

Maine State Library Maine State Documents

Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

October 2015

Mabel L. Robinson Correspondence

Mabel Louise Robinson 1874-1962

Louise Bonino
Random House Inc.

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Robinson, Mabel Louise 1874-1962; Bonino, Louise; McLeod, Hilda; and Jacob, Hilda McLeod, "Mabel L. Robinson Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 462.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/462

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

ROBINSON, MABEL L.

b. Waltham, Mass.

resident of Brooklin, Maine.

Miss Mabel L Robinson was born in Waltham, Massachusetts. She graduated from Radcliffe in 1904, received her M.A. from Columbia in 1907 and her Ph.D. from Columbia in 1915. She is now assistant professor of English at Columbia University. She spends her summers in Brooklin, Maine.

August 18, 1937

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
Bayberry Farm
Brooklin, Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

BRIGHT ISLAND has indeed won the praise and warm welcome which it deserved, and of course we are particularly delighted in the book because of its Maine background, and its Maine author; for we consider that your many years' summer residence in this state gives us some claim upon you.

We hope that an inscribed copy of BRIGHT ISLAND may join the several hundred inscribed presentation volumes now in the Maine Author Collection. Our writers have been very generously interested in this project, started some years ago, and it is due to their kindness that we can boast of such a fascinating exhibit.

A copy of your delightful and successful book would be a distinction in itself, and we hope you will want to inscribe a copy for this purpose.

Please accept our congratulations upon an unusually fine book, and our sincere wishes for a very pleasant vacation.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

BAYBERRY FARM
NORTH BROOKLIN
MAINE

September 3, 1937

Miss Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McLeod:

Thank you for your nice letter about BRIGHT ISLAND. I am glad to be considered a Maine author especially since I have now become a Maine resident. I have been hard at work on another book so that your letter was neglected. I have had so many requests for autographed copies of the book that I can't seem to keep it in stock. When I get back to New York I will order some more from Random House and get one off to you. I shall have to be back for the opening of Columbia University and there would be scarcely time to attend to the matter before then. By that time the second printing will be ready. Thank you for your good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel L. Robinson

November 5, 1937

Miss Mabel I. Robinson
Columbia University
New York City

Dear Miss Robinson:

We hope you are not exclaiming, "What a nuisance!" Since the inscribed copy of BRIGHT ISLAND has not come to the Maine Author Collection shelves, however, we are risking another letter, to make sure it is only a delay, and not a loss in the mails.

Are we correct in believing that the lovely little Lucia books had a Maine setting? It has been a number of years, and we have, unfortunately, no Lucia volumes at hand, but in a most pleasant, if vague, recollection, we can see Lucia in a setting that might have been Maine. After we discovered that you are a summer resident of this state, we have wondered if perhaps our Lucia memory might not be true. If it is, we will want to add a copy of this book, at some time when it is convenient for you to inscribe it and send it. We would be very glad to purchase this book.

We send you continued good wishes for success, especially on the new book, which we trust is now well under way.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

November 19, 1937

Miss Mabel I. Robinson
Columbia University
New York City

Dear Miss Robinson:

How pleasant to receive the charmingly
inscribed copy of BRIGHT ISLAND for the Maine
Author Collection!

We are very grateful to you for presenting
this delightful gift to the collection, and we
send you our very sincere thanks.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

MABEL L. ROBINSON
878 WEST END AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 18, 1937

Miss Hilda McCloud
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McCloud:

When I was at Random House the other day autographing some orders, I ordered and autographed a copy for you. I hope that it arrived safely. The book is in its second printing now of 15000 and apparently going very well.

Yes, you are right about the Little Lucia books. Two of them take place in Maine, LITTLE LUCIA, and LITTLE LUCIA AND HER ISLAND CAMP. As a matter of fact, ALL BY OURSELVES is laid entirely in Maine, and part of DR. TAM O'SHANTER. Somehow my characters get to Maine as inevitably as I do myself!

Sincerely yours,

Mabel L. Robinson

February 26, 1938

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

At last we are sending to you, under separate cover, LITTLE LUCIA, LITTLE LUCIA'S ISLAND CAMP, ALL BY OURSELVES and DR. TAM O'SHANTER. Will you inscribe them for the Maine Author Collection? We enclose a label and sufficient postage to cover the return mailing charges.

Your kindness in troubling to do this for us is greatly appreciated, and we will feel a satisfaction when we finally have all your Maine books represented in this exhibit.

We hope that the winter is proving a pleasant and successful one, and that already you are at work on another book.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm
Encl--2

SECRETARY

March 21, 1938

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Thank you very, very much indeed for inscribing the four books, LITTLE LUCIA, LITTLE LUCIA'S ISLAND CAMP, DR. TAM O'SHANTER, and ALL BY OURSELVES, for the Maine Author Collection.

We are delighted to add these to your other book, and we trust that there will be many more of these charming stories inspired by your Maine vacations.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

March 25, 1942

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Although spring sunshine promises that it won't be many more weeks before you will be back at Bayberry Farm, we think we cannot wait until then to congratulate you upon the publication of ISLAND NOON.

It is, we realize, a departure from the type of your earlier books, but we agree with the reviewer who said simply, "This reviewer hopes she will do more."

Since it seems likely that Maine provided the background for Abby's story, we venture to suggest the possibility of including an inscribed copy in the Maine Author Collection, to which you have in past years been so kind. Perhaps you would even add, in the inscription, whether or not you did have any particular part of the coast in mind when writing ISLAND NOON. We should be delighted and appreciative, should you care to present a copy.

You have our best wishes for the book's success, and also for a pleasant summer.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

August 8, 1942

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Perhaps you are at Bayberry Farm; or perhaps, like many others who are finding the transportation restrictive difficulties too arduous, you have been unable to spend your vacation in Maine; but wherever you are, we dare to be insistent and write again regarding ISLAND NOON.

Possibly our earlier letter did not reach you, or has been set aside to await less pressure of duties; but you have been so kind in the past about inscribing and presenting copies of your Maine books to the Maine Author Collection that we continue to hope that ISLAND NOON may also be included.

We have been gratified to observe the more than pleasant reception which it encountered from critics and readers; it is a rarely sympathetic and perceptive novel, and we are proud to claim its author by adoption.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

September 11, 1942

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
North Brooklin
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

The inscribed copy of ISLAND NOON has reached us, and words are inadequate to express our pleasure and appreciation for the privilege of placing this fine novel in the Maine Author Collection.

It is a beautiful and sensitive piece of work, and we must echo the wishes of many readers when we say that we hope other adult novels will follow.

Please accept our thanks for your kindness and interest in the Maine Author Collection, and our best wishes for a successful and interesting winter.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl--6¢ postal refund

SECRETARY

February 9, 1951

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York City

Dear Miss Robinson:

Congratulations on the new book, **STRONG WINDS**, which we read has been selected by the Junior Literary Guild.

We look forward with unusual interest to seeing this new book with a Maine background upon its publication, for we know how understandingly you write of young people. This is the kind of book our traveling libraries can use happily and successfully.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection, to which you have been most gracious in presenting your Maine books, may anticipate the inclusion of an inscribed copy.

Our very good wishes to you and **STRONG WINDS**.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

MABEL LOUISE ROBINSON

878 WEST END AVENUE, NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

February 25, 1951

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Thank you for your nice note. My book, *Strong Things*, will not be out until next fall which seems a long way off. Better remind me again since I am sure to forget your copy. I hope that you will like it as well as *Bright Island* the last book that I wrote for that age.

Sincerely yours,
Mabel Louise Robinson

February 27, 1951

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York 25, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Thank you for your friendly letter about the new book. We have made a note to write to you again next fall, and to mention it in the August (rather than the May) issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

September 10, 1951

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York 25, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Here it is fall (or almost, officially), and STRONG WINDS was noted in the August issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. We said that we'd write to you about the copy for the Maine Author Collection, which you so very graciously promised last February.

We look forward eagerly to placing it with your other books, and we wish it a warm and immediate success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

October 10, 1951

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York 25, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

Such a lovely book, and such a generous author: we thank you, for both the book and the interest in the Maine Author Collection.

It really is a fine story, and we shall take pleasure in knowing that our traveling libraries will include it, and take it to many young people in the state. Only a person who knows her Maine land and coast and people could write so naturally of them. We congratulate you, and the fortunate readers who are going to make the acquaintance of the unforgettable characters and situations in STRONG WINDS.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

May 5, 1955

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York City 25

Dear Miss Robinson:

What a wonderful season: ALL THE YEAR ROUND already here, and SKIPPER RILEY, THE TERRIER SEA DOG, to anticipate! They will be noted in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and we hope that the Maine Author Collection may be graced by their presence.

Riley we look forward to knowing. He sounds like a lively independent creature.

As for ALL THE YEAR ROUND surely there never was a more charming book. It breathes with your own state of attunement to nature; and I found it quite impossible to follow your advice about reading it. Few who care at all about such observations and accounts will be able to read it at the pace you prescribe. It is an altogether delightful book.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

MABEL LOUISE ROBINSON

878 West End Avenue, New York 25, N. Y.

May 14, 1955

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

You can't think what pleasure your cordial letter gave me. Librarians usually take books for granted, and indeed I don't wonder. But your personal appreciation was a real satisfaction. I read your letter to my Columbia Workshop, and they liked it, too.

I don't know whether SKIPPER RILEY has come to you yet. If it hasn't just drop a line to Louise Bonino at Random House, and tell her I said to send you a copy. May it give you as much fun as it did me to write it!

Again my thanks for your thoughtful appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel Louise Robinson

May 24, 1955

Miss Mabel Louise Robinson
878 West End Avenue
New York 25, New York

Dear Miss Robinson:

SKIPPER RILEY at last came bustling across our threshold, and after making his acquaintance, we understand why he had to have a book written about him. He was on his way to our traveling libraries and bookmobile, which will introduce him to many a young reader.

Both SKIPPER RILEY and ALL THE YEAR ROUND are in the library now, and we hope that we may have both in the Maine Author Collection. Do you think this possible? You said we might have a copy of Riley's story by writing to Miss Bonino, but you didn't say anything about ALL THE YEAR ROUND. It isn't entirely set in Maine, of course, but we like to think of you as a Maine author, and we think the collection would be the richer for both books.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

MABEL LOUISE ROBINSON

878 West End Avenue, New York 25, N. Y.

Montrose, New York
May 28, 1955

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

I have written to Harpers to send you a copy of ALL THE YEAR ROUND, and I will ask Miss Bonino to send a Riley book to you. Then you will be all set! If they don't arrive let me know, but I think that they will.

I am glad that you like SKIPPER RILEY. I had a lot of fun writing about him. The first book about Riley, BACK-SEAT DRIVER, brought such response from television audiences that I had to do another.

In a little over a week I shall be in Maine for the summer. And Riley will be as glad as I am! My address there is North Brooklin, Maine. Since you already live in Maine, I don't have to wish you a good summer.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel Louise Robinson

You may be interested that the motion pictures are taking my first novel, ISLAND NOON, which was laid in Maine. It will be fun to see it come to life on the screen. Though they will probably change it so that I won't recognize my own book.

MLR



RANDOM HOUSE INC. 457 MADISON AVENUE · NEW YORK

THE MODERN LIBRARY

LANDMARK BOOKS

AMERICAN COLLEGE DICTIONARY

June 3rd, 1955

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

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

At the request of Mabel L. Robinson we are sending you under separate cover a complimentary copy of her new book, SKIPPER RILEY, THE TERRIER SEA DOG, for your special collection of books by Maine authors.

Sincerely yours,

Louise Bonino

Louise Bonino
Editor, Books for
Boys and Girls

LB:TGL

June 13, 1955

Miss Mabel L. Robinson
North Brooklin
Maine

Dear Miss Robinson:

Welcome back!

The two books, ALL THE YEAR ROUND and SKIPPER RILEY, THE TERRIER SEA DOG, have arrived. Their addition to the Maine Author Collection pleases us greatly, of course; and we are most appreciative of your interest.

It is a note of resignation which we think we detect in your remark about a movie version of ISLAND NOON. Hollywood equals change, it seems; and our regional pride is often wounded. We shall, however, look forward to ISLAND NOON, and hope that the title remains to guide us.

A happy and restful vacation to you and Riley.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

June 13, 1955

Miss Louise Bonino
Editor, Books for Boys and Girls
Random House Inc.
457 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Miss Bonino:

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the books of Mabel L. Robinson, SKIPPER RILEY and ALL THE YEAR ROUND, which Miss Robinson told us we might expect for the Maine Author Collection. Thank you very much for your interest.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj