is characteristic that Steven should accept without question the devotion of the child Mary Mallinson and should not doubt that through the course of the years Mary is as eager to return to him and to Arundel as she had seemed in her childish days. One must accept Steven as he is, and it is quite clear that not even the irritating and amusing Phoebe has any real expectation of changing him greatly.

Even granting that in colonial times marriages took place at a much earlier age than they do today, it seems a little strange that Steven's parents should have accepted as unalterable the assertion of a twelve-year-old boy that he had fallen in love with a little girl of the same age and that he intended later to marry her. It is quite true that Steven does carry with him the image of Mary Mallinson through many years, and does make it the aim of his life to find the girl and bring her back to Arundel. We personally felt rather relieved when Mary herself did not achieve such precocious fidelity! It strikes one as curious that so many people who come in contact with Steven accept with the same seriousness the steadfastness of so young a boy. Today it would rarely be believed that a boy ten years older than Steven knew his mind so certainly. It is not so surprising that Steven can remember the girl's kisses and can convince himself that there can never be an other woman in his life, for youth has a way of taking itself seriously. It is, however, remarkable and not wholly convincing to the reader that so many grown people, and not all of them inexperienced people, should accept his dictum.

Next in interest to the great expedition is the search made by Steven and his father immediately after Mary Mallinson's father has been killed and the pretty little girl has been spirited away by the Frenchman. Indeed this search is an excellent introduction for readers as well as for Steven to the rigors which an expedition through this country must undergo. It is on this search that the boy gets his first inkling of what his father's relations with the Indians have been. Here is another curious sidelight, on Colonial life that the boy accepts with so little shock the obvious relationship between his own father and the Indian woman and her child. It is the fashion of the hour to point out that our Puritan ancestors were far from being so virtuous as we once supposed, but it is probable that few twentieth century boys could rival Steven's sophistication on this occasion.

One of the reasons why the story is so successful in maintaining its interest lies in the character of Phoebe. Phoebe is decidedly different from most heroines and certainly from most women of her day, but there can be no doubt that she possesses to a high degree the power of keeping herself in men's thoughts. There is never any doubt, either, of how great an irritation she manages to be to Steven. Phoebe knows her psychology, however, for Steven with his absorption in his dreams of Mary Mallinson would never have noticed Phoebe at all if she had not proved a thorn in his flesh. If he would have relegated her to the pleasantly indeterminate background to which he relegated most women he would have forgotten Phoebe in short time. Phoebe, however, had no idea of allowing herself to be forgotten. She made a place for herself at the inn and later she convinced Steven that there was no reason why he should not immediately have a ship of his own to carry his goods to Boston, and Phoebe not only managed to get the ship built to suit her but she sailed it herself and she made money

for them all. Steven with all his threats and all his determination is never a match for Phoebe. She gets almost everything she wants from Steven and she is shrewd enough to realize that part of the intensity of his irritation with her is due to the fact that he likes her far better than he dreams he can. Phoebe is like most women, a realist.

Mr. Roberts could not very well write a story which does not contain some touches of humor. It is not too obvious in these pages, but the humor bubbles to the surface here and there and is especially memorable in some of the observations he makes on his characters. Moreover, the comments of his characters have often a decidedly racy tinge. Most of us are accustomed to the idea of the prevalence of Southern colonels, but here is Aaron Burr remarking: "I have met hundreds of Massachusetts men and they are all colonels. The blow of meeting, in the very heart of Massachusetts, a man who is neither a colonel nor a Massachusetter is like to sit ill on me."

Among the special minor points of interest in the book is the freshness with

which old ideas are presented. We all know that there were thirteen colonies which made war on England, but the actual way in which men of the various colonies regarded men of other colonies, the way men of Massachusetts looked down upon men of Maine or Rhode Island or Connecticut or New York, gives us a new outlook in the difficulties faced by the leaders in making a fighting force out of men who had almost as soon fight each other as fight England. Then again, as Mr. Roberts describes the activities of the Sons of Liberty we are similarly startled by the insight he gives us into what this period of revolution and pre-revolution seemed like to men and women living in it.

It is always a question whether in a historical novel an author should attempt when he pictures conditions and thoughts of another period, at the same time to reproduce the speech of the period. Archaic phrases are sometimes a nuisance to a reader, but nevertheless it is startling to hear the forefathers using distinctly twentieth century slang and colloquialisms!

Fundamentally this is a story of action. Arnold, Burr, Washington, and many another character are subjected to shrewd and memorable descriptive phrases. Washington's false teeth and Burr's indigestion are likely to be added to our impressions of these men. The book, however, is not a book intended to throw fresh light on historical characters. Even Phoebe is not a comment on eighteenth century womanhood but rather the comedy touch which lightens the rigors of that terrible journey to Quebec. She is the comic relief which acts both as making tragedy bearable and at the same time intensifying the impressiveness of the darker portions of the story. The biggest achievement of the book is the manner in which Mr. Roberts makes the experiences of this march so vivid that we hope and suffer and strain onward with these men and women whose only chance of living lies in their ability to endure to the end of the march.

Arundel. Being the Recollections of Steven Nason of Arundel, in the Province of Maine, Attached to the Secret Expedition Led by Colonel Benedict Arnold Against Quebec. By Kenneth Roberts. \$2.50. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc.

JUST TALKS—ON COMMON THEMES

On "A New Book on Maine."

Maine is indebted to Kenneth Roberts, a well known writer for the Saturday Evening Post, native of Maine, author of several books and summer resident at Kennebunkport for a new historical novel—"Arundel."

I have no notion of writing any critical review of the story, at this time. My purpose is to mention the book as "news"; and indicate that it "belongs" to Maine. We may well take a sort of proprietary interest in it; claim it; talk about it and above all—READ it.

Thru it—and this is its distinctive charm—runs a fine appreciation, almost an adoration for the soil of Maine; a form of "worship" indeed, that arouses OUR enthusiasm and we believe will awaken the same emotions in the mind of everyone who loves this fine land of the sea, mountain and river.

Arundel takes its name from the ancient name of the Kennebunk and Kennebunkport region and it is a pity, that the name was ever changed. "Arundel" has the reverberation of sweet music. And "music" befits, any description of one of the more lovely stretches of Maine harbors, coves, estuaries, beaches and shore—the latter fertilized by rivers of sweet water. So appreciative is Mr. Roberts of the land of beauty, that his descriptions become almost a surfeit; but we all may say that it requires much space to do justice to this region of western Maine, along shore.

The story is historical and full of action. After one has read it and followed up its leads, he may have a practical knowledge of colonial history. It dates its action from 1760, when the hero was 13 years old, thru the romantic period of the hero's life, which we may assume to be about twenty years. As a prelude, Steven Nason, the hero traces his family thru branches that came over to Arundel (Kennebunkport) from the Berwick section of the town of Kittery—the forbears of his grandfather having come to Berwick, Maine, from Berwick, England in 1639. This grandfather Nason had fought in the siege of Louisburg, Cape Breton, in 1745, along with Captain Moses Butler whose daughter the elder Nason married. In 1670, Benjamin Nason, Steven's father was attracted to Wells, by gift of 200 acres of fine upland and 10 acres of marsh, provided he would be the village blacksmith. And he accepted the offer on account of the land, albeit Wells "was populated at that time by a most shiftless and poverty-stricken folk, dwelling for the most part in wretched log-huts and constantly at odds with the Indians."

Here Benjamin Nason came; here he worked and prospered; here he hunted with and became fond of the Abenakis; here he became a leader; man of means; tavern-keeper and here begins the romance of Steven Nason, his son, in the setting of abundance, in admiration of the good-Indian, in the blessings of a beautiful mother and a strong, wise and gentle father.

This tale is exceedingly long. In typography and makeup, we can think of nothing except the once-famous "Richard Carvel" of Winston Churchill, a book of similar purpose, historical and adventurous. Mr. Booth Tarkington, a resident at Kennebunkport, in the summertime, likens Roberts's book to Lorna Doone; the "Three Musketeers" and "The White Company." But we fail to see either of the latter resemblances. It does resemble Lorna Doone in a certain prolixity and redundance of description and introspectiveness. Arundel takes 618 pages, closely printed,—probably about 200,000 to 225,000 words—which is twice or thrice the length of some popular novels. It has a prologue, and four "books"—in all thirty six chapters.

A prodigious amount of information as to the Abenaki tribe of Indians is conveyed, their domestic life, their cooking recipes;

the way they made many of their articles of common use; their form of worship of the Great Spirit, their "medicine men" or "m' teoulins"; their general honesty and nobility. Mr. Roberts

repeats a great deal, or rather reiterates somewhat painfully at times, his own opinions of the distinctly superior qualities and true nobility of the Abenaki. His book really carries a most valuable history of Maine Indians, and glorifies that interesting historic character, "Natanis" whom he calls "wisest of the Abenakis" and the delightful character of Hobomok, designated as "the best of the 'm' teoulins." And—to complete the circle of the notable Indian characters in 'Arundel' we have a delightful characterization" of "Jacataqua," Indian princess, at Swan Island, in the Kennebec, opposite Richmond, concerning which we ourselves have written so much and which is such historic ground.

Our readers may feel, as we used to feel, that Jacataqua was "renowned" chiefly for the tale that she "followed Aaron Burr into the wilderness, hypnotized, as it were by the smiles of that strangely irresistible lover." This must be unjust; for Mr. Roberts makes Jacataqua a most lovely person, the blood-sister of Steven Nason, probably the daughter of his father in some romance of his earlier life, when he roamed amid the Abenaki; for Jacataqua's mother "Robomis" loved Steven's father.

The book is described by its reviewers as a "maelstrom of action." We find is hardly that. Two definite adventures occupy its romantic movement. One is the chase of a French nobleman up the Kennebec to and beyond Swan island to the neighborhood of the rapids above Cushnoc or Augusta, where ill-fate befell Steven and their chase of the nobleman was over. This man "Guerlac" had murdered Indians; stolen Steven's sweetheart at Arundel; and escaping carried her by force to Quebec.

From that adventure Steven and his father's friend returned. The second episode of large moment after Steven's young manhood is attained, is the Arnold expedition to Quebec—a historic tale of Maine—herein told in almost painful detail, at times, yet an epic of thrilling encounter and heroic sufferings. The man of the Arnold trail forms the inside of the covers of the book and makes easy tracing from Arundel to Quebec. It is a grim and heartrending tale, enlightened by the most intimate portraits of Arnold, Burr, Daniel Morgan and his riflemen, Henry Dearborn, Roger Enos, Natanis, Hobomok, Jacataqua and a wonderful girl Phoebe, native of Arundel—a careful, engaging sprite of the sea, sailor, swimmer, warrior, fighter—the finest character of the book, and so delicately and gradually limned that she will live—or should live—in fiction.

We delight—and you will delight—in the intimate and painstaking record of trips along shore in the sloop, which Phoebe built and captained; in its mention of rivers, reaches, cross-cuts and clever sailing along shore and up the Kennebec. You will enjoy the picture of Falmouth (Portland) of that time; the intimate pictures of Washington's camp in Cambridge, Mass., the buffoonery of Captain Huff, the politics of the times; the tales of prodigious eating and drinking; the tavern tales; the escapes; ambushes; the pictures of the warriors of the forests; the episodes at Dead River; the trails via Brunswick and Merrymeeting—trails that we ourselves followed often as a lad, and that now seem again to press beneath the feet.

The Arnold expedition will need no other historian—if this passes muster for accuracy as we assume it will. One lives again the cold, wet, and hunger; and again lives to regret the terrible mistake that unwise counsellors put over against Arnold, when he failed to use the time-tried practical Indian canoe and took to the heavy, lumbering and wholly inadequate lumberman's batteaux, for his portage and his men.

That one mistake, changed history.

Kenneth L. Roberts, Who Wrote Arundel, Was First Encouraged To Write Book By Col. Roosevelt

Was Enthusiastically Urged To Lay Aside All
Work And Start At Once Upon The
Great Undertaking



By Robert B. Beith

Most people believe that Kenneth L. Roberts, staff correspondent of the "Saturday Evening Post" and author of "Arundel", a novel of early Maine, is an adopted son of this State along with his neighbor and friend, Booth Tarkington.

The fact is, Mr. Roberts was born at Kennebunk about 45 years ago and save for his extensive journalistic and war ramblings, has always lived in that vicinity. At the present time, though now in Italy, he maintains a home at Kennebunk Beach and most every Summer finds him there or someplace in Maine.

His First Historical Novel

Though he has been well known as the author of several travel books and "Antiquiamania," an amusing satire on the collection of antiques as well as of innumerable articles appearing in the Saturday Evening Post, Mr. Roberts reached the greatest peak of his fame only recently when Doubleday, Doran & Co., published his magnificent historical novel, the first he ever attempted.

He has been writing something or other since college days when he was editor-in-chief of the Cornell Widow. Upon graduating from that university, he took the steps followed by many of America's foremost writers and joined a newspaper staff. For three years, from 1905 to 1908 he served as a reporter, columnist and humorist for the Boston Post. That led to the magazine field and Mr. Roberts was a member of the editorial staffs of Puck and Life until the war came. Then he enlisted, was commissioned a captain in the Intelligence Section and sailed abroad with the Siberian Expeditionary Force. After the war he became a staff correspondent for the Saturday Evening Post and since that time has written many hundreds of thousands of words for that magazine.

"Arundel" was really launched many years ago while Mr. Roberts was with Life and Puck. It is an interesting story and should appeal to the hundreds of Maine people who are now reading the book. It seems that one day Mr. Roberts came across an interview with Theodore Roosevelt in which the President spoke of some reading he had recently done.

"I got a whole lot of entertainment out of one other book," Roosevelt said in the interview, "the title of which I have forgotten. I can't recall even the author's name, but the story was mighty good."

Verses Addressed to Roosevelt

After reading those remarks, Mr. Roberts wrote some verses addressed "To Col. Roosevelt: A Letter of Protest."

I had intended, sir, to write

A book—a novel, say—this Summer:
Something exciting, gripping, bright:
In short, a hummer.

But, sir, your statements in the news
Have filled my heart with hesitation
And made me think I'd better choose
A new vocation.

In fact, to all us writer chaps

Who'd fain be Tarkingtons or Trol-
lopes,
Your words are worse than thunder-
claps
Or numbing wallops.

For how can we preserve our poise
And keep undimmed the flame Ambition
If we're to be denied the joys
Of recognition?

No book can possibly succeed
Unless the public knows its title
And author too. These things, in-
deed,
Are almost vital.

For with his book unsought, unsold,
The author cannot know Fame's
blessing;
And that, combined with lack of gold,
Is most distressing.

And if you, sir, forget these things,
Won't lesser minds forget them also?
Indeed they will! 'Tis that which
stings,
And stirs my gall so!

So, speaking for the writing crew,
I pray that henceforth you'll be
heeding
The author and the title too
Of what you're reading.

These verses appeared in the New York Evening Sun on April 14, 1918.

and two days later their author received a note from Ethel Derby, Col. Roosevelt's daughter.

"Mr. Roberts' note in last night's Sun," it said, "was read to Mr. Roosevelt, whose face thereon registered interest, amusement and repentance. A cross examination revealed that although he had forgotten the title and the author's name, he remembered many of the incidents of the book, from which the cross examiner deduced the name of 'The Lone Wolf,' by Louis Vance, which Mr. Roosevelt rapturously acknowledged to be the correct title."

Friendship Between The Two

Mr. Roberts probably sent a note to Col. Roosevelt, who soon replied. This exchange of communications led to a meeting between the two when Mr. Roberts brought up the subject of the "gripping novel" mentioned in the verses. He told the colonel that he hoped some day to write two novels of Maine, one with a Revolutionary background and one with a background of the War of 1812, but that the preliminary labor connected with them would be so tremendous that he felt it would be impossible for him to attempt them until he could afford to give up all other activities for a year more.

Whereupon, we are told, Col. Roosevelt pounded his desk and showed his teeth and wagged his finger threateningly in his visitor's face. "You have a virgin field," he told Roberts, "and some of the greatest material in the world. If you can't write those books now, don't write any other sort of novels, because if you make a success with the other work you'll never be able to give the time and the toil to writing the proper sort of historical novel. You write these books! There aren't enough of that sort being written by Americans. I want to see those books written! I'll provide you with a ton of material. I'm going to watch you until you write those books. I want to have some more talks with you about them."

But the talks never were held because only two months later, Mr.

Roberts was out at sea bound for Siberia in his Country's uniform. When he returned in 1919, Colonel Roosevelt was dead. But "Arundel" was really born during that first and last talk, for Mr. Roberts was given the encouragement that he needed to tackle the imposing work that rests today upon many Maine tables.

Interested Charles G. Dawes

Later was to come more encouragement. While Charles G. Dawes, now ambassador to England, was vice president, Mr. Roberts mentioned his ambition to him and interested him in the subject. General Dawes not only supplied the author with books from his own library but secured for him a number of rare books and dairies from the Congressional Library at Washington. Further encouragement was given by Mr. Tarkington.

If any man is qualified to write this story of Colonial Maine, the Revolution and Arnold's secret and gallant

expedition to Quebec it is Mr. Roberts. He is a direct descendant of a member of the expedition. He knows the Country intimately. As a small boy he has fished and hunted along the route taken by Arnold and his brave little band. And in later life he has made many excursions into that part of the State through which the army passed.

With the story running through his mind for years, undoubtedly he visualized the scenes that occurred along the Kennebec as half-starved soldiers carried their heavy bateaux and supplies across the portages, battled mud, water, forest and later snow and cold.

But when the time came to begin writing Mr. Roberts removed himself from the scene of which he was to write, preferring a perspective to a close-up. He went to a small Tuscan town that boasted but one automobile and one telephone, no movies, contract bridge and not a single radio. There he stayed until the book was finished.

There he vividly pictured the pioneer life of Maine—the inns with their rough panelled walls and kegs of buttered rum, the traders and Indians, the sloops bringing back the latest news of Boston fashions, the political intrigue, the forests and settlements. In this background the human characters play out the drama of their lives.

It is well that Mr. Roberts saw Col. Roosevelt. Maine would have been the poorer had he never written "Arundel" and so would have Mr. Roberts. It is in popular demand all over the Country but particularly in Maine. In Portland, for example, it is a best seller and a best lender. Book stores and all of the large lending libraries report that no other historical novel has ever enjoyed such popularity.

Mr. Roberts would do well to write the second novel, that with the War of 1812 as the background. After the success of "Arundel" its reception is assured.

ARUNDEL. By KENNETH ROBERTS. New York: Doubleday, Doran. 1930. \$2.50.

Benedict Arnold's march to Quebec is the central episode of this novel. Through the eyes of one Steven Nason, a lad from Maine, we follow the expedition in its tortured, crawling progress up the Kennebec, across the northern forests and swamps, and finally to the St. Lawrence. We see Arnold's long wait for the supporting forces of General Montgomery, who is to come down the river from Montreal; and finally the ruinous assault on Quebec, New Year's Eve, 1775. These chapters are usually in the best tradition of the historical novel—imaginative, revealing, and convincing. The account of the unsuccessful storming of Quebec is especially good, a pitiful story of defeat. So much for the historical aspects of "Arundel."

The novel as a whole is an account of the boyhood, youth, and early maturity of this Steven Nason, whose home was the garrison house at Arundel, a tiny settlement on the Maine coast between Biddeford and Kittery. We learn the routine of the Arundel days, come to understand the friendly Indians, get the characteristic feel of the countryside. The pages record sights, sounds, smells—things to eat, things to wear, ways of traveling, ways of fighting; the writing is realistic in that it is a comprehensive catalogue of everyday life. Mr. Roberts with unflagging zest lays before us the minutiae of the colonists' casual affairs, and he has humor, with a welcome spice of irony. Few historical novels give us as frequently as does "Arundel" the illusion of living in past time. As Steven Nason goes about his chores, or to Cambridge to see Washington, or through the horrors of the march to Quebec, we often sense the eighteenth century as something actual and present. Against this background of social life and of history, there is a personal narrative: the love affairs of young Nason, and the complicated doings of his friends. This, the story aspect of the book, is good enough, though it is seldom definitely interesting.

There is only one thing the matter with "Arundel," but that one thing is a rather serious error of judgment. The novel is much too long. It lolls and expands in unbuttoned ease, and is apparently quite innocent of the blue pencil. It is almost a third longer than "Kenilworth," and four fifths the length of "Vanity Fair." We look askance at such extensiveness these days, especially when it seems to have been far from necessary.

Saturday Review of Literature
May 17, 1930.

"A GLUTTON FOR TRUTH"

To the Editor of The Herald:

I read your article in a recent issue about Kenneth Roberts, author of "Arundel," which article was headed "A Glutton for Truth." I also read his very interesting novel, "Arundel," when it came out last winter. At that time his interpretation of the character, intelligence, and habits of the Abenaki Indians impressed me as probably not so truthful as drawn to fit the story.

Lately I have read "The Candle in the Wilderness" by Irving Bacheller in which Mr. Bacheller gives a very different conception of the Indians of colonial times. It is true Mr. Bacheller's Indians were Iroquois and Algonquin and his story of an earlier date.

Mr. Bacheller gives, in the back of his book, references to his authorities for his historical facts and his rather unusual description of his Indians. Mr. Roberts does not quote any authorities. Presumably Mr. Roberts did considerable research work before writing his book, but the main historical facts of Benedict Arnold's famous and fruitless expedition were first gathered together and published in July, 1901, in "Arnold's Expedition to Quebec," by John Codman, 2d (Macmillan Co.). This work is a historical narrative.

Omitting the rather absurd love story from "Arundel" and a few other fictional scenes, the book becomes a replica of John Codman, 2d's, earlier narrative. Codman also gives many authorities for his facts. He made the trip personally when the route was not so much of a wilderness as in Arnold's time, but much more so than in Kenneth Roberts's.

The over-exertion from that trip in 1896 brought about Codman's death Aug. 31, 1897, so he never saw his book published. It was ably edited by Mark DeWolfe Howe. Codman was president of his class of 1885 at Harvard and on the varsity football team and, although admitted to the bar without even going to a law school, he made real estate brokerage his vocation.

WILLIAM COOMBS CODMAN,
Boston, Aug. 20.

Boston Herald
August 22, 1930

FROM AUTHOR OF "ARUNDEL"

To the Editor of The Herald:

William Coombs Codman, in a letter published in your Mail Bag of Aug. 22, in effect accuses me of plagiarizing John Codman's "Arnold's Expedition to Quebec" in my novel "Arundel."

His grounds for this charge seem to be, first, that his distinguished relative wrote a history of the expedition; and second, that I quoted no authorities for the historical background of my novel.

I have always felt that it is somewhat out of place to append a long bibliography to a work of fiction; and I consequently did not do so in "Arundel." But since Mr. Codman raises the point, I here set down a partial list of authorities used in its preparation. The full list, together with my maps and the manuscript, has been in the hands of the Maine State Library, Augusta, Me., since last November. The able reference librarian of that institution, Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller, has been kind enough to send the full list to those sufficiently interested to ask for it, and will, I am sure, be glad to do so in the future.

Adams, James Truslow: "Revolutionary New England."

Anburey, Lt.: "Travels Through the Interior Ports of America, 1776-1781."

Arnold, B.: "Journal of the Expedition to Quebec."

Arnold, I. N.: "Life of Benedict Arnold."

Bourne: "History of Wells and Kennebunk."

Bradbury: "History of Kennebunkport."

Codman, J.: "Arnold's Expedition to Quebec."

Davis, M. L.: "Aaron Burr."

Dearborn, Henry: "Journal of the Quebec Expedition."

Drake: "Tragedies of the Wilderness."

Drake: "Indians of North America."

Fobes, C.: "Account of the Quebec Expedition."

French, Allen: "Siege of Boston."

Hanson, J. W.: "History of Gardiner and Pittston."

Hanson, J. W.: "History of Norridgewock and Canaan."

"History of the Kennebec Valley."

Haskell: "Journal of the Quebec Expedition."

Henry, J. J.: "Account of Arnold's Campaign."

Leland, Charles Godfrey: "Algonquin Legends of New England."

Lincoln (Gov.): "The Abenaki Indians."

Lossing, B. J.: "Field Book of the Revolution."

Maine Historical Society; collections: Vols. I and VI, containing material on "Arnold's Expedition" and the "Abenaki Indians."

Melvin, J.: "Journal of Arnold's Expedition."

Minnegerode & Andrews: "Life of A. Burr."

Morison, G.: "Journal of Arnold's Expedition."

Parkman, Francis: "Half-Century of Conflict."

Parkman, Francis: "Montcalm and Wolfe."

Parton, J.: "Aaron Burr."

Pope, Saxton: "Hunting With the Bow and Arrow."

Remich: "History of Kennebunk."

Senter, I.: "Journal of Arnold's Expedition."

Smith, Justin H.: "Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec."

Thayer, S.: "Journal of Arnold's Expedition."

Ventromille (Fr.): "The Abenaki Indians."

Williamson, W. D.: "History of Maine."

Willis, W.: "History of Portland."

There is one point, in view of Mr. William Coombs Codman's groundless charge against me, that should be made clear. John Codman's "History of Arnold's Expedition" makes pretty good reading; but for accuracy it does not compare with Prof. Justin Smith's "Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec." In fact, Smith devotes about one-third of his history to pointing out the inaccuracies in Codman's book—inaccuracies doubtless due to the fact that Codman died before he had revised it for publication.

Mr. Codman seems to suggest, in his letter, that John Codman, by writing a

history of Arnold's Expedition, has forever barred authors from further use of that expedition in fictional form. This suggestion, I feel, is too absurd to require further comment.

KENNETH ROBERTS,
Kennebunk Beach, Me., Aug. 22.

Boston Herald
August 25, 1930

"ARUNDEL"

To the Editor of The Herald:

After reading with great pleasure "Arundel," Mr. Codman's letter of Aug. 20 was of interest. There are some things in the wonderful book which amused me: Mr. Roberts's beans, for example, were baked in an entirely different way from old-time beans. "My sister Hepsibah stood guard over the beanpot to make sure that the water never fell below the level of the top-most bean." My grandmother's stories carry me back 50 years. She always said that the reason beans were so much better baked in the brick oven was because the even heat and long cooking required no addition of water, after the first filling. Then, too, were the oven opened constantly, it would soon lose its heat. Again—"My sister Cynthia stood by the stove . . . adding water to the beans." Why the stove? I have been in many old houses, and know many tales of old-time cooking, but not one of stoves. I think Mr. Ford would pay a good price for one of Mr. Roberts's stoves.

There are several mentions of tomatoes stewed with a flavoring of allspice and vinegar. I would like to know if tomatoes were used commonly in the 18th century. I supposed that then they were called "love-apples," and not thought of as much good.
MRS. CAROLINE C. LAMPING SHEA,
Hampton, Aug. 26.

May 5, 1931

By direction of Mr. Roberts the photo-stat map of Quebec has been sent to Miss Mildred Burrage, Virginia City, Nevada for copying.

The map was sent by first class mail

Address;

Miss Mildred Burrage

c/o Dr. William B. Johnston

Nixon House

Reno

Nevada

(Signed)MCF

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

June 22nd, 1933.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

Until recently, the reference books that I was unable to buy were drawn from the Congressional Library for me by Senator Moses' office staff and packed down to me. Now that the Senator has been licked, that fortunate avenue has been closed.

I am working on the last stretch of a sequel to Arundel, and have turned up a few titles that I ought to consult. I enclose the list, and wish you would look it over and see whether you can find some way of getting the books for me for a short time — possibly a month.

With best wishes I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts.

COPY

June 27, 1933

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

I am very glad indeed to hear from you again and of course I am delighted that there is to be a sequel to Arundel. We had two of the books on your list and sent them to you at once; probably you have already received them. We sent to Bowdoin College for the others, and they were able to lend us all except Wayne's Orderly Book, Boyer's Journal (I think that the title is Diary, rather than Daily Journal) and the books by Trusler and Tryon. We sent you the package of books yesterday, nine of them. The Autobiography of Black Hawk is rather a rare item so will you please return it as soon as possible so that we can send it back to Bowdoin? The others you can doubtless have renewed if you need them for longer than the allotted three weeks. Will you write us if you wish a renewal? The other books we will try to obtain for you from Boston and will send them to you as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

* Hoffman, W. J. U. S. Bureau of Ethnology
Report, 1885-6.

Trusler, Dr. John: A Sure Way to
Lengthen Life.

Tryon, The Way to Health, Long Life and
Happiness.

* Wisconsin Historical Society Collections,
Vols. XI, XII, XVIII (eleven, twelve,
eighteen)

Black Hawk, Autobiography of

Bolton, C. K., The Private Soldier under Washington.

Fisher, S. G., Struggle for Am. Independence.

Schlesinger, A. M., Colonial Merchants of
the Revolution.

Boucher, Jonathan, Reminiscences of an
American Loyalist.

Hatch, L. C., Administration of the
American Revolutionary Army.

Wayne, Anthony, Gen. Wayne's Orderly
Book of the Northern Army

Boyer, Lt. Daily Journal of Wayne's
Campaign ⁱⁿ the Northern Dept.

Perkins, J. B., France in the Am. Rev.

COPY

July 12, 1933

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

How amazingly prompt you are about returning books! The package containing the two latest shipments to you came yesterday. I assume that you are still using "Health and Happiness" and Bolton's "Private Soldier Under Washington". None of the libraries to which we have written can lend us the Trusler book, "A Sure Way to Lengthen Life".

What you say about the new "Arundel" is very interesting. I should think that revision would be difficult. I am sure that I do not wish anything eliminated from my copy but perhaps for school use it needs to be shortened a little. I have been asked so many times to recommend "another Maine book like Arundel", and of course there isn't anything.

Signed M.C.F.

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

July 13th.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I have four books left -
Bureau of Ethnology Report; Private
Soldier Under Washington; Tryon's
Health, etc.; and Administration of
the Am. Revolutionary Army. The
first two I hope to get in the
mail some time today. The last
two I'd like to keep a few
weeks if you can arrange it, so
that I can have them by me
while I'm hacking and interpolating
in this dog-goned 14-pound baby
that's dragging me down.

There is a Diary of Paul Lunt,

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

according to a bibliography somewhere.
It was in Col. Brewer's 12th Massa-
chusetts Regiment during the Revolution.
Can you locate it for me and let me
look at it? I suppose it's printed
in an Historical Society's collection.

We have a society for helping
Maine Literature down here. It's
like the society for helping Maine
Scenery. Almost everybody belongs
to the latter, you know, and
erects billboards, overnight camps
and hot-dog stands. Almost
everybody belongs to the former, too,
and they build garages next
door, send their children to school

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

under authors' windows, try to sell
maps, brushes, polishing rags, knives,
ladders, baskets and burn magazines
at the back door, ring telephone bells,
set off firecrackers, blow auto horns,
knock golf balls against the front
windows, and stop in at five
minute intervals in the hope of
getting some gin x If you hear
of a place where there isn't a
chapter of this society, hurry up
and let me know.

Yrs. distractedly

Kenneth Roberts x

COPY

July 17, 1933

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

The Bureau of Ethnology
Report and The Private Soldier under Washington have just
arrived. We have renewed The Administration of the Revolutionary
Army and have written to Boston asking for a renewal of
Tryon's Health and Happiness.

I found a Paul Lunt's Diary in one of the volumes
of the Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings and
sent it to you. I hope that it is the one which you wanted.

Wouldn't you like to live on a island? I am sure
that many of the Maine islands are a quiet as the Pink
Castle. But dampish, this weather.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH L. ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

July 1, 1933.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I am greatly obliged to you for the books. I took notes on Black Hawk and returned it today. I will try to get the others back to you in a couple of weeks. My publishers are riding me hard to finish ten chapters and the book by August, and revise everything at the same time, so I want to keep my desk clear. Whether I can, I dunno. Publishers seem to exist largely to drive authors crazy.

A greatly improved edition of Arundel is somewhere in the offing. It ought to be distributed now, but isn't, to the disgust of the Eastern News Co. Certainly it should be obtainable sometime this month. The type is better,

and I spent a year revising the text,
so to eliminate as much dead wood
as possible. I think I worked
harder revising it than I did
writing it. It was going more and
more into schools, so I felt it
had to be done — though I fear
it has permanently wrecked my
even disposition and my kindly
spirit. Association with publishers
always does it in the end.

I send you my thanks
again, and my very best wishes.
I'm sorry WE were in our Parker
Mountain retreat when you
drove past.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

Sept. 30.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I return the Hatch Rev. Army
with many thanks and apologies.
One of my own was sent me yes-
terday, and I now know I could
have got it just as easily six
weeks ago. I think this squares
us on books.

The page proofs of Rabble In Arms
went back to Doubleday today,
and the book is scheduled for
Nov. 8. I asked them to send
you one of the first copies, and
I hope you'll find it interesting.
~~It took three times as long~~

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

to write as Arundel, was three
times harder to do, and I wish
to God it would be three times
better x

Again many thanks for your
help x

With my very best wishes,

Kenneth Roberts x

October 31, 1934

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We are asking Loring, Short and Harmon, of
Portland, Maine, to forward a copy of **CAPTAIN
CAUTION** to you, hoping that you will be kind
enough to autograph it for our Maine Author
Collection.

Please accept our congratulations on the
publication of this book.

Very truly yours

hm

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

Enc:

Secretary

Return label and four cents postage.



Kenneth Roberts, Kennebunk, Maine Author.

BY ALICE FROST LORD

UNTIL yesterday Kenneth Roberts to the writer was but a name, a distinguished name, to be sure, but only a name. Mention him and one thought of his long association with the Saturday Evening Post as staff correspondent, of his novels increasing in fame with the later production of "Arundel", "The Lively Lady" and "Rabble in Arms", and of his connections with Maine as a resident of Kennebunk Beach and an "agitator of the people" in the modern cause of roadside and community beautification.

Until yesterday he was a literary light hiding securely under the bushel of a small Maine coast resort, as far as personal accessibility is concerned. Banish the thought that Kenneth Roberts could endure living in a niche in a shrine sought by pilgrims. Seclusion, quiet, a chance to work uninterrupted, and beauty all around him, in his home, in his study, and thruout the tiny community of which he is so important a part—this is his taste and to a remarkable degree his achievement.

Accent on this situation was given by discovery that no telephone connections link the author with the outside world. No tinkling bell by day or night distracts. Business and social life is pushed back around the poplar corner and over the oak-shade knoll, where the macadam runs beachwise and inns and shops cluster.

Kenneth Roberts keeps his hand on the tiller and sailropes of his days, and manages his precious craft of hours against adverse winds of modern usages and interruptions. One feels the even keel of busy weeks in this study that is a transfigured stable. Hid behind a walled-in court where apple-trees grow Japanese-fashion, flat against the facade, and where pansy borders flourish, he charts and follows his course thru history and romance.

But when one once penetrates his seclusion, Mr. Roberts surrenders completely to the transient demand upon his time. He has been a reporter and special writer, back in his Boston Post days. Under his skin he is sensitive to the feelings of this clan of wandering question-marks, and sympathetic with their struggles against obstacles.

Morning sunshine outlined the fountain-figure among the flowers, making one think of Margaret Deland's strange bronze nestled in a birch-cluster at her river-side cottage a mile or two eastward. Mrs.

Deland was out for an afternoon social affair, later that same day, and could not be seen; but in her cloistered retreat was spied the same engaging garden-statue which had found photographic record by the writer a decade ago.

Thru an arched doorway at the Roberts' study, carefully screened, came the familiar click of type-keys. The author was at his day's work. A tap, and a robust voice called, "Come in!"

What a room! The roof was high. The stable-like size ensured spaciousness, but the tall wall-spaces were broken on two sides by a narrow balcony with slender railing; and an open-stairway

leading to second-floor quarters for sleeping also gave access to hanging book-cases in which Mr. Roberts keeps intimate data on current books he is writing.

Paintings and old engravings of historical interest caught the eye; but the two impressive features, apart from the man, himself, were an eight-foot eagle that once or-

namented with unusual grace of form and line the first supreme court building in this country and which is now hung against the balcony at the rear, and an unique fireplace that projected into the room at the opposite end, something like an Eskimo igloo in white plaster.

An high-backed, tapestry covered chair that might have come out of some palace scraped the boards. The occupant rose alertly—and the welcome, vigorous and warm, was over.

Beautification

"Our Maine vacationland!" he ejaculated, with an immediate conversational dive into the subject

nearest his heart, outside of his books.

"People may not like to hear it, but all up and down our coast officials are doing their best to wreck the State!" There was conviction here.

"See what is being done, or not being done, to bring into Maine and keep here the people who are most desirable—people who will establish their summer homes along our coast, pay substantial taxes and ensure the future welfare of the State. Southern Maine is catering almost entirely to tawdriness and impermanence. Why, we aren't in Maine until we cross the Kennebec!"

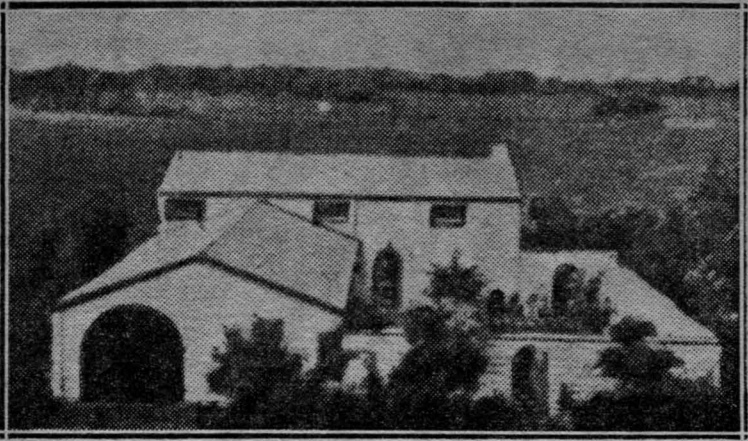
Mr. Roberts needed no jockeying to swing into his pace on this familiar theme. He was on his feet, his eyes flashing, words pouring out with fluency, tho low-spoken after the manner of a gentleman. Talking, he strode around his big chair, and suddenly sat down again.

"They tell me the State has committed a new billboard atrocity

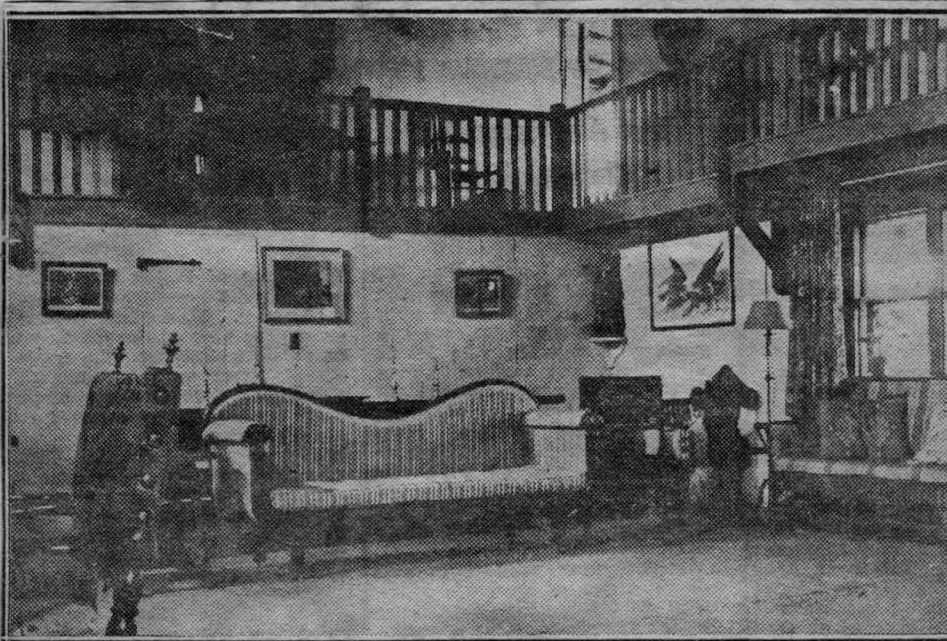
this season down this way; and look at what summer visitors, whom we invite here, see as they cross this part of the State; Regiments of telephone poles! Acres of overnight camps! Winrows of billboards, and more billboards! Are they any fewer since the campaign started against them at Augusta? No! Nor have the legislators done more than to license them and drive them back certain distances from the highway. They have not restricted them to commercial areas. Thousands of letters of protest in the office of the Maine Publicity Bureau prove that people with brains regard the billboarded sections of southern Maine as residential slums; and a slum never was worth anything to anybody.

"Do not mistake me," he added, as he rose again and backed against table and typewriter, as if by standing he could better visualize the picture before his mind.

"I recognize the right of people to have access to our wonderful ocean front, but not to make a mess of it. Give them parking areas well back from the shore, from which they may walk, as the rest of us summer cottagers walk, to enjoy the beach and rocks! But don't let them make life hideous with their automobiles, their noise and their debris!"



View of Roberts Study and Personal Quarters at Kennebunk Beach.



Roberts' Study, Showing Remodelled Stable, With Balcony, and Unusual Fireplace.



Again Mr. Roberts subsided into his chair. "Maine could learn from the experience it had at York Harbor," he continued. "Look at what Thomas Nelson Page and Thomas Bailey Aldrich, men of genuine vision, did for that place. Land was bought along shore and the beach was made into an attractive park. Summer cottagers with wealth and influence have appreciated these restrictions and have come to stay. They have brought others like themselves. They own property on which large taxes are being paid. They are an asset to the community and to the State. York Harbor is an internationally known resort. How well-known, or how much of an asset to the State would a tourist camp be, even the twice as pop-

ulous as York Harbor!

"What York Harbor has done can be accomplished in these other resorts, if selectmen are foresighted, and plan with an idea of community well-being and growth. They do not seem to realize how they are injuring their prospects, lessening their income from taxes and destroying the heritage of their children by neglecting to protect and beautify the shore frontage.

"Take our waterfront at Kennebunk Beach! Robert Lord, an able man, gave land to the town over quarter of a century ago on the condition that it should be made into a parkway. But town officials have permitted it to become a

dump. They ignore our pleas for relief. They ignore the conditions of Robert Lord's bequest. In their stubbornness they are wrecking their own property values and their one sure source of future income, but they won't see it! They can't see it!

"Some towns spend thousands of dollars to induce the building of factories, but not a penny on preserving their waterfronts. Isn't it better to protect a valuable waterfront than to foster a dozen factories? The value of the sea, the rocks and a beautiful shore never grows less. Never! But no factory ever built can be permanent, or attractive, or any thing but destructive to what the State of Maine is advertising.

"On the other hand, the preservation of Maine as vacation land of beauty and a lure to summer-home owners will increase buying-power population for years—just as long as our shore fronts are protected. If they are not protected they bring in cheaper and cheaper people. Homes decay and shacks spring up; and it is one of the best-known economic facts that one had house pulls down the character of a street, one bad street that of a town, and one bad town that of the larger units of county and State.

"Ruin a show-window and the remainder of the store becomes worthless, no matter what is in it. It is the same here at the shore!"

With a sweep of his hand oceanward: "Southern Maine has become like Chelsea, Massachusetts—a suburb. Drive up and down this part of the State and it gives you that feeling!

"Of course we can't fight the motor-age," he conceded, as he paced the room, "and we don't want to. But we can fight stupidity and injustice! If this State wants to advertise itself as a vacationland why doesn't it put an end



Study-Courtyard, Mr. Roberts Inspecting His Fountain and Flowers

to a condition that allows three or four half-witted boys with an out-board motor to destroy the peace and comfort of an entire summer resort, including people who bring untold advantages to a State and must have peace to do it, Margaret Deland, for example, and Booth Tarkington!

"That's what I'm fighting for—protection of the right kind!"

Asked if he had any idea that the beach might be set apart from the remainder of Kennebunk, Mr. Roberts said that the anger of the summer community at the shortsightedness of the town officials was so intense that anything might result from it.

"Salmon Levenson of Chicago, who wrote the peace plan which won the Nobel Peace Prize for Secretary of State Kellogg, has been active in behalf of such a local plan," said Mr. Roberts. "So, too, has the Rev. John Haynes Holmes, a clergyman with an international reputation.

"Some people believe our desire to have our water front protected is a selfish one. Mine is not. I'm working for the best interests of my own town and my own State, and against the pig-headedness of people who want to wreck both. They call me a summer resident: a selfish summer resident. Piffle! They're opening the Vaughn house in Kittery this week. That house is built on the land my family owned in 1632. Part of my family moved to Arundel in 1725. Three of my ancestors from Maine were carried to Canada by Indians. Two of them fought the French at Ticonderoga under Abercrombie. Three more helped to capture Louisburg in 1745. Four others, all from this same town, were officers in the Revolution.

"Another was a privateer captain and did a stretch in Dartmoor prison.

"Selfish summer resident! H—H! This is my State! I was born here! I love it! Do you think it is selfishness that makes me see red when a lot of mental pigmies go to work to wreck it?"

Mention of "Rabble in Arms" proved to be cue for a shift in conversational scenery. This author, for the moment dynamic actor is championing a cause lost (to date), relaxed into happier lines. His typewriter came under the spotlight. The steady beating of the keys up to the last second before the day's invasion raised the question as to how he worked.

"Two thousand words a day is an extremely high average to maintain on sustained work; but in or-

der to meet my publisher's—and my own—needs I was obliged to write the last 35,000 words of 'Rabble in Arms' between July 8 and August 30, 1933. In order to do it I had to work from nine to one each morning, from three to eight o'clock each afternoon, and from eleven to three o'clock each night. No job ever will come closer to killing me than that one did. When I finished it I was a wreck for a year."

The author stepped quickly to the stairs and from a pendant shelf took down a big volume which proved to be a revision of his last book. He spread open the pages, showing fine writing with many changes in words and phrases throughout the text.

"'Rabble in Arms' was revised a dozen times or more," he explained. "The writing of a book is the easiest part of it. The re-writing is the hardest. It is almost impossible to

get it into such shape that it satisfies you. Even after 'Arundel' was published it was entirely re-written—partly due to some irritating but justified criticism on the part of Arthur G. Staples. That took eight months. The revision of 'The Lively Lady,' which is being published in England this month, is entirely re-written. The re-writing took four months."

Mr. Roberts said that all four of his chronicles of Arundel were being published in England this year and next by John Lane, and in Germany by Holle and Company.

Mr. Roberts contends that it is only by using small and accurate details that a novelist can create

an atmosphere of truth and bring his characters to life. To illustrate his point, he recounted a fascinating story of technique developed in connection with certain events in one of his recent books. From some retreat, instantly reached, he drew forth a ten-page letter and drawings of some size, which, he explained, were made by an American naval officer to convince him that he was wrong in certain descriptions of the Battle of Valcour Island.

"The fact is that this ex-naval officer had not worked hard enough to obtain his information. He had taken it from histories, and most histories are wrong. To get correct information for 'Rabble' I dug it from the Canadian archives and the British Admiralty, but since I am a novelist and not an historian I find it rather difficult, not to say embarrassing, to convince some people that I am as good as I'd like to have them believe."

Here Mr. Roberts cited the mystery of General Burgoyne's mistress, the woman whose charms delayed Burgoyne's retreat from Saratoga so long that disaster overtook his army. Historians were content to state that the woman was wife of a commissary. Their position was based on the say-so of Baroness Riedesel, whose writings became their authority. Mr. Roberts, however, had to know who she was, since she promised, at one

time, to become a character in 'Rabble in Arms'.

"I asked Milton Lord, director of the Boston public library, who best could help me in this research. He referred me to Zoltan Haraszty, head of the rare manuscripts department of the Boston public library. Mr. Haraszty dug out the list of the seven commissaries attached to the British army. By the cleverest of literary detective work, he found out the one commissary to whose wife Burgoyne could have had access. The only question then to be decided was whether or not the Baroness had lied. Historical research, you see, is very simple, once you know how to do it!"

Another factor essential to truth in writing historical novels, he pointed out, is application of data to what is known from one's own life experience. To illustrate this point, Mr. Roberts referred to the universally accepted statement, made by General St. Clair in his

court-martial, that there was a bright moon during the retreat of the American army from Ticonderoga in 1777.

"When I applied this statement to my own experiences," said he, "I knew that if the moon was full the retreating Americans would have been seen and attacked by the British. They were not, however. Why not? Either the British were crazy, or St. Clair was mistaken about the moon. I got a calendar for 1777 and found that on the date in question there was a new moon. A new moon sets before darkness shuts down. Therefore there had not been a moon that night, after all. St. Clair unconsciously lied. But historians have accepted the lie ever since. Most historians have mistaken their calling! They should have been novelists or plumbers!"

This frank indictment was followed by equally hearty commendation of the way history is being taught at Exeter Academy.

"I can pull down from library shelves hundreds of histories crammed with the grossest inaccuracies and half-truths. Until recently such inaccuracies were taken as gospel in our school histories. But it is impossible to teach the true from the false, and Exeter is doing it."

"How about source material?" was asked, the writer having in mind a reason given by Hugh Pendexter, the Norway author of historical novels of the West and Middle West, as to why he had not chosen Maine for a background for his work. He had said that he had not contracted adequate source material, and intimated that it seemed limited.

"At first I had many difficulties," said Mr. Roberts. "I had to learn how to find these sources. Now I know. All you have to do is to enlist the help of the Congressional library, the Maine State library, a couple of Senators, three or four rare book-dealers in London, a score of the best rare-book dealers in Boston, Albany, Portland, New York and Philadelphia, and employ research workers and

photostatters to find and photograph long-lost manuscripts in England's public record office.

"Once you know the ropes it is simplicity itself—tho it would be easier if days were 48 hours long, instead of 24," he added with vigor.

"What are you writing now?" came the farewell query, no small amount of the author's precious morning work-period having been consumed.

There was no vestige of inertia, as Mr. Roberts turned back to his desk, preparatory to finishing the sentence he had been writing two hours previous. His energy and zest seem unlimited.

"I have been working on a long novel in a New England setting, to cover a period from 1759 to 1780. Much of the action is laid in Kittery and Portsmouth, tho it moves to England, the Great Lakes region, and perhaps to Algiers before it is done.

"Will it be finished this year?" was rather an over-anxious question, speaking for admirers of his productions.

"No," he replied. "I've worked a year on it already, and it will take another year, at least."

Mr. Roberts said that on all his books he has had the advice and assistance of Booth Tarkington, a neighbor at Kennebunk. Mr. Roberts considers him the greatest literary craftsman writing in the English language today.

"A lot of so-called great writers have been turned up in the past decade," he said, "but by comparison with Tarkington they are jokes."

It was interesting to find that Mr. Roberts insists that novels about people of New England are as untrue as they are dull, if the characters are grim, sour and austere.

"I've gunned with Maine people and fished with Maine people and lived among Maine people all my life. They are witty and they are amusing. One can't leave out the humor of our people and be true to life, tho some authors have done it and have been acclaimed for it. The humor of our New Englanders is as good as any humor in the world!" he concluded.

In the hot sun outside fountain waters were dancing, and roses and pansies were delicately fragrant.

From the house, modestly set among densely shading trees just across the narrow roadway, emerged Mrs. Roberts and a guest, ready for their ocean bath; and with a quick change of mind Mr. Roberts suddenly joined them.

One leaves such a place reluctantly—there are so many things of interest from far corners of the world. But the Roberts' family seem entrenched in Maine. They'll be here on the coast year after year, continuingly hopeful that the beauty to which they were born and for which they have such a profound regard will be enhanced by wiser methods of conservation and development.

So may it be!

June 28, 1935

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We have noticed a recent announcement of your forthcoming book, FOR AUTHORS ONLY, and as we are always interested in a new Roberts volume, we are writing to extend our congratulations, and to say that if you would be so kind as to inscribe and present the Maine Author Collection with a copy, we would be most grateful.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

(published on Aug.9)

August 22, 1935

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Once again it becomes our pleasure to offer sincere congratulations to you upon the publication of a new book. The advance notices have been very complimentary, and we are exceedingly anxious to include it in our Maine Author Collection.

We have requested Loring, Short and Harmon of Portland, Maine, to forward a copy to you, and we hope you will be so kind as to inscribe it with your usual graciousness. We enclose a return label and postage, and thank you in advance.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

lm

Secretary

June 28, 1935

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We have noticed a recent announcement of your forthcoming book, FOR AUTHORS ONLY, and as we are always interested in a new Roberts volume, we are writing to extend our congratulations, and to say that if you would be so kind as to inscribe and present the Maine Author Collection with a copy, we would be most grateful.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

August 30th

Dear Miss McLeod:

I have been 12 miles north of Bethel for a month, doing some hard work, and hadn't seen my mail till today. I'm sorry you had to buy the book. I'd have sent you one for the Library if I'd been here. After this, just remind me to send one, and I'll do so, even though there's some delay. I have autographed the copy from Loring Short & Hermons, and return it by this mail.

Please remember me to Dr. Dunnack. I hope that Mrs. Fuller has recovered from her illness.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

September 14, 1935

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you very much for offering to present the Maine Author Collection with copies of your books upon publication. We appreciate your kindness and interest.

FOR AUTHORS ONLY has arrived, and we are delighted with the inscription, as well as the contents. We are pleased that such a versatile pen belongs to a Maine author.

We have conveyed your remembrance to Dr. Dunnack, and your good wishes to Mrs. Fuller, who is now back with us in the library.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

December 20, 1935

Kenneth Roberts
Lividonia
Porto Santo Stefano
(Grossetto) Italy

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We had a request some days ago from Harrie
B. Coe of Portland, for books dealing with the Maine
Coast, to be forwarded to Little, Brown & Co.,
which we understand you wanted for preparation of
a book on this subject. We thought we would send
a copy of this list to you.

Very truly yours

HED/m

State Librarian

December 6, 1936

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It is with pleasure that we notice an announcement of your forthcoming book, **IT MUST BE YOUR TONSILS.** The publication of a new Roberts book is always delightful news, and we hope that we will receive an inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection. Best wishes for the success of the new book.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

February 17, 1936

Kenneth Roberts
Lividonia
Porto Santo Stefano
(Grossetto) Italy

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We wrote you in December, mentioning our pleasure at the announcement of IT MUST BE YOUR TONSILS, but we sent the letter to your Maine address, and therefore wonder if it reached you.

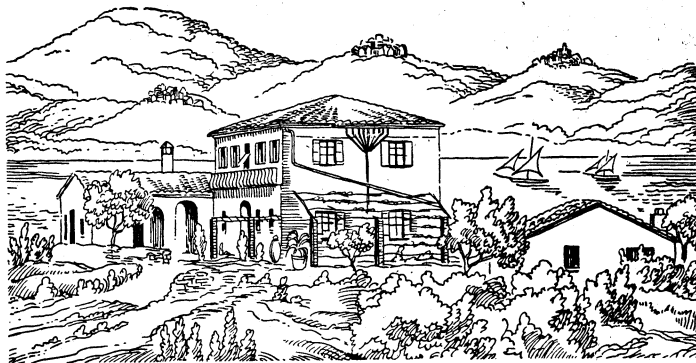
Since you expressed your interest in the Maine Author Collection by promising us an inscribed copy of your books upon publication, we are emboldened to write and tell you that we have not added this latest work to the collection, because we hope that one will be forthcoming from its author.

With our very best wishes for your continued success,

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary



Pato Santo Stefano, Feb. 29, 1936

Dear Miss McLeod:

If you will be kind enough to write me next May by way of reminder, I will be glad to send you an autographed copy of the Tonsil book.

Please thank Mr. Dunnack and Mrs. Fuller for the list of Maine books sent Harrie Coz for me.

Yrs.

Kenneth Roberts

May 14, 1936

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We remember your kind offer, made from Italy, to send us an inscribed copy of IT MUST BE YOUR TONSILS for the Maine Author Collection.

We hope that you still wish to present us with this book, and we assure you of our continued appreciation of your kindness and interest.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library
Secretary

hmm

May 21, 1936

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We have received IT MUST BE YOUR
TONSILS, and we are placing it with our
usual delight and pride, in the Maine
Author Collection.

This copy afforded us the pleasure
of a hilarious re-reading; it is as
amusing and clever the second time as
it was the first, and we feel certain
that it is one of those rare bits of
satire which will always appeal to
American humor.

Thank you for this book, and for
your generous interest in the Maine
Author Collection.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

May 22, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

Doubleday Doran want to add to their Traveling Shows (for use in schools and colleges) some photostats of the manuscript and source books of Arundel. The work on it will be done by Dr. Leonard of Exeter Academy.

Will you be so kind as to have the Arundel manuscript shipped to

Dr. Chilson H. Leonard
Phillips Hall,
Phillips Exeter Academy,
Exeter,
N.H.

Since the value of these manuscripts seems to have mounted considerably, I think it would be a good idea to put the limit in insurance on it.

May 27, 1936

Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Mrs. Fuller has given me your letter requesting us to send the manuscript of ARUNDEL to Dr. Chilson H. Leonard, Phillips Hall, Phillips Exeter, Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire.

I am shipping the manuscript today, and I enclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Leonard,

Very truly yours

HED/m

State Librarian

May 27, 1926

Dr. Chilson H. Leonard
Phillips Hall
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Sir:

We are sending you today the manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' ARUNDEL. It has been carefully wrapped and placed in a box made for this purpose. I will appreciate it if you will use the same box in returning the manuscript. It is going forward today by Express insured.

Very truly yours

HED/a

State Librarian

CHILSON H. LEONARD
THE PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

28 May 1936

Dear Mr. Dummer.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the original manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' novel Armaged. I hope to study this for a week or so, then send it on to Doubleday, Doran & Co., in Garden City, N. Y. to have photostats made of several parts of it. I'll use the same box for returning the manuscript.

Under separate cover I am enclosing you a copy of a booklet on Kenneth Roberts -

Very truly yours,

Chilson H. Leonard

CHILSON H. LEONARD
THE PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

28 May 1956

Dear Mr. Darnack,

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the original manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' novel Armaged. I hope to study this for a week or so, then send it on to Doubleday, Doran & Co., in Garden City, N. Y. to have photostats made of several parts of it. I'll use the same box for returning the manuscript.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a booklet on Kenneth Roberts.

Very truly yours,

Chilson H. Leonard

CHILSON H. LEONARD
THE PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

29 July 1936

Dear Mr. Dummerack,

I am returning to you today the original manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' Armed. I am sending it in your original wooden box and by express, insured and prepaid. I am very grateful to you for the loan of this manuscript. After some study of it, I had Doubleday photostat four pages of it: page 1, 100, 185, and 241 - an example of Mr. Roberts' work. These photostats have been added to a collection of materials available through Doubleday. Doane for the study of Kenneth Roberts' work.

Very gratefully yours,

Chilson H. Leonard

CHILSON H. LEONARD
THE PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

29 July 1936

Dear Mr. Dunbar,

I am returning to you today the original
manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' Armed. I am sending
it in your original wooden box and by express, insured
and prepaid. I am very grateful to you for the loan of
this manuscript. After some study of it, I had Doubleday
photostat from page of it: page 1, 100, 185, and 241 —
an example of Mr. Roberts' work. These photostats have
been added to a collection of materials available through
Doubleday. Do use for the study of Kenneth Roberts' work.

Very gratefully yours,

Chilson H. Leonard

'Broke and Almost Dead'—
—That's What It Means to Write
a Novel the Roberts Way



Kenneth Roberts and his wire-haired terrier Serena Blandish, a snapshot taken at his home in Kennebunk Beach, Me.

Kenneth Roberts' revisions on the opening page of this copy of the first edition of Arundel. This novel was published in 1930; completely revised in this copy by Kenneth Roberts in 1932; and replated for a new edition in 1933. Every page of the novel contains revisions.

Not so many years ago, Kenneth Roberts was working on a Boston newspaper, rooming with Olin Downes, now New York Times music critic, on Beacon Hill, and occasionally knocking off an interview with some famous author or other who came to town to autograph his books and let people look at him.

Next Friday and Saturday, Roberts will play the role of the literary lion, doubtless with his tongue in his cheek, if that is zoologically possible. On Friday he will visit Boston bookshops and on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 he will be delighted to write his name in the fly-leaf of "Arundel," "Rabble in Arms," or whichever of his books you prefer, in the book department of Jordan Marsh Company.

Kenneth Roberts spends half his time in a Spanish stable, and the rest of the time in a half-baked palace. That's what he calls them. The Spanish stable is in Kennebunk, Me.; the half-baked palace in Italy. When he decided to build a workshop across the dirt road from his Kennebunk home, he called in Booth Tarkington, Samuel Blythe, and other writing friends. They drew up plans. The result was a low-lying, wheelbarrow-blue sort of barn,

with a stable yard of realistic appearance. There is a huge study with a fireplace at one end and a balcony at the other, and there is a kennel for the Roberts coupe.

Now he is about to leave for his Italian palace, for he is the only New Englander we know of who commutes between Maine and Italy.

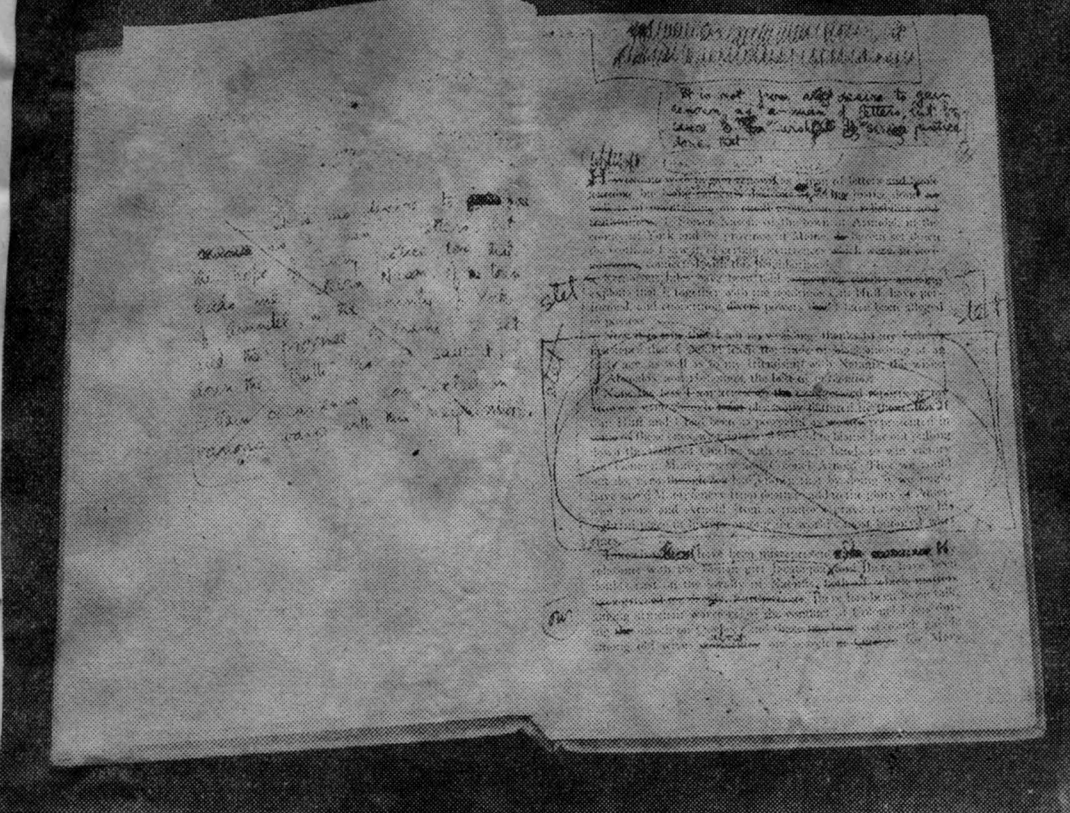
The period to which Mr. Roberts has devoted his talents as historical novelist is bound up with his own family history. Kenneth Roberts was born Dec. 8, 1885, at Kennebunk, Me. From this town two of his ancestors went as captains in the continental army, and another sailed as a privateer captain in the war of 1812, to be captured and sent to Dartmoor prison. One of his forebears was a member of the secret expedition led by Benedict Arnold against Quebec. Roberts, as a boy, hunted and fished along Arnold's route to Quebec and came to know the Arundel country intimately.

KNOWS THE COUNTRY

Life is soft today, to be sure, and the demands upon most men are not of a nature to test manhood as it was once challenged daily. But those who know Kenneth Roberts know his old-time fondness for the Maine trails, the lakes, fishing and out-

door life, know of his early experience abroad amid the turmoil of war and post-war conditions, can see in him easily enough of those same sturdy qualities that distinguish the heroes of "Arundel, Lively Lady" and his other novels. He could not be otherwise for in his veins flows the blood of those first Maine settlers, who lived and died in the midst of danger, adventure and toil. No ancestor worshipper, he has a deep admiration and affection for his so-human forebears, chuckling when he recalls their vices and departures from the straight and narrow, laughing at the discomfiture of those who place the forefathers on a gilded pedestal, but speaking with reverence of their gallantry, courage and forbearance. It is this estimation of his ancestors, this human interpretation of the qualities of men that has apparently driven Kenneth Roberts in his so real stories of pioneer and colonial times.

Had Kenneth Roberts lived in the days of the Nasons he would doubtless have been among those who shouldered a musket and went off with Arnold, or with one of the regiments at Ticonderoga; earlier he would have gone to Louisburg or later, fought aboard a defiant privateer. He would have been as much at home in the rough hostleries of the country with their supplies of buttered rum and hospitality as he would in the redman's forests, or on new world seas below bellowing canvas.



His own personal history is of an interest almost comparable to that of his stories. He was educated at Cornell University, where he served

as editor-in-chief of the Cornell Widow, humorous magazine, for two years prior to his graduation in 1908. From 1909 to 1917 he was reporter, special writer and conductor of a humorous column and page for the Boston Post. On Valentine's day, 1911, he was married to Anna S. Mosser. He served briefly on the editorial staffs of Puck and Life in New York before the world war took him abroad. He was a captain in the intelligence section of the Siberian expeditionary force, in contact with French, English, Canadian, Czech, Russian and Japanese troops; with German and Austrian prisoners.

Roberts was one of the best known of magazine correspondents when, in 1928, he voluntarily retired to the Italian "half-baked palace" to write his Chronicles of Arundel, a series of novels dealing with the revolution and the war of 1812. It is to this place that he again retires to collate and polish the material for his new book.

Roberts is known to spend years in research for the work he produces. Herbert West, professor of literature at Dartmouth, has written:

"An American novelist, whose merits as a historical writer of fiction have not been sufficiently understood, is Kenneth Roberts, of Maine. His Chronicles of Arundel, depicting the epic marching and fighting of the Northern army, are written with a gusto, and with a complete fidelity to historical fact down to the smallest detail, which to my knowledge no American historian or writer of historical fiction can equal. Mr. Roberts travels to Algiers to verify one small fact. He covers the territory of his novels almost on hands and knees. He seeks almanacs to find the condition of the moon on a certain day 171 years ago. He ransacks the libraries of London, Oxford, Paris, Rome, New York, Washington, Hanover, N. H., and for all I know he has worked in Leningrad, the Kamchatka Peninsula, Nome, and Belows, Falls, Vt. Why Americans are more interested in oil for the lamps of China, or the oft-repeated anecdotes of Mr. Woolcott, or the bewildering career of Anthony Adverse, rather than in the stirring tales of their own country's past, is more than I can understand."

AUTHOR AS CRITIC

It is in dealing with the biographies of Benedict Arnold that Roberts records some of his choicest marginalia. Isaac Arnold's "Life of Arnold," published in 1879, he found the most satisfactory. The margins of the modern biographies of Arnold however, are full of pertinent questions, corrections of mistakes, and shrewd profane comments. He finds the modern biographers cribbing worthless stuff from each other, stumbling into inexcusable errors,

and attempting ridiculous flights of style. The marginal notes in these modern biographies include the following: "Unfortunately true" . . . "Beef from a Moose?" . . . "Nuts." . . . "Untrue." . . . "Not correct." "Galleys didn't have bowsprits." . . . "And what, Watson, is a

broadside vessel?" . . . "Picture stolen from Anburey's Travels without credit." . . . "All wrong." . . . "What an ass! Split Rock is near the southern end of the lake." . . . "This book can be held up to all students of literature and history as an example of what not to do. The style is vile; the deductions worthless; the facts distorted. It is a vicious book; an abomination; the nadir of biographical writing."

One significant part of Kenneth Roberts' interpretation of Benedict Arnold's character in "Rabble in Arms" is the idea that Arnold really had a high motive for his treason namely a conviction that it was better to turn the colonies back to England than to leave them, through the incompetence of Congress, to fall into the hands of France. Anburey (a lieutenant in the army of Gen Burgoyne) in his "Travels Through the Interior Parts of America," for example, says of the colonies: "In the present day, if they attain their boasted end, it must be by the arm of some nation, to whom, for want of resources to defray the expenses of their alliance, she will be in continual broils and disputes, which may perhaps finally terminate in a total subjection, and that abject slavery they so ridiculously pretend to dread from us." Roberts has annotated this passage: "This is Arnold's argument, and his reason for turning against the congressional form of government of 1775-1785—a terrible government. This reasoning of Anburey's is correct, and America was only saved by her accidental constitution."

SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Another annotation in this history comments on the description of Gen. St. Clair's retreat from Fort Ticonderoga in July, 1777. This history reads, "At that the summer nights were at their shortest and the moon was full." Roberts has written in the margin, "He's a liar. St. Clair's testimony was the same, but St. Clair was a liar too. In July, 1777, there was a new moon on July 5, therefore it set around 7 to 8 P. M. Full moon was on July 20."

To prove his point, Mr. Roberts has inserted at this page in the book a contemporary almanac, Rider's British Merlin. This is Roberts working away at a small point, but a significant one in an understanding of Gen. St. Clair's testimony on how and why he gave up Fort Ticonderoga without a fight. These annotated source books are proof of Kenneth Roberts' industry and good faith as a writer of historical novels. He has gone to original sources, has rejected poor work, has carefully

collated the best accounts, and has thus gained a comprehensive grasp of the period as a whole and of the life of the time.

The extraordinary amount of revision which may be seen at the exhibits at Jordan Marsh's and at other book sellers' indicates the literary artist at work. This constant working over of style goes on through a first, or author's typescript; then a second, or printers' typescript; and even into the galley proofs and page proofs. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that several of Kenneth Roberts' novels have also been completely revised since their first publication.

SCHEDULE OF WORKING DAYS

A working chronology of Mr. Roberts further displays some of his methods:

Nov. 7, 1931—Finished Capt. Caution after endless labor and all night sessions.

Nov. 17—Made a tentative outline for the new novel, and discussed it with Booth Tarkington. Use new main characters, he said.

Nov. 22—Discussed plot with Booth and arrived at the decision about using two brothers, one a sea captain; the other a spoiled and wilful younger brother.

Nov. 24—Wrote the first two paragraphs, calling the book temporarily *The Splendid Rabble*.

Dec. 12—Sailed for Italy. Dec. 24, arrived at Porto Santo Stefano.

Dec. 26—Resumed work on page 5, mss. book. Jan. 2, changed title to *Rabble in Arms*.

1932—Feb. 1: Quit on the book to write articles, our money having run out.

Feb. 24—Resumed work on *Rabble*, mss. page 32; worked steadily till June 2, reaching mss. page 91. Sailed from Naples.

July-August: Revised *Arundel*.

Sept. 19: Started reading the first 100,000 words of *Rabble* to Booth. Read and revised almost daily through Oct. 15.

Oct. 15-16: Laid out, with Booth's help, a tentative outline for the remainder of the book. The technical difficulties which the book presents will, I fear, never be understood by anyone but Booth and myself.

Dec. 6—Sailed for Italy.

1933—Jan. 27: Resumed work on *Rabble in Arms* on mss. page 93. Thereafter made at least 1000 words a day till May 28, when I touched mss. page 205. Sailed from Naples May 30.

June 20: Started reading the mss. to Booth, revising heavily. Read and revised daily. Condensed the Indian material, throwing most of it away.

July 22—Moved to Blue Roof (The Roberts' residence in Kennebunk Beach, Me.), for the remainder of the summer. Rewrote, revised, did research, and at the same time continued to go forward. Went on a schedule of working from 9:30 to 1:00, from 3:00 to 8:00 P. M.; having a half a bottle of beer with dinner and going to the 2d movie show at the Port: Then writing from 11:30 to

2 or 3 A. M., depending on how long I could keep awake.

Aug. 1—Finished chapter 63, and Doubleday began to set the first 62 chapters.

Sept. 4—Sent Doubleday the last 120 mss. pages.

Sept. 19-21—To Ticonderoga to check up.

Sept. 22—Started revising page proofs.

Oct. 7—Finished the proofs. Broke and almost dead.

This is but a brief glimpse of the two years of work that went into the writing of "Rabble in Arms" after several years of research. Roberts gives an account of his work on Arundel in "The Truth About a Novel," an essay in his collection, For Authors Only.

NEW VOLUME COMING

In Italy Roberts will finish the novel on which he is now working. It deals with another phase of our country's early history. While doing his research for the book Mr. Roberts unearthed valuable historical material hitherto believed by historians not to exist. This will be published in an appendix volume to accompany a special edition of the new book. Never before has a novelist uncovered so many new historical facts that he was obliged, on the advice of historians, to publish these facts in an appendix simultaneously with his novel in order to protect himself from the charge of distorting history and misrepresenting the motives of his characters.

July 30, 1936

Dr. Chilson H. Leonard
The Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Leonard:

I acknowledge receipt of the manuscript of Kenneth Roberts' ARUNDEL. I hope your work was satisfactory, and I assure you we were very glad to be of service.

Thank you for the publishers' biographical sketch of Mr. Roberts which you sent us.

Very truly yours

HED/hm

State Librarian

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MRS MARION COBB FULLER=

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

WILL YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO EXPRESS THE MANUSCRIPT OF ARUNDEL TO ME TODAY COLLECT PRESIDENT COMPTON OF TECH HAS ASKED FOR THE LOAN OF IT IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR TEACHING AM WRITING YOU FURTHER DETAILS BEST WISHES=

KENNETH ROBERTS.

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KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

November 23, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

Since you had expressed some horror at giving up the Arundel manuscript, I was a little reluctant to wire you as I did; but since the Maine State Library is so restricted in space, I am sure that you and Mr. Dunnack wont be distressed at having the manuscript go to a place where it will be on constant display and in steady use by young men who are trying to learn to write. When President Compton and Mr. Eaton of the M.I.T. English department came to me for the loan of the Arundel manuscript and source books, I told them that when the Maine State Library had the facilities which it some day hoped to have, I would probably be inclined to have the material displayed at Augusta rather than elsewhere.

You know, of course, that I am very grateful to you and Mr. Dunnack for your interest in and excellent care of this

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

manuscript for the past few years, as well as for the great assistance which the Maine State Library has given me. I had hoped to stop and see you sometime during the past summer, but work has kept me from getting anywhere and seeing anybody. The new book has been a terror to write, and is even still unfinished after three years' work -- though I hope that next April will see it safely on the street and off my mind.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

April 24, 1937

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On November 19, we sent to you the manuscript of ARUNDEL, for the use of President Compton.

We have not heard further from Mr. Compton regarding the manuscript, and since we are appreciative of its value, we thought it wise to inquire of you if President Compton is still using it -- merely a precautionary measure.

We are looking forward to NORTHWEST PASSAGE with eagerness, and hoping that when it is published, we may have an inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm

SECRETARY

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

May 8, 1937

Dear Miss McLeod:

I think President Compton, since he received the manuscript from me, didn't think of writing the Maine State Library about it. The manuscripts, proofs, maps, source books, jacket paintings and everything else having to do with writing of Arandel ~~manuscript~~ have been placed on permanent display in the M.I.T. library, and are in constant use by the English department. Thus I feel that the material has greater value than as if it were lying in a vault, and I know that Mr. Dunnack will be as glad as I to have it put to such good use.

There is to be a special edition of 1,000 copies of Northwest Passage, in two volumes, selling for \$10. There will be only 1,000 copies of this edition, and the second volume will contain some valuable, hitherto unpublished, historic material. Owing to its limited size I cannot present you with a copy, so I suggest that you make early application for one to the publishers. I see by dealers' catalogs that first editions of Rabble, unautographed, are now quoted at \$12.50, so I

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

suspect that an investment in a special edition of Northwest Passage won't be money thrown away.

With best wishes I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

KR:MM

The Library also might be interested in buying the German edition of Arundel and Rabble. These have made quite a to-do in Germany, and have just been selected by the German Book Society. The German publishers are Halle & Co., Berlin.

May 11, 1937

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We are asking Campbell's Book Store, Portland, Maine, to send to you a copy of the limited two-volume edition of NORTHWEST PASSAGE, upon publication. We will deeply appreciate your kindness in inscribing this edition for the Maine Author Collection, and forwarding it to us. We enclose a label and postage for your convenience.

Thank you for the information about the German editions of your books. It is a pleasure to know that these interesting and valuable chronicles are being translated, that more persons may be delighted with them.

We anticipate the arrival of NORTHWEST PASSAGE with the customary eagerness and pride that a new book by you calls forth; please accept our sincere congratulations upon what promises to be a worthy successor to your other splendid novels.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

May 11, 1937

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am writing this to confirm the, to us, very sad loss of the manuscript of Arundel. We are truly grieved, because we used it frequently, calling it to the attention of people who we knew would be interested in it, and allowing them to look it over, to their great joy.

I am afraid there was a little misunderstanding about its being in a vault, because we used it so often that we kept it in our little locked closet, right at the lending desk.

Nevertheless, we are very glad indeed to know that it is where people can see it, and where it has, of course, a far wider use than it could have here. We miss it like a long lost friend, or a dog gone to glory. Perhaps some day you will feel moved to let us have another manuscript of one of your works, and should you do so, we can assure you that it will nowhere be more appreciated, or more discriminatingly used.

With best wishes,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

TCS.m

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

May 13, 1937

Dear Miss Stuart:

Many thanks for your letter of the 11th, and its highly appreciated sentiments. Whenever the State Library is in a position--and ~~has the~~ desire--to display one of my manuscripts along with the source-books and other detritus that goes into the making of a book, I think matters can be quickly arranged. My feeling has always been that such a display is of some value to prospective writers, whereas a manuscript alone is only another item in a library's possessions.

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Fuller and Mr. Dunnack. I greatly appreciate the excellent care which the Maine State Library took of the Arundel manuscript; and nothing would have led me to remove it to M.I.T. except the knowledge that it and its accompanying source material would be in constant use in the teaching of both English and history to large numbers of undergraduates.

With all good wishes I am,

Very sincerely,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts x

July 1, 1937

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We notice that Campbell's Book Store of Portland, Maine, following our request, has sent you a copy of the limited edition of NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

We enclose a return label and postage. Will you be so kind as to inscribe it for the Maine Author Collection?

A new book by you is always very good fortune, and with the exceptionally favorable advance publicity, reviews and attention which NORTHWEST PASSAGE has received, we feel that this is indeed an outstanding novel, and we are particularly anxious to read the book.

Our congratulations for the present book, and sincere good wishes for future ones!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm
Encl--2

SECRETARY

July 8, 1937

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

NORTHWEST PASSAGE, which you so very kindly inscribed and sent on to us for the Maine Author Collection, has been received. We are delighted to add this beautiful edition of an important historical novel to your other books.

It is adding one more item to the long list for which we are proud to be able to call you a Maine author. You have our continued admiration, interest and good wishes, and we hope that a pleasant summer will be made even more satisfying by the unqualified success of NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm

SECRETARY

May 24, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Once again it is our pleasure to congratulate you upon a truly unusual book. The limited edition copy of TRENDING INTO MAINE, for the Maine Author Collection, has arrived, and we are filled with delight. Of course a trade edition will go into our general lending section immediately upon publication.

Please accept our sincere wishes for a long and happy life to TRENDING INTO MAINE.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

September 22, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Specific congratulations upon each of your books now piling up enviable sales and review records would require too much space. May we send you very sincere congratulations on them all? Each new book of yours is a literary milestone for Maine, and in fact, for the book world in general.

We added the limited edition of TRENDING INTO MAINE, immediately upon publication, for at the time such an edition was published for NORTHWEST PASSAGE, you told us that it would not be presented to the Maine Author Collection. We wonder about MARCH TO QUEBEC? Shall we expect an inscribed presentation copy for the collection?

A copy was ordered at once for the lending section of the library, and of course it is already out, and patrons are waiting in a long list, to read it! Each new book of yours seems more popular than former volumes, but we notice, with complacent pride, that the early ones go right on selling!

You have our best wishes and fervent thanks for being a Maine author.

Very truly yours

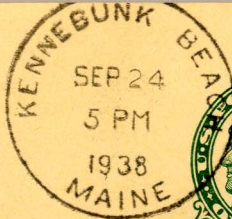
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hm

SECRETARY



Many thanks for your note.
I'm very sorry, but I've
given away all my copies
of March To Quebec. My best
wishes to you. Kenneth Roberts.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Hilda McLeod,
Maine State Library
Augusta,
Maine.

September 26, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for your card regarding MARCH TO QUEBEC. We can readily understand the demands upon your copies, and inquired about this book only because you frequently have been so generous to the Maine Author Collection.

We are requesting Mr. A. J. Huston of Portland to send you a copy. Will you be so kind as to inscribe it for us, and send it along under the label and postage enclosed for your convenience?

It will be a pleasure to add such a fine book, and one so historically valuable, to your other volumes in the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm
Encls--2

SECRETARY

September 26, 1938

Mr. A. J. Huston
92 Exchange Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Huston:

Please send a copy of MARCH TO QUEBEC to Mr. Roberts at Kennebunk Beach, and the bill to us.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

September 30, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you very much for inscribing MARCH
TO QUEBEC for the Maine Author Collection. We
are very glad indeed to be able to include this
volume with your others, and send you our sincere
wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

October 17, 1938

Dear Miss McLeod:

Would it be possible for you to
compile for me a list of the books
written by Maine people on Maine
cookery?

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts *

October 18, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunk Beach
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your letter requesting a compilation of names of Maine writers who had contributed to culinary literature was one to incite the imagination. We hope you are going to write more about this subject.

Mrs. Fuller is giving her immediate and excellent attention to the matter, since it is in the nature of a research question, and you will doubtless hear from her shortly.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

October 21, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

Miss McLeod has referred to me your request for a list of books about Maine cookery written by Maine people. I shall be delighted to make, or try to make such a list. I am convinced that Maine cooks rate triple stars on any list of cookery experts and it will be fun to hunt for books on Maine cookery. I have often wanted to make such a list and I am glad to have an excuse for doing it as reference work.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

mcf

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNK BEACH
MAINE

Dec. 1, 1938.

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

a thousand thanks, but I fear
I didn't make myself clear. What
I wanted were the local cookbooks
put out by the ladies of the 1st
Unitarian Church of Ocrussoc, Me., or
the ladies of Kennebecquent, Me.,
Grange — any local Maine cook-
books. I know a lot have
been produced, but I dunno how
to get 'em. Hav'n't you a load
of 'em in the libry; & if you
hav'n't, couldn't you run
down a few in small libraries
so I could have a look at
'em.

Best regards to you.

Yrs.,

Kenneth Roberts

Can you use some bookplates?

December 5, 1938

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

I am sorry that you didn't get the sort of list you wanted. I thought that you might want cook-books as well as "what Maine writers have written about Maine food" (the quotes are not exact) so I have been working also on the cook-books. Most of the ones I know about are not really old but probably in every local cook-book there are handed down recipes. I have written to a number of persons about the cook-books. We are very lacking in them here at this library. I think Bangor may have something; that is one of the places to which I have written.

One of the best known local cook-books is the one issued by Kate Douglas Wiggin's Dorcas Society at Buxton. This is, I believe, still in print. I am sure that you can obtain a copy from the Secretary of the Dorcas Society, Buxton.

The most interesting one I have heard about is the one compiled by Miss Ruth Richards and Mr. Robert Hallowell Gardiner from their grandmother's manuscripts. This may not be in print yet. Miss Ruth Richards is in Georgia for the winter so probably you would hear from Mr. Gardiner more promptly. Naturally an inquiry from you about the cook-book would be much more interesting than one from me. Mr. Gardiner's address is Oaklands, Gardiner or 110 High Street, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

December 10, 1938

Mr. Kenneth Lewis Roberts,
Kennebunk Beach, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

Maine libraries do not seem to go in very heavily for Maine cook-books. I am beginning to be confirmed in my original opinion that there were no very early ones printed.

I have borrowed from various personal sources half a dozen or so cook-books, none very old, and, so far as I can tell by a hasty examination of them, not at all unusual. However, as they are from various towns, Thomaston, Rockland, Lincolnville Beach, Machias, etc. you might like to see them. I am writing to Warren and to Wiscasset where, I understand, a Democratic Women of Maine Cook-Book may be located. Bangor Public Library had nothing to offer, except the Dorcas Cook-Book, which I mentioned in my preceding letter, and which you probably have acquired. If not I can borrow it from Bangor.

The Federal Writers Project compiled a list of cook-books as part of their project and the Director has promised to send me a copy of it as soon as it can be copied. I'll write you again as soon as it arrives.

I will send the books I have assembled the first of the week unless I hear from you that you think they are not worth your bothering with.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

MCF

January 21, 1939

Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

Here is the cookery list. I am afraid it will be as disappointing to you as it is to me. I have been surprised as well as disappointed to find how relatively little Maine authors (in so far as I have been able to refer to them) have to say about Maine cookery. Really, you are the only author, so far as I know, who has done justice to the Noble Art as practiced in this state. People in Maine books are more or less interested in eating but the authors don't go into the subject of cookery as they should. Perhaps if I had time to do Holman Day's novels I might find some tidbits, but the ones I glanced through had little to offer so I read only the three collections of verse. Arthur Staples has often burst forth into a eulogy of Maine cookery, or some phase of it, but as comparatively few of the Just Talks have been collected into books I haven't located many of his food essays.

I didn't have much luck in locating old cook-books-local compilations of favorite recipes. Perhaps they would not interest you but I think I shall continue to search for them because I think a list of them might be amusing to have.

I ran through our file of old Maine Farmer's Almanacs since I vaguely recalled they had recipes, but most of the "recipes" to be medical concoctions. I found a recipe for green tomato pié, which I am sending to you.

Although Whitings Changing New England is sectional rather than state what he says about food is too applicable to Maine to be overlooked, although of course he is not a Maine author. The same applies to Della Lutes mouth-watering masterpiece, The Country Kitchen. I am sure that all of her delicious food (with the exception of stewed oysters) had its origins in Maine. So many of the Michigan pioneers moved west with the lumber jacks and so had roots in Maine.

I shall continue to watch for descriptions of Maine cookery. I am sorry to send so poor a list.

Very truly yours

(signed) MCF

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

January 2, 1940

Dear Miss McLeod:

Can you tell me how many
public libraries there are in Maine?

Of these, how many, on a
guess, would have been unlikely
or unable to buy a copy of March
to Quebec? Would you be willing
to provide me with a list of them?

Sincerely,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts x

January 3, 1940

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your letter of January 2 has been received; and we are enclosing a list of stipend libraries and also one of non-stipend libraries in the state. Stipend libraries are those which are supported by funds appropriated from money raised by taxation; and they receive a stipend from the state, based upon the amount received from the town. Non-stipend libraries are not tax supported, but are variously financed by organizations, summer residents, churches, granges, and similar means.

We would have no way of knowing which of these did not purchase MARCH TO QUEBEC, it is probably safe to assume that the larger libraries, which we have checked in red, would have the book. As to the others, the only way of knowing is undoubtedly to inquire directly.

we fear that our reply is not especially helpful, but we do hope that if we can be of any further service, you will not hesitate to call upon us. If, as your letter might indicate, there is to be a possibility that smaller libraries will receive a copy of your splendid book, we are delighted.

Please accept our sincere wishes for a bright and interesting 1940.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encls--2

SECRETARY

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

July 9, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

You sent me a list of 251 libraries ~~that~~ mightn't be able to invest heavily in reference books. My publishers wish to send a copy of MARCH TO QUEBEC to each of these libraries. They are also willing to send out another 200 copies to such schools in the state as might be able to use copies to the best advantage. Wont you please give me a list of the schools to which you think they should go?

I hope you're well, and send you all my good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts

July 11, 1940

Mr. Kenneth Roberts,
Kennebunkport, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts;-

How generous of you and your publishers to offer to make available in some of our schools copies of THE MARCH TO QUEBEC! I am frequently amazed by what teachers accomplish with what seems to me utterly inadequate tools, or no tools at all, and I am delighted to have a small part in helping some of them acquire a reference tool such as a book like yours. ARUNDEL has amazingly stimulated an interest in what was an almost forgotten episode in our early history and I know that boys and girls who read ARUNDEL and teachers who teach Maine history will welcome such an authentic and interesting source book as THE MARCH TO QUEBEC.

I have begun to list some of the schools to which I think the book might well be sent but before completing the list I should like to talk with Mr. Lyseth, of the Department of Education who knows the needs and facilities of the high school libraries better than anyone does. He is away at present and will not be back until the last of the month. If you wish the list immediately, please send me a postal card and I will

Kenneth L. Roberts----2-----

finish the list at once, without waiting for Mr. Lyseth's advice.

A list of schools which can profitably use THE MARCH TO QUEBEC is not limited to high schools. As a course in Maine history is a requisite in the grade preceding high school there are many schools where there is real need of books on Maine history. At Bates college and several of the normal schools there are summer courses in teaching Maine history and I am writing to the directors of these courses for a list of the persons taking the courses as it seems reasonable to assume that the persons who are interested enough in teaching Maine history to take courses in it will be teaching in the schools where Maine reference books will be most likely to have appreciative use.

I hope that you are enjoying the new house and that you are not too bothered by sightseers!

Very truly yours

MCF

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

April 3, 1941

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Residents of the state may understand why the presence of a legislature in the State House would delay departmental activities -- especially correspondence -- but we are positive that posterity would never forgive the non-inclusion of that now-famous Royalist and his tale in the Maine Author Collection.

We refer, of course, to your most recent masterpiece, OLIVER WISWELL, to enjoy which readers are still waiting in line. Our staff ever since its publication has been divided into two camps: the haves and the have-nots! We can now boast a majority of haves, with the have-nots becoming more impatient for their turn each week.

You have been so extremely kind in the past about the Maine exhibit that we dare to hope for clemency if we extend congratulations at so late a date. We think, however, that it can never really be too late to offer congratulations upon such an outstanding, powerful, honest novel as OLIVER WISWELL; and we do sincerely hope that an inscribed copy may arrive to honor the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

April 4, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Requests for free copies of Oliver Wiswell have been so exacting during the past few months that after I'd given away almost two hundred copies, I was obliged to make a rigid rule against it.

I appreciate the kind things you say, and am sending you an autographed bookplate in case the library cares to use it in a copy of Oliver Wiswell.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

KR:MM
Enc

April 5, 1941

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

You are very kind; and very modest -- "in case the library cares to use" your bookplate in a copy of OLIVER WISWELL! We certainly do, and shall. A copy is being ordered at once for the Maine Author Collection, and we sincerely appreciate the bookplate which you sent for this purpose.

Two hundred gift copies of OLIVER WISWELL stagger the imagination, and you are to be complimented upon your extreme generosity. We can understand your reasons for declining to present more copies.

Our best wishes continue.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

April 4, 1944

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It is good to know that we may anticipate a new and enlarged edition of your fine book TRENDING INTO MAINE. We wish it success, and trust that it may make many more friends.

Your previous generous inclination towards the Maine Author Collection prompts us to hope that an inscribed presentation copy may join your other books. It seems a long time since we have had the pleasure of adding one to the collection, and we look forward with especial interest to the new essay on haying.

Good luck to the book!

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

May 23, 1944

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The interval between your books is too long! We are therefore especially glad to see the interesting Armed Services edition of CAPTAIN CAUTION, and we appreciate your thought of us in sending a copy for the Maine Author Collection. It is admirably suited to the purpose, we should say, in format; and as for content, there never has been any reason for the public not to enjoy CAPTAIN CAUTION greatly, and old friends and new will doubtless be very glad to see it in this war dress.

Our good wishes, and we hope it will not be too long before we can anticipate a new novel from your pen.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--15¢ postal refund

Secretary

May 24, 1944

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The inscribed copy of TRENDING INTO MAINE follows the Armed Services edition of CAPTAIN CAUTION, and for it, too, we are appreciative. It continues to be one of the most beautiful books on our state, with a great deal of humor and good sense, and we are very glad to have the new edition in the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--7¢ postal refund

Secretary

March 12, 1945

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Rumors which have for some time enticed us have at last materialized in a statement that we really may expect a new novel by you next fall. Being somewhat wise to the wiles of publishers, and resigned to waiting much longer than we like, we are aware that the title may not be LYDIA BAILEY, and the date may not be as early as we wish.

We are, however, eagerly anticipating the time when we may again lose ourselves in the absorbing pages and characters of your creation.

Orders for our traveling libraries will be handled through a book dealer, as usual; and we hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy, whatever the final title may be, of the new historical novel for the Maine Author Collection. All good wishes for its instant and enduring success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

March 13, 1945

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Many thanks for your note.
It looks to me as though it would
be another year before I can get
this tome on the street; but when,
as and if it does come out, you
shall have your inscribed copy.

With all good wishes I am,

Very sincerely yours,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts x

October 30, 1945

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

While waiting for the novel, we are cheered by the promise of THE KENNETH ROBERTS READER (and how opportune a publication date -- just in time for so many Christmas gifts!)

The book was added promptly to our order list of course; and we hope that you will agree with us that the Maine Author Collection would be deplorably incomplete without it. May the collection hope for an inscribed copy?

Our very good wishes for the success of the Reader, which would seem from its contents and author to be more than assured.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

August 26, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

THE KENNETH ROBERTS READER is in the library
(it's in my personal library, too, for that matter),
but the Maine Author Collection cannot boast of having
your books complete, for this title is not on the shelves.

Perhaps our letter of last fall did not reach you.
We regret the omission of one of your books from this
exhibit, and we do hope that your past generous inter-
est in the collection will make it possible for an in-
scribed copy of the Reader to join your other volumes.

Good wishes to the novel, which we trust is pro-
gressing satisfactorily toward completion.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

August 27, 1946

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

The demands on me for books have become so extremely large that in self-defense I have been forced to make a sweeping rule that I can't give them away. The final blow came when I learned that the cost of giving away copies of my books in 1944 amounted to \$2,300.00. Consequently the clamps are now on, no matter who asks.

I enclose an autographed bookplate which you might care to stick in a copy of the Roberts' Reader.

Sincerely,

KR:MM
Enc

Kenneth Roberts x

August 28, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It is sad news, but in the face of your convincing financial statistic, we must endure the blow. We regret that the Maine Author Collection will no longer benefit by the gift of your new books, but we trust that you will permit us to order a copy from a book dealer sent to you for an inscription.

You have been very generous to the exhibit, and your interest has been warmly appreciated. Please accept our thanks for your courtesies during the past years.

The bookplate which you thoughtfully enclosed will be placed in a copy of the ROBERTS' READER which will go into the collection shortly.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 14, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In March, 1945, you said "when, as and if it does come out, you shall have your inscribed copy;" but in August, 1946, you said "the clamps are now on, no matter who asks." As you probably surmise, this letter is occasioned by the notice that January 2 will see LYDIA BAILEY published. The Maine Author Collection must have an inscribed copy, so we are asking Campbell's Book Store to send you LYDIA BAILEY. Will you be so very kind as to inscribe it for the collection and send it on to us?

Sincerely yours,

hmj
Encls.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

Oct 17, 1946

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Please cancel the Campbell order. I won't be in this country when Lydia Bailey is published; and the swamping of the entire house by unsolicited books forced me to stop autographing books entirely, away back in the Northurst Passage era.

There will be a special edition of Lydia Bailey with mss. page tipped in, autographed, and with complete biography. This will sell for either \$15 or \$20, and you can be sure of one if you write Miss Clara Claassen, Doubleday & Co., Rockefeller Center, N.Y. City 20.

K.R.

October 21, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you very much for letting us know that the author will not be at home to autograph seekers. We will have Mr. Campbell send the book directly to us, and you need not worry about its sitting forlornly upon your doorstep.

We do, of course, regret deeply that the novel will not bear your inscription. The truth of the matter is that the legislators do not provide enough money for us to afford the more expensive edition. We shall therefore be obliged to content ourselves with the knowledge that at least LYDIA BAILEY is represented in the Maine Author Collection. Perhaps some day you will be pausing in Augusta, and will then be kind enough to add this touch to the collection copy.

We trust that you will enjoy your winter vacation, cheered by the reports of the inevitable success of LYDIA BAILEY.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Here's how you
get the autograph in x

I heard different
about your book appropriation.

I think you're making a
mistake not to get that
special edition x I said
the same thing to Walsh
of Goodspeed's about the special
Northwest Passage x He thought

I was trying to blow my own
^{horn} and didn't do it x He regretted
it deeply.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roberts x

October 24, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for so kindly sending the auto-graphed bookplates. This will take care of LYDIA BAILEY very nicely, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness in providing them. Again, our good wishes to you and the new novel.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 24, 1946

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for so kindly sending the auto-

graphed bookplates. This will take care of

the appreciate

of them.

and the new novel.

truly yours,

Large of
Author Collection

Roberts Denies Movies Bought "Lydia Bailey"

OCT 26 1946

NORFOLK, Va.-AP- Author Kenneth Roberts today denied reports that he has sold the motion picture rights to "Lydia Bailey," the book on which he has been working for five years.

Roberts, author of "Northwest Passage" and other novels of colonial times and the American revolution, writing from his home in Kennebunkport, Maine, to Jay Lewis, literary editor of the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, confirmed an announcement that "Lydia Bailey" had been selected by the Literary Guild, but denied sale of the movie rights.

"Guild, yes," Roberts wrote. "Movies, no, I absolutely refused to sell it. Told them that after the way N.W.P. (Northwest Passage) had been handled, I'll only lease, year by year, with entire property rights reverting if anything went wrong."

"Haven't seen a movie man, or consented to anything, or signed anything. x x x I've denied the story until I am black in the face but that makes no difference. These movie guys beat me."

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

July 16, 1948

JUL 19

Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

Professor Toynbee, as you doubtless know, holds that Maine, due to her rugged climate, is populated only by lumbermen, watermen and guides. The Saturday Evening Post suggested that I take a paste at Professor Toynbee, and I think the time is about ripe.

Years ago, when I was traveling around a good deal for the Post, I'd run into State-of-Mainers in Texas, Arizona, California, Utah and so on. They were running banks, newspapers and steamship lines, etc. Do you know of any sources to which I could go to find out about Maine people who have made their mark in other parts of the United States--and have you any suggestions that would help me show up Toynbee as the stupid ass he is?

With all good wishes I am,

Very sincerely yours,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts

July 21, 1948

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed are some lists and tables which should be of use to you in the "showing-up of Professor Toynbee" according to your request of July 16.

There are 244 names of Maine people listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, 1948-49 and a large number of Maine's prominent sons have found it possible to stay here and "make their mark in the world" directly from Maine.

In case you wish to back up the fact that famous sons of Maine have been a regular product of the state since colonial days we are sending a list of Maine Immortals and a clipping from the MAINE BOOK by Dunnack entitled Maine's Contribution to Literature.

Since you may wish to put in a few statistics (they now seem to be a requisite to an "impressive" article) we have included the table which we have made up from WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

Probably you know of Professor R.P.T.Coffin's article written in the same good cause and appearing in the American Mercury, January, 1948. We can lend you this issue if you have missed it and do not have access to it.

It will be a great relief to many of us State-of-Mainers to read your article. Many who have come into the library have been positively sizzling with vexation. It seems all the worse since Maine was given such an unscholarly dismissal by one who was acclaimed by reviewers for his excess of scholarship.

We will be glad to send you any additional information if you need it. All our editions of Who's Who in America except the current one are available for loan if you should want one.

-2-

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine
July 21, 1948

I note that your request was addressed to Mrs. Marion Fuller. You will be interested to know that she has now retired from the library and is now living in Westbrook, Maine

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

Research Librarian

mw

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

July 22, 1948

Miss Margaret A. Whalen
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Whalen:

Thank you very much indeed for the
material you sent.

We will try to give Professor Toynbee
some sort of slap on the wrist. After
reading his remarks on Maine and his
lack of remarks on Vermont, I wouldn't
bet a nickel on the value of any of his
findings in any of the six original
volumes of his Study of History.

Very sincerely yours,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts

July 8, 1949

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

For the Maine State Library I shall be delighted to accept on permanent loan the items mentioned in your letter of yesterday.

They will be displayed in the office of the librarian where the Maine Author Collection is located. This room is open at all regular library hours to the public.

I appreciate very much your thought of the Library as a fitting place for the display of these items. They will be of great interest to our patrons as well as the many summer visitors from other states.

Sincerely yours,

Librarian

July 13, 1949

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

A copy of I WANTED TO WRITE will reach you soon from Campbell's Book Store in Portland. Budget restrictions prevented our purchasing it sooner, but we hope that it will be convenient for you to inscribe the book now and send it on to us for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

July 14, 1949

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The items mentioned in your letter of July arrived yesterday afternoon, together with one additional piece - the picture of Colonel Arnold. Can you tell me the name of the painter of the original of the picture?

I am glad to have these items displayed before the annual meeting of the Maine Library Association in September, as members from all sections of the state will be in attendance.

Again - thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Librarian

July 20, 1949

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It was kind of you to take the time to inscribe I WANTED TO WRITE for the Maine Author Collection. The book has been received, and we add it to your other books with increasing appreciation for the fact that we can consider you a Maine author. Thank you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

August 3, 1949

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

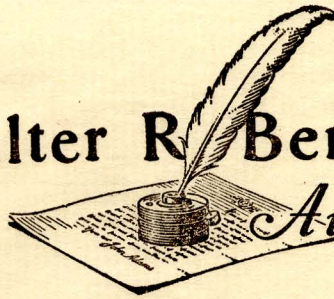
Upon my return from a visit to Aroostook libraries I find evidence of your continued interest in the Maine State Library.

I acknowledge, with deep appreciation, your gift of the three revisions of Rabble in Arms. They have been placed with the Arundel material, and all will be a source of great interest to our patrons and visitors.

Sincerely yours,

MBS/S

Walter R Benjamin *Autographs*



Established 1887

18 EAST 77th STREET

MARY A. BENJAMIN, Director

NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK

Dec. 6, 1950

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am handling on consignment an item that I think will be of considerable interest to you, though the price may discourage you. However you who are interested in Maine history, I believe, should at least know that such an item is on the market.

I refer to a Land Deed or Patent, granted by the Plymouth Council, dated March 13th, 1629, and signed by the Earl of Warwick. It is on one sheet of paper, oblong folio, with the original seal preserved, and is framed. The documents granted the rights for about one million acres of what is today the State of Maine to "John Beauchamps of London gentleman and Thomas Leverett of Boston in the County of Lincoln gentleman their heirs and associates and assigns." This grant was first known as the "Muscongus Patent" (see Williamson, History of Maine, vol. 1, p. 240, who gives incorrectly the date as March 1630) and was later called the Waldo Patent."

The consigner advises me that there were usually two copies of these grants made, one to be sent to New England and the other one to be kept in England. The vellum copy of this Muscongus Patent is in the Massachusetts Historical Society. The copy I am offering is on paper. I understand that both copies are identical as far as signatures go. The price is \$1,000.

Would you by any chance be interested, or would you perhaps know of some Maine person who might be? It is certainly a remarkable item.

Faithfully yours,

Publisher of "THE COLLECTOR"

Telephone: REgent 4-3902

Cable Address: Waltegraph

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

December 8, 1950

Librarian
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Sir:

I send you a letter that I received yesterday from Miss Mary Benjamin, from whom I have purchased many documents. A copy of my letter to her explains itself.

Sincerely,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts -

December 8, 1950

Miss Mary A. Benjamin
18 East 77th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Benjamin:

I had a letter recently from Dr. L. B. Reed of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Pilgrim Society, asking me for information as to a grant.

It's quite possible that he might be interested in your copy of the Muscogus patent.

I'll also write to the Maine State Library. I don't know what the library's financial situation is, but if it's what it ought to be, the library should jump at the chance to acquire it.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

KR:MM

December 12, 1950

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the availability of the Muscongus document. Unfortunately, we cannot possibly afford it. We are writing to Miss Benjamin, and telling her that the Bangor library is the most adequately equipped financially of any in the state.

We hope that somehow it may find its way to Maine, and regret that we cannot be the ones to welcome it.

Sincerely yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

hmj

Secretary

December 12, 1950

Miss Mary A. Benjamin
18 East 77th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Miss Benjamin:

Mr. Roberts very kindly called to our attention the availability of the Muscongus document, but our financial condition is considerably than our eminent novelist assumes. We regret that it is impossible for us to consider the purchase.

Perhaps the Bangor Public Library would be interested to know of the grant copy. This library has, of course, a larger fund for purchasing than any other in the state.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

Walter R Benjamin
Autographs



18 EAST 77th ST., NEW YORK 21
REgent 4-3902

Dec. 14, 1950

DEC 18

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your friendly note of December 12. I got quite a chuckle out of it. I also appreciate your telling me of the Bangor Public Library. I shall see if by any chance they might be interested.

Faithfully yours,


MARY A. BENJAMIN

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

December 16, 1950

Mrs. Hilda MacLeod Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Yes: that was too high.
I have a big vellum copy of the grant made in 1631 to Robert Trelawny and Moses Goodyear, original signed by Ferdinand and Edward Gorges and the Earl of Warwick. The grant was for Casco Bay and thence northward "into the Maine Land". It's giant folio, and the copy was made in 1768. If the Maine State Library can afford to have this framed and put to use, I'll make it a present of the grant.

Will you help me get some information? I found, some time ago, that C. A. Stephens titles, When Life Was Young and the other three of the Old Squire's titles, are today unobtainable. Huston says he has lots of calls for them, but can't get them. I advertised in the Publishers Weekly, but got no offers.

So I proposed to Doubleday that we try to get the rights, and republish the four Old Squire titles under one cover with an introduction by me. This suggestion is still cooking.

What I'd like to have you find out for me is whether there is a continuing call for these books in your library, in the Bangor Library, and in other Maine libraries.

Sincerely,

KR:MM

Kenneth Roberts a

KENNETH ROBERTS
KENNEBUNKPORT
MAINE

December 20, 1950

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Here is the Trelawny-Goodyear grant of December 1, 1631. It looks to me as though the scrivener who did it was both left-handed and a mirror writer. With application, however, it can be rapidly deciphered.

Sincerely,

KR:MM
Enc

Kenneth Roberts x

This item has not
been deacidified.

December 18, 1950

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Mrs. Stubbs says to tell you that we are deeply appreciative of your offer to present the copy of the Casco Bay grant, and that we shall be happy to accept it and to have it framed. Not knowing the exact size, we cannot promise just where it will make its framed appearance, but we will hope to find a spot that is noticeable and that will show the document to advantage.

We will go to work at once on the Stephens inquiry, and let you know what we discover. This library does not have fiction for individual loan, so that although we have all the Stephens books in the Maine Author Collection, they are not in the lending section of the library. We do have calls for them, however, and very likely would have more, if we stocked fiction. Personally, we think your proposal to Doubleday a fine one, and hope that it will materialize.

Sincerely yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

hmj

Secretary

December 22, 1950

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for the gift -- Christmas? -- of the copy of the grant, which arrived safely yesterday. It is in excellent condition, isn't it? The quality of the paper accounts for that, to a considerable extent, we suppose. At any rate, we are delighted to have it, and will have it framed appropriately. We are also making a note to mention the gift in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and in our next biennial report (1952).

Again thank you for making it possible for the State Library to own and display this interesting document. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

hmj

Secretary

December 29, 1950

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed are the replies which we have had from libraries, regarding the demand for books by Charles A. Stephens. They are not very encouraging, I fear, but at least they may be enlightening.

If you need more information which we can give you, let us know.

Sincerely yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

hmj

Encls.

Secretary

February 9, 1951

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

You will be glad to know that the copy of the Trelawny grant is now framed and hanging in the State Librarian's office, a commanding document, and a truly appreciated gift.

We are asking Campbell's Book Store to see that a copy of your new book, HENRY GROSS AND HIS DOWSING ROD, is sent to you. May we count on a continuation of your kindness to the Maine Author Collection in inscribing this copy for us? We enclose a mailing label and postage for your convenience.

Our copies of HENRY GROSS AND HIS DOWSING ROD are constantly out. It is certainly a most popular book, and stimulates discussion and reminiscence everywhere.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Enslc.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 16, 1951

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for inscribing the Maine Author Collection copy of HENRY GROSS AND HIS DOWSING ROD, and for your thoughtfulness in seeing that the autograph of Mr. Gross was added, also. This is an interesting touch which we appreciate.

It is a remarkable book, and we delight in the arguments we hear from readers.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

April 5, 1956

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your BOON ISLAND found its way into our traveling libraries and bookmobiles soon after publication, where it is enjoying a busy season. The Maine Author Collection copy is here, waiting for an inscription. You have very kindly sent us an autograph to insert in your novels in recent years, and we hope that you will continue this custom, so that BOON ISLAND may have this distinction.

Our good wishes for its continuing success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

April 10, 1956

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport
Maine

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the six inscribed bookplates which you have sent us. One will be placed in the Maine Author Collection copy of BOON ISLAND, and we hope the other bookplates are a promise of at least that many more books.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection