

October 2015

## Gertrude Robinson Correspondence

Gertrude Robinson 1876-1958

Mr. A.L. Rowse  
*The English-Speaking Union*

Charlotte Seymour Day  
*The English-Speaking Union*

Mrs. Adelaide Bollettino  
*Community Service Society*

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938  
*Maine State Library*

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Creator(s)**

Gertrude Robinson 1876-1958, Mr. A.L. Rowse, Charlotte Seymour Day, Mrs. Adelaide Bollettino, Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938, Hilda McLeod, Hilda McLeod Jacob, and Margaret A. Whalen

ROBINSON, GERTRUDE.

b. Canaan. N.H.

Summer resident of Orr's Island, Maine.

d. October 25, 1958

ROBINSON, Gertrude.

Miss Robinson was born in Canaan, New Hampshire, received her Ph.B. degree in 1902 from Syracuse University, and A.M. in 1917 from New York University where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She was Professor of mathematics and sociology at Marot Junior College and wrote for the National Child Labor Commission. Her present occupation is that of an author and she has written on social and educational problems as well as several juvenile books. Her summer residence is at Orr's Island, Maine.

Adapted from AMERICAN WOMEN, 1939-40.

58 East 102 Street, New York City,  
October 25th, 1930.

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,  
State Librarian,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dunnack:--

Your letter in regard to personal data was forwarded to me by Harper Brothers.

No, I am not a native of Maine, but I might as well be, since my mother was born in old Wiscasset, and took her children "back home" almost every summer. Now, I have a shack of my own on lovely Orrs Island, and get to it every summer as fast as I can when vacation days are at hand. So, I really feel that I have spent more of my life in Maine than anywhere else. Besides, there is something about the salty atmosphere of the coast or river towns I know, and the fascinating rocks and woods stepping out into the sea, that spells "home" to my spirit. My earliest memories are of the old red Custom House in Wiscasset, where my Grandfather, Watts Gibbs, did mysterious tasks connected with the lading of the vessels that actually came up the Sheepscot in those days, of the store on Main Street where my uncle, Lincoln Gibbs, managed to make of keeping shop a dignified calling, and of the attic in the family home on Federal Street, where I unearthed old county and town histories that made the pioneer days in Maine as real to me as the days in which I lived. Add to this the influence of story-telling old men and women, and my impulse to write yarns of the early days of Maine is explained.

This story was assembled from notes of many years' gathering, one summer at Orrs Island, and the outstanding historical references in it were later carefully verified by less fanciful source books than some of these old local records are. Some Indians were of necessity removed from their

historic period, and some names assigned to characters not entirely representing the originals in locale or period. But no historical or essential factual violence has been done the story of seventeenth century Maine, as recorded in reliable authorities. One anacronism only occurs in the book, and that is an intentional one, because the artistic truth, in the case, was more important than the actual fact; one anacronism only, to my knowledge, I might better say. I hope there are no others, and every honest effort was made to prevent the intrusion of any misleading information as to the facts or the spirit of the times. ✓

As to personal data, I am the daughter of a clergyman, and am myself sometimes a teacher, sometimes a research worker in educational fields, and sometimes I fling aside trammels and treat myself to a year of freedom from routine duties in order to write juvenile literature and short stories. Just now, my professional connection is with The Marot Junior College, at Thompson, Conn., but I am away from this work for the year, doing a frightfully dull textbook that isn't anywhere near the fun White Heron Feather was.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude Robinson

March 16, 1937

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
c/o E. P. Dutton & Company  
300 Fourth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Miss Robinson:

We notice that the Maine Author Collection lacks a copy of your delightful book, SACHIM BIRD, which has a Maine background. We understand that your home was once Wiscasset, so we are immediately interested on account of the Collection.

The Collection was started a number of years ago, and includes several hundred volumes, inscribed and presented to us by their authors, some of whom were born in Maine, and some of whom are connected with the state by residence or book backgrounds. These volumes increase steadily in number and worth, and form a rich background of Maine's contribution to literature. The Collection is for exhibit purposes only, and thus assured of preservation, will offer future students of literature and history a source of valuable material.

Most of our authors have shown a gratifying interest and generosity, and we are extremely appreciative, for without their help the Collection cannot hope to be successful in its aims. We hope that we will be privileged to add an inscribed copy of SACHIM BIRD to its shelves, and that you will be so kind as to send us some biographical information for our files.

May we extend to you also a very cordial invitation to visit the Maine Author Collection when you are again in this state.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm

SECRETARY

58 East 102 St., New York, N.Y.,  
March 29, 1937.

Miss Hilda McLeod, Secretary,  
Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Miss McLeod---

Indeed I am glad to have you willing to harbor my SACHIM BIRD in your Maine Author Connection, and in a day or two I'll be sending you a copy. Since I unfortunately discovered two or three points where either the proof reader or I made typographical errors in the first printing I made hand corrections in my review copies but it is preferable to having errors preserved.

Within a short time, as soon as the weather turns kindly, I am coming up to my island retreat at Orrs to get busy on another ~~teen-age~~ book. A very young one, the characters in which are some of our own Maine wild Mallards (Chee Chee's Brother) is being brought out by Dutton this spring.

My mother's home was old Wiscasset and my summers were spent there year after year and Maine is nearer to being 'home' than New York, where I



spend most of my working time except the summer months.

If chance brings opportunity to get up to Augusta this summer I shall much enjoy visit visiting the State Library.

Very sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Robinson*

Gertrude Robinson

April 12, 1937

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
58 East 102nd Street  
New York City

Dear Miss Robinson:

The inscribed copy of SACHIM BIRD has reached us, and we are more than delighted to add it to the Maine Author Collection --we are proud!

We are always glad to notice the publication of such splendid books for young people, books with not only a vivid story, but also an authentic background. SACHIM BIRD is a contribution to today's literature which should be highly recommended.

You mentioned CHEE CHEE'S BROTHER, which is expected this spring, and which also has a Maine background. You have been very kind to present us with SACHIM BIRD. We take pleasure in placing with you an order for a copy of CHEE CHEE'S BROTHER, which we are asking you to inscribe and send to us, with a bill, upon publication.

We will look forward to the arrival of this book, and to the possibility of a visit from you this summer. Thank you for your interest in and generosity to the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm  
Encl--16¢ postage  
(refunding the amount  
paid on SACHIM BIRD )

SECRETARY

Orrs Island, Maine, July 9, 1937.

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,  
State Librarian,  
Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dunnack,--

This spring your secretary wrote me asking for a copy of my new children's book soon to be published. It has just been put out and I am glad to send you with my compliments one of the review copies. It is a very 'young' story but it grew out of intimate acquaintance with young Mallards, their mothers and the ways of ~~duck and drake folk~~ generally.

Very sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Robinson*

Gertrude Robinson.

July 13, 1937

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

CHEE-CHEE'S BROTHER, which you have graciously inscribed for the Maine Author Collection, has been received. Our appreciation of your generosity and interest in this project cannot easily be expressed.

CHEE-CHEE'S BROTHER is delightfully appealing, and we feel sure that it will be welcomed enthusiastically by the young readers who will be fortunate enough to see a copy. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we add it to the Maine Author Collection.

Please accept our very sincere thanks for your gift.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

Orrs Island, Maine, September 3rd, 1938.

Dear Miss McLeod,---

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of my new boys' historical novel, sequel to Sachim Bird, to you for the Maine Author Collection, if you wish to include it with the other books of mine you have. This book, ROBEEN, is independent reading, but carries on the characters and adventures prepared for them in the first book.

If you should feel like dropping a note to Dutton about the book later it would be very kind of you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Arthur Robinson*

September 13, 1938

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

The inscribed copy of ROBEEN, for the Maine Author Collection, has been received, and once again we send you our sincere and delighted thanks for such a splendid book.

We have learned to anticipate your tales with eagerness, for we believe that they are among the outstanding juvenile fiction books, and we are especially pleased that we in Maine have a sort of claim upon their author.

ROBEEN is a fitting sequel to the exciting SACHIM BIRD, and we have no doubt that it will find as enthusiastic a reception.

Thank you very, very much for the complimentary copy for the collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

Orrs Island, Maine, September 2, 1939.

Miss Hilda McLeod,  
Secretary Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Miss McLeod,--

I am sending to you a copy of my new book,  
WINGED FEET, Scouting for Washington, which is recently published.  
If you wish to include it in your Maine author collection I'll  
be glad to have you keep it.

Very sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Robinson*  
Gertrude Robinson.

September 6, 1939

Mrs. Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

WINGED FEET arrived, and immediately we ceased other activities to peruse your new book. It justifies our anticipation, and we are enthusiastic about it. You are to be congratulated upon providing for young readers such exciting stories, which are also authentic historically. Boys. and we think even girls, will be absorbed by WINGED FEET.

We are delighted to add this inscribed copy to the Maine Author Collection, and send you our very sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

SECRETARY

hm



Dear Miss McLeod, -

I am sending to you  
one of the advance copies of my  
little new book, Being Up Ruffles,  
recd July 29<sup>th</sup>. The illustrator took  
liberties with Mrs. Snack in no place.  
Ottum's text and pictures are true  
to life as dog and duck lovers know it.

Wass Island, Maine.  
July 9, 1940.

Very sincerely,  
Betty Robinson.

July 10, 1940

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orr's Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

Your most enchanting puppy, RAFFLES, has completely captured our hearts! We are thoroughly joyful about him, and ever so appreciative of the honor of having an advance copy.

Your books are consistently appealing and true to life, and parents and librarians delight in recommending them. As for the readers themselves -- sometimes we wonder secretly if they could possibly like the stories and characters as much as we!

Our most sincere and hearty thanks go to you for the generous copy for the Maine Author Collection, and for continuing to provide such attractive books for youngsters.

We hope that you are enjoying your summer at the coast, and that you will give us the pleasure of a visit if you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY



Orrs Island, Maine,  
July 7, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,--

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of my new book, SONS OF LIBERTY, just out, by Dutton.

I hope the library will not feel in danger of putting on an addition because of the volume of my offerings. I've another, a 'young' one, WE LEARN TO WRITE, the story of the development of writing tools, coming out in a few weeks, published by Wilde of Boston, an experiment in educational writing for me and for the publisher. We are hoping the children's reading clubs and libraries will take kindly to it.

With sincere regards,

*Gertrude Robinson*



July 8, 1941

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

No happier cause for building an addition could we find than more of your stimulating historical stories for young readers!-- But we assure you that it is not yet necessary: there is room for our new friend David -- or rather, our new friends, the Davids!

SONS OF LIBERTY is an engaging book. We are conscious of a repetition in our expressions of appreciation of your books and your generosity. The books have only the repetition of accuracy, vitality, honest and delightful characters, and good storytelling. We understand why youngsters like your books, because we share their approbation.

SONS OF LIBERTY is a book which we shall be glad to include in our traveling libraries that reach rural communities; and we are grateful to you for making possible the addition of the story to the Maine Author collection. Our best wishes for the new book, to which we shall be looking forward; and our thanks for SONS OF LIBERTY.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

582.102 St., N. Y. C., Oct. 15, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Jacob, -

Again, with apologies for the  
numbers, I am sending you another  
little book of mine. Just out. "We learn  
to Write" is its name, from its obvious  
contents. A lot of work went into it,  
despite its size, and I think this publisher  
(since Dutton preferred another small book of  
mine to this), W. A. Wilde, did very well with  
it.

Very sincerely,

Gertrude Robinson

October 25, 1941

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
58 East 102nd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Your kindness in remembering the Maine Author Collection with an inscribed gift copy of each of your books always gives us cause to be grateful for our good fortune in claiming you as a Maine author.

WE LEARN TO WRITE impresses us immediately with its simplicity, attractiveness, and utility. As you say, a lot of work went into it -- much more than those who read it will realize! We are at once calling it to the attention of our traveling library section, which uses juvenile books; and we believe it will be welcomed by teachers and librarians everywhere.

Thank you very much indeed for your generosity and friendly letter.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj  
Encl--3¢, refunding  
postage on WE LEARN  
TO WRITE

SECRETARY

58 East 102 St., New York, N.Y.

July 10, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,--

Here is another of my books, just issued by Dutton, CATCH A FALLING STAR. I am as usual inflicting one of them on the state library.

This summer there is no Maine sojourn in my Orrs Island cottage for me, but that is a small sacrifice to make for the war effort. Only those who love Maine people and air and atmosphere can know how much of a deprivation being away from all these actually means, nevertheless one is fortunate to have the memory of clean and unspoiled nature and people.

The book I am enclosing really grew out of my first book, WHITE HERON FEATHER, published by Harper in 1930, though it is by no means a sequel and is quite independent of the other. It is a book for late teen-age girls, a departure from my children's and boys' books in this and in taking my heroine, Elsbeth, away from Maine geographically, though not in spirit.

Very sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Robinson*

July 17, 1942

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
58 East 102 Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Please don't speak of "inflicting" your lovely books on us! Nothing delights us more than to know that there is another, and after dipping into CATCH A FALLING STAR, we are convinced that the review which called it "distinguished" is correct.

Elsbeth is a charming heroine, and you may be sure that through our traveling library copies of the book she will make friends of many Maine girls. Would that there were more stories of this sort!

How truly you speak of Maine; we earnestly hope that this will be the only summer which you find necessary to sacrifice, and that we may welcome you back next year. Meanwhile, we send you our congratulations on CATCH A FALLING STAR, and our thanks for your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj  
Encl--6¢ postal refund

SECRETARY



Orrs Island, Maine,  
June 12, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Yesterday I sent you one of my review copies of the new book I am foisting upon an unsuspecting and helpless public. I hope you may enjoy the reconstruction of Harvard of 1665, and the colonial scheme of higher education that loathed medicine, thought geology and botany sinful and considered Greek, Latin and theology the essentials of education. This did turn out some marvelous mental atmosphere, though, and it may be that having to think out one's own practical and intellectual problems (on the basis of what had been thought and said ages before in a ~~now~~ dead language) did something to personal caliber. In any case, Peter Snow's Harvard experiences and his later ones as apprentice surgeon to the one big doctor of Boston's middle of the seventeenth century era were based on a lot of reading of documents, histories, journals of the seventeenth century.

Regards to you and hopes that this war year is not being too difficult.

Very sincerely,

*Gertrude Robinson*

June 15, 1943

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

One of the nicest things about the letter and package from you was the return address: Orrs Island. We are so glad that you found it possible to return this summer. Perhaps you have found the fact of the harbor changed by present necessities and activities; but we hope this does not impair your enjoyment of the island and your vacation.

Again we are truly delighted by your thought of us and your continuing interest in the Maine Author Collection; and also by the kind of book you consistently bring to young readers. We have long suspected (and hoped) that their parents are sufficiently discriminating to share the pleasure of these books. PETER SNOW, SURGEON, is no exception, but strengthens our conviction that you are one of the outstanding writers in your field today. We welcome Peter and his story as worthy of being placed beside your earlier works, and express to you our deep appreciation for the generous gift.

If your way brings you past our door some day, please come in and say hello.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj  
Encl--6¢ postal refund

SECRETARY

July 28, 1944

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orr's Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

Every time we see an announcement of a forthcoming book by you, it is cause for satisfaction and anticipation.

We know virtually nothing of FOX FIRE, which we understand will be published this fall, but we instantly must wish you good fortune for the book.

If it is Maine in any way, we shall hope that your constant generosity may make it possible to place an inscribed copy in the Maine Author Collection with your other fine books. The best of luck to it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

133 Avenue B, New York, N.Y.,9.  
August 4, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

FOX FIRE is just coming out, and I had earmarked a copy for you but had been delayed in getting it off. I am glad to have you want it in the State Library collection.

As you see, my city address has changed to the above, and I am not spending the summer at my shack on, or in, Casco Bay. My sister is ill, in Baltimore, and I have felt obliged to stay near her.

If you like FOX FIRE, a note dropped to E.P. Dutton might help in handling its publicity.

FOX FIRE is written mainly about the witchcraft days of 1662 in the Connecticut colonies, but some earlier parts of the book are given a Maine habitat.

Just now I'm at an adult book, toward which I have for some time been tending, as my historical novels are reaching an older audience, but I don't know when present upset conditions (both war conditions and my own personal complications) will permit finishing it. Two young people's books have clamored for doing since this was started, and it may well be put off again.

With best wishes,

*Quentin Robinson*

August 7, 1944

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
133 Avenue B  
New York 9, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

The inscribed copy of FOX FIRE came this morning, and we count ourselves fortunate to be able to add an exciting new story for young readers which carries on the reputation you have established for accuracy in historical details combined with an adventure and spirited characters of universal appeal. We congratulate you upon FOX FIRE, and wish it much success.

We are regretful to hear that your sister is ill and that you cannot come to Orr's Island this year. We shall hope that these adversities will be dissipated another year, and that possibly the adult novel will be under way.

It grieves us that we cannot write directly to E. P. Dutton, to say how much we like FOX FIRE, and the people in it -- Paul and Amos and Hepsy, and all the others -- because nothing would give us more genuine pleasure than to recommend to everyone a book of the quality and enjoyability of FOX FIRE. For purposes of advertising, however, the library has long held firmly to a policy of keeping itself out of print. This policy causes us great regret upon occasions when we are enthusiastic about a book; but it is of course true that if we were to endorse the work of one writer, we would be obliged (as "public servants") to endorse the work of all, thereby nullifying the value of the endorsement.

Please be assured that it is through no hesitancy about the desirability of adding FOX FIRE to one's library that we cannot write to E. P. Dutton. We shall put this book in our traveling libraries, and when librarians in Maine ask us for an opinion, we shall be glad to tell them, individually, that it is a very fine book.

Our good wishes, and again our most appreciative thanks for your kindness.

Sincerely yours

Secretary

hmj  
Encl--4¢ postal refund

September 12, 1946

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

Of course we dropped everything else, and sat right down with Mother Penny and her enchanting brood! It is a most appealing story, and how fortunately understood by the artist!

Pictures and text combine happily to make this one of the nicest books for children that we have seen in a long time. One of its chief attractions for us, of course, is that it is so authentically Maine. What an interesting experience it must have been for you.

You are very kind to remember the Maine Author Collection, and to know that we look forward to each of your books with a special kind of anticipation. Thank you very much for the inscribed copy. MOTHER PENNY is of course going into the traveling libraries, and will bring her story and truly fine message to many small boys and girls throughout the state.

We hope you have had a pleasant summer, and we hope too, that one day you will call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

April 5, 1949

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
c/o The John C. Winston Company  
1006-1016 Arch Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Robinson:

Now comes Chris Tobey, and we anticipate making friends with him, and learning more than a little from the new story, THE SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH.

It will be noted in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, so that our librarians may all know about the new book; and it will be included in our traveling libraries.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection, which has previously been enriched by your generosity, may also enjoy the addition of an inscribed copy.

Good luck to THE SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

133 Avenue B, New York 9, N.Y.,  
April 12, 1949.

Sincerely,  
Arthur  
Rohman  
Dear Mrs. Jacob,

first draft. It got under  
way while I was in an enormous  
body cast and scribbling  
typist directions in pencil!

Your letter about my book--  
Sign of the Holden Fish --and my copies of it  
arrived simultaneously. I'm gettin a copy off  
to you with appreciative remembrance of the  
help you were to me the summer of 1947 when  
I was starting work on it. The book had  
some "nips in the cradle," and instead of being  
ready for the spring trade of 1948 it was  
delayed till now, because I was so luckless as  
to get thrown from one of our ungentle N.Y.  
buses, suffering a fractured and twisted hip.  
After 22 weeks in hospital I got in circulation  
and am now nearly intact again---but the book  
at the time was scarcely finished as to even



April 22, 1949

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
133 Avenue B  
New York 9, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH has arrived, and added to our abiding appreciation of your interest in the Maine Author Collection is the pleasant knowledge that we were able to be of service to you. The newest book displays your great fund of background information in the ease with which you use it. Children will love the story, and will never realize, in spite of your foreword, the amount of study and work which has gone into the making of such adventure and characters.

We certainly hope that the success of the book will be as persistent as the misadventures that befell you, while trying to bring it to publication. You were casual in the telling of the accident, but it must have been extremely painful and serious. Twenty-two weeks is a very long time to be obliged to inhabit any hospital. You deserve at least that number at Orr's Island in compensation!

Our thanks go to you for your generous gift of SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH for the Maine Author Collection. We shall purchase copies for our traveling libraries, of course, and we trust that many other libraries, and parents and young people themselves will swell the success of your latest book.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

June 29, 1949

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orrs Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

It was not ingratitude that delayed our letter: we wrote on April 22, but our letter came back, marked "Cannot Be Found." Rather than endeavor to best the United States Post Office, we have waited, and now hope that you are at Orrs Island, and that this will reach you.

What we said in April was:

"SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH has arrived, and added to our abiding appreciation of your interest in the Maine Author Collection is the pleasant knowledge that we were able to be of service to you. The newest book displays your great fund of background information in the ease with which you use it. Children will love the story, and will never realize, in spite of your foreword, the amount of study and work which has gone into the making of such adventure and characters.

"We certainly hope that the success of the book will be as persistent as the misadventures that befell you, while trying to bring it to publication. You were casual in the telling of the accident, but it must have been extremely painful and serious. Twenty-two weeks is a very long time to be obliged to inhabit any hospital. You deserve at least that number at Orr's Island in compensation!

"Our thanks go to you for your generous gift of SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH for the Maine Author Collection. We shall purchase copies for our traveling libraries, of course, and we trust that many other libraries, and parents and young people themselves will swell the success of your latest book."

We still feel the same!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Orr's Island, Maine,  
July 3, 1949.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Your nice letter about my book ( Sign of the Golden Fish) reached me here. I arrived here June 14, and was glad to see my own salty, piney shack, after a lapse of nearly two years. I am staying till October 1st, if it doesn't get too frigid. So far it has been delightful except for the lack of water in my cistern and at my rosebush roots.

Thank you for your nice comment about the book. It seems to be going well, and is a Junior Book Guild selection for June, which assures some sales returns above the book store usual ones.

It wasn't quite finished as to first draft when Nemesis overtook me in the shape of a bus accident, and I had to scrawl out some of final chapters while flat on my back in an all-enveloping cast, to say nothing of correcting typed pages for final typing, going over the typed finals and reading proof in the same prone position. Had it not been for a very patient and generous editor, two of them, in fact, there'd have been no book for at least a year. Mine was to have been first in the Land of the Free Series put out by Winston, and was lucky to get third place.

I'm perfectly well again except for the lameness due to shortening of the leg by over an inch. and to a degree of stiffness induced by the long immobilization of muscles and tendons. I get about but not as yet happily or easily, and can only hope the gentle exercise of keeping house in a small way and getting about on turf instead of asphalt will stretch the muscles to some degree of readiness.

I've another book, not coming out probably till fall, possibly spring, of 1950, placed with the Oxford University Press, a book for older girls, grazing the adult range. That got done last winter, chiefly because I couldn't get out much, and had to use my time.

As to the return of the letter to me from New York, I am puzzled, for unless by some chance the letter was addressed to Avenue B, Brooklyn, instead of Avenue B, New York, the P.O. was more than ordinarily benighted. I've been at this address now for over six years and a mistake like this seems impossible--even for the very opinionated postal service.

Most sincerely,

*Gertrude Robinson*

*My New York address is -  
133 Avenue B,  
New York 9, N. Y.*

July 15, 1949

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orr's Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

It is always nice to hear from you, and now we are glad that you are at Orr's Island and can perhaps relax and build back your needed muscles. We correspond for years with our authors, and come to think of them as personal friends, so it was with genuine sympathy that we hoped for news of your improvement after the bad accident. I do hope you will find that the island earth and air will be of benefit, and that by the time you must leave next fall you will notice a lessening of the lemeness and stiffness.

No, the New York letter was certainly addressed to New York. We have destroyed the original now, and the envelope, but we are reasonably sure that the number on Avenue B was correct. At any rate, we are glad that we did eventually get our work of appreciation to you.

We look forward to the new book, and hope that THE SIGN OF THE GOLDEN FISH continues successful.

A pleasant summer to you, and may the roses thrive, too.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

133 Avenue B,  
New York 9, N.Y.

March 24, 1950.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Here is another of my books, just out, by The Oxford University Press, a publisher I am rather glad to make. My other books are now put out by Winston of Philadelphia, makers of the LAND OF THE FREE SERIES, that, I hope, is doing as well in Maine as it deserves. One of the series, Footprints of the Dragon( a story set in the Chinese days of work on the Pacific railroad) is, to me, a very fine teen-ager book.

This book I enclosed in another wrapper to you today is FATHER AND THE MOUNTAINS, and is not specifically a Maine book, though the characters in it were some of them Maine folk, and old Wiscasset has a place in its locale.

I am getting along well in spite of my seriously shortened right leg, result of New York's hurried surgery. Otherwise I am very well indeed and am hard at work on two books that refuse to get finished.

I plan to get to my shack on Casco Bay this summer, and have to come earlier than I would because my apartment got sublet a bit previously, so far as my convenience is concerned.

Best wishes---

Sincerely,

*Gertrude Robinson*  
Gertrude Robinson

April 5, 1950

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
133 Avenue B  
New York 9, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

The inscribed copy of FATHER AND THE MOUNTAINS came along a few days after your letter. Thank you so much for remembering the Maine Author Collection with the gift of it. Each of your books is a distinctive contribution to young reading, no matter what the age of the reader, or the subject about which you write. From MOTHER PENNY to FATHER AND THE MOUNTAINS, you have a sure, close touch that takes a reader into the heart of the story. It is with a wonderfully secure feeling that any librarian or parent buys these books.

And you were Susie, weren't you? No youngster who imagines that he dislikes autobiography would even suspect that this is really your own story. Many of the touches we recognize as being directly from your own family, and we judge that there is really very little, if any, fiction here.

I am so sorry to know that the leg was not properly repaired. Can it be re-set? It must be a very great inconvenience to you, and extremely tiring.

It is good to know that you are already looking toward the day of your return to Orr's Island, and since you come early this year, we shall hope for an early spring for you. Do come in and say hello if you get this far. And again our warm thanks for the fine and appreciated gift to the collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

133 Avenue B, New York 9, N.Y.,  
February 7, 1951.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Perhaps you remember that in the summer of 1947 I did considerable research in seventeenth century and earlier Maine, aided very much by your kindness in sending me books and a bibliography of what you had in that period. That book was soon published by Winston in The Land of The Free Series, entitled Sign of the Golden Fish. It was set in what in time became Portland( early Machigonne, on Casco Bay). The fishermen who settled there were largely Cornish.

Now a Cornish historian( Mr. A.L.Rowse) is making New York a visit under the auspices of The English- Speaking Union, bent on trailing down vestiges of Cornish activities in America. Since early Machigonne was entirely destroyed and more than once burned there are no vestiges left of that early mid-seventeenth century fishery settlement. None of my reading has indicated any other remains of Cornish influence in Maine to be traced.

Now I am asked to aid the Books Across the Sea in putting him on the trail of any information that might be hiding in our records. It has occurred to me that perhaps the State Library might have some reference material that would help him, or, at least assure him that there is nothing available in its bibliographical resources that would interest him enough to send somebody



to do the reading for him. I was working particularly in fisheries, and that would be a definitely Cornish field, but there might be some tie up with boat building and lumbering.

I am not asking anything that means a lot of work on this, but if your knowledge of what your reference material includes touched on Cornish matters, a note so informing the English-Speaking Union would be a great kindness.

The Address is--

Miss Charlotte Seymour Day,  
Librarian,  
The English-Speaking Union,  
19 East 54th Street,  
New York 22, N.Y.

Attention Mr. A.L. Rowse)

Sincerely,

*Gertrude Robinson*

Gertrude Robinson

February 12, 1951

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
133 Avenue B  
New York 9, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Our Research Librarian, Miss Margaret A. Whalen, is the proper librarian to make any search for Cornish traces, and she is at present absent from the library. We expect her back within a few days, and we will refer your inquiry to her then. I hope we may find some helpful information for Mr. Rowse.

There was no mention in your letter of a new book by you, but perhaps it is too early. We hope you are writing one, or contemplating one. I trust the season's storms did not damage your Orr's Island home, and that the spring will see you back there again.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

133 Avenue B, New York 9, N.Y.,  
February 17, 1951.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Thank you for your kind and immediate response to my call for help, a call quite beyond your duty to answer. Any source for material that is found for Mr. Rowse's quest will be most gratefully received.

Yes, there is a new book to be put out for me some time this year ( unless the war situation produces too acute a paper shortage). It is through the Oxford University Press, which published my FATHER AND THE MOUNTAINS last spring. Winston has one, also, but they are so tied up with the LAND OF THE FREE Series, in which I have already made my bow, that I have doubts about a timely issue of my book. Just now I am at work on a more or less adult book, and have suspicions I may never feel enthusiastic enough to complete it. Just getting it more or less out of my system.!

The storm seemed to skip my handful of ledges and pines, though it did a lot of damage elsewhere on the island. I had just had my sea wall patched a bit, and it may be in need of more mortar and stone this spring, but that is all our second hurricane since I've been on the island did to me.

Pardon my bad spacing. My typewriter is rather off its fair behavior these days.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude Robinson

*Gertrude Robinson*

Orr's Island, Maine,  
September 25, 1951.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I have a new book out this August, and though it is not a Maine book it is by an author who loves Maine, people, atmosphere and history. So I am sending it in.

The book is Smoking Hoof, published by Oxford University Press, the publishers of my recent book, Father and the Mountains.

Just now I am giving myself up to the charms of getting a very "young" book ready to try to market. It is the life story of my special Maine pal, the smartest, most affectionate, most beguiling of song sparrows. He has the longest tail that ever graced a song sparrow. He is this moment sitting in my bird box, teasing me to come out in the rain to spread more crumbs before him.

This has been a wet and cold summer, and I'm not sorry to be returning to steam heat and a dining room for which I do not do the cooking. I was planning to leave October 1st, but now the man who was to drive me and a friend to Boston has delayed a bit.

Last winter's storms did not damage my house but they did shatter my sea wall and spray with salt my husky Dr. Van Vleit and American Pillar climbing roses. They are not killed, but this summer they had only scanty blooms. I had the deadened canes cut out and the new ones are now long and many. If the winter is kind I'll again have trellises full of pink and crimson flowers and a handsome roof. Strangely, a Florentine rigosa on the sea wall wasn't harmed.

Most cordially,

*Gertrude Robinson*  
Gertrude Robinson



October 1, 1951

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orr's Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

How very nice of you to send SMOKING HOOF for the Maine Author Collection! Since you told us last winter that there was one coming, we have watched; and only last week made a note of it for the fall library bulletin. Now we are delighted to see the book itself, and although the main reference section of the library won't be a customer, the traveling libraries will include SMOKING HOOF with great pleasure, and that sense of satisfaction and confidence which we always experience when we are able to buy such fine books for circulating to our young readers throughout the state.

And it is wonderful news that we may expect the book about your friend, the song sparrow.

I'm glad to know that your roses came through the storms alive, if battered. Another year should see them thriving again, shouldn't it? Since you were delayed, and stayed a little longer than you had anticipated, aren't you glad? -- or hasn't the weather been as warm and bright and colorful at Orr's Island as it has in this vicinity? Anyway, we shall welcome you back next year, and hope that your friend the song sparrow will be on hand to greet you.

Again thank you for SMOKING HOOF. It's a wonderful story, a realistic and exciting story to recommend to youngsters.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Orr's Island, Maine,  
June 25, 1953.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I find I need more time on the books you sent me. The list is enclosed. If all or any of them can be renewed I'll be very happy. If not I'll get them in to the library promptly.

The Moore book is very useful, though not as picturesque in language and content as the earlier publications. Thank you for all of them .

My bird population is being a bit perverse this June. J.L.T. is dear as ever and always sits in whenever I have a Brahms or Beethoven thing over the radio, enjoying it from his box seat in my window hugging rose vines. Meantime the other birds steal his food and water. I have not only unwelcome pensioners in the shape of red-wing blackbirds and purple grackle but a very persistent crow. He is so stupid he walks about the edge of the bird feeding platform and is so tall his beak rests on the roof of it, shutting him away from the food on the floor. It never enters his head to bend his proud neck to get it inside the box. He is so strong and so active he is wrecking the little song-sparrow size feeding station. I had thought crows were smart!

My lilacs and honeysuckles have gone by but my syringa is in full bloom and is so sweet my little back yard is almost too highly scented to breathe without losing one's senses.

Best wishes for the summer,

*Gertrude Robinson*

Gertrude Robinson

Orr's Island, Maine,  
June 6, 1953.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Here I am in Maine again---and a very chilly Maine my part of it is this near-rainy morning. Still it is good to be here, with my little forever faithful song sparrow, hundreds of colorful but unwelcome red-wings, my salty cove and little house with familiar scraps of furniture dating from my grandmother's life time. My typewriter is clearing its throat a bit and may turn legible in a few minutes.

I have a book ( Spindleshanks, by Oxford University Press again) scheduled for this fall or next spring. It is set in New York, New Hampshire mostly. In the 1777 Revolutionary War period. The main character is General John Stark, for whom I have long had a sneaking liking as a character. The main adult character, I should have said, for of course there is a fifteen-year-old lad taking major roles.

I am venturing to ask if the Maine State Library would be so good as to send me( as you did once before) any material you can send out on General Stark. I know there is a Life and Correspondence of General John Stark, by Caleb Stark( quite old) and something by Jared Spark or Stark, which I couldn't ascertain from the files of the New York library. Neither was to be had in New York. If any of these or anything else you have on hand could be sent me I'd be glad to pay the postage both ways and send a check to deposit to guarantee the safe return.

I had wanted to take life rather easy this summer, but the assignment for a book in a very young Adventure Series came up and I hesitated to turn it down. It isn't my field really, and is a bit of a gamble, but a new thing is rather an enticement to me.

My best wishes for you and the library.

Sincerely,

*Gertrude Robinson*

June 8, 1953

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
Orr's Island  
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

Wonderful! -- to know that you have a new book on the way, and also that you are back with us in Maine. It always makes summer seem a little more certain, regardless of the reluctant weather, to hear from you.

Your request has started in the proper channel, and soon you should have something. If anyone can bring General Stark out of his stirring and picturesque, but rather neglected, historical setting, and make him real for young readers, it is you; and we shall certainly be glad to help in any way possible.

You don't have to refund any postage, or send us a deposit. Your only expense is to pay the postage on the books when you return them by mail. Most items are subject to a renewal period, so unless our mailing notice says plainly "Not Renewable," and if you find that you need them longer, you may send us word to this effect. We will then renew the books and let you know the new date due. If, of course, some patron has meanwhile requested them, we should have to reserve them, and couldn't extend the time for you; but in this case we would let you know.

I hope the sun has come out warmly for you today, and that it will chase away the fog and warm the rocks, and make you glad that you came back.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj



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133 Avenue B, New York 9, N.Y.,  
March 23, 1954.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Again I am inflicting on you a copy of my newest book, Spindleshanks. Not that it is a Maine book, though it is very near Maine, close as the nearby Hudson in setting; much closer in the heart of the author.

It is my third book put out by Oxford University Press.

Just now I am working on a book set in the coast region of New Hampshire, mostly in Londonderry, a place that smells to me of the pines and granite of Maine.

Best regards,

Gertrude Robinson.

*Gertrude Robinson*

April 6, 1954

Miss Gertrude Robinson  
133 Avenue B  
New York 9, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

It is as great a pleasure as ever to acknowledge the arrival of another of your fine books to be added to the Maine Author Collection. SPINDLESHANKS is a book to be proud of, and despite your initial hesitation to take the assignment, you certainly must be happy at the result. Thank you so much for remembering us. It comes just in time, too, for us to make a note of it for the May Bulletin of the Maine Library Association.

If songsparrows are here, and they certainly are, they must also be at Orr's Island. Does it turn your thoughts northward?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY  
105 EAST 22 STREET  
NEW YORK 10. N. Y.

GRAMERCY 5-8205

October 27, 1958

Mrs. F. W. Jacobs  
Librarian in Charge  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

We are sorry to have to bear the news of the death of your friend, Miss Gertrude Robinson, who passed away, peacefully, in her sleep on Saturday, October 25th.

Miss Robinson instructed us to notify you of her death. We are planning funeral services according to Miss Robinson's wishes, with burial in her family plot in Besselaer, New York.

As you know, Miss Robinson lived for many years at Tompkins Square House, our residence for elderly men and women.

She had been failing in strength, but was able to get away, as in summers past, to her cottage in Orr's Island in Maine. It meant a great deal to her to be at her cottage and to enjoy her associations of many years.

Sincerely,

AB:pb

*Adelaide Bollettino*  
(Mrs) Adelaide Bollettino  
Special Services for the Aging

October 31, 1958

Mrs. Adelaide Bollettino  
Special Services for the Aging  
Community Service Society  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York City 10

Dear Mrs. Bollettino:

Thank you for writing about Miss Robinson's death. It is always difficult to realize that a loved and respected friend is no longer with us, but we can be glad that her going was quiet, and without the pain of a long illness.

Her Orr's Island song sparrows will miss her, and we will miss knowing that she is there; but we have many wonderful books to remind us of her, and through them Miss Robinson will continue to make friends for years and years.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection