

November 2015

Willan C. Roux Correspondence

Willan C. Roux 1902-

Maine State Library

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ROUX, Willan C
b. Newark, New Jersey, August 18, 1902



July 28, 1964

Mr. Willan C. Roux
Orr's Island
Maine 04066

Dear Mr. Roux:

Your WHAT'S COOKING DOWN IN MAINE is delightful, the recipes, the jingles, the running commentary. It is a most attractive book, and we hope it will enjoy a long and active life.

We bought it for the library, of course, and it will be noted in the Maine in Print column of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association; but we write now about the Maine Author Collection.

You may know of this permanent exhibit collection of books by Maine writers, and books of Maine interest. We also gather biographical and critical material, so that our files of information may be as complete as possible. Most of the books, and there are over three thousand now, are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions original, humorous, poetic, picturesque, but always individual and adding distinction to the volumes.

The collection is available to students and visitors for study and browsing, and it is a happy day when we welcome a new author and a new book to these shelves. We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of your book to the collection. Meanwhile, our very good wishes to you for its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

WILLAN C. ROUX • *Advertising and Business Consultant*

The Pearl House, Orr's Island, Maine
Telephone TERRACE 3-2305

July 30, 1964

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

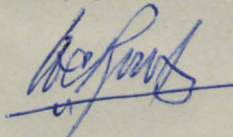
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your kind words. I have been completely flabbergasted - but, quite naturally, delighted - at the reception it has had. (Even J. Donald Adams in last Sunday's Times Book Review - and we didn't even send him a copy! I have found out since that he is vacationing at Damariscotta, dined at the Saltwater Farm Pier, bought the book and that was that!)

I am sending you a copy of "What's Cooking". I am highly flattered that you want it for your collection.

The next time I am in Augusta I shall certainly stop by and see it for myself.

Cordially yours,



July 31, 1964

Mr. Willan C. Roux
The Pearl House
Orr's Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Roux:

Thank you very much for your interest and generosity. We are happy to acknowledge the uniquely inscribed copy of your inviting book, WHAT'S COOKING DOWN IN MAINE, for the Maine Author Collection. Isn't it fun to watch its progress? And how extremely satisfying it must be to you!

Sometime at your convenience would you be willing to let us have a little biographical information for the file? -- a sort of Who's Who item would do nicely.

We hope that WHAT'S COOKING DOWN IN MAINE enjoys a long and active life, and that the reading public will clamor for further spritely cook books under your generalship.

Sincerely yours

mow

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

WINDSWEPT
ORR'S ISLAND, MAINE

November 6, 1964

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I really haven't forgotten about sending you biographical material. But between building a new house, travelling a bit and sundry other relatively unimportant but time consuming affairs have kept me from it. I'll have it for you shortly, if you still want it.

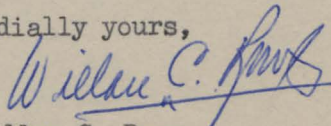
I am happy to say that "What's Cooking" has been selling very well. It has received excellent reviews and publicity as well as merchandising and the second printing of 5,000 is now being sold.

I have a favor to ask. Currently I am planning and have done a bit of writing on a book to be called "Maine Medicine Man: The Chronicle of a Quack". It has to do with a Dr. William Steward Jr. who lived in Bloomfield, Maine, in the early 1800's and was both a medical practitioner and a minister. I found his book "Steward's Healing Art", published in Saco in 1827 and it intrigued me so much that I am putting him into a book. There are references to the Steward family in Louise Coburn's "Skowhegan on the Kennebec". I wonder if, in your archives or elsewhere, there are other books that would help reconstruct this character. Also I am looking for information about a plague of Epidemic Fever that raged in Maine, New Hampshire etc. and into New York State. Steward called it the Cold Plague and claims to have treated hundreds of cases while all other doctors were burying most of their patients. The dates would be around 1815 to 1818. Perhaps there is a history or a medical book that would tell about it.

His own book "Healing Art" reveals a great deal about him but I need to know more of the way life was, the way people lived and dressed in that area of Maine.

I will very much appreciate any thoughts or suggestions you have on the subject. I hope to come to Augusta in the near future. As a matter of fact I was planning to come there next Monday but illness of ^arelative in Andover, Mass. forces me to put it off as death may only be a few hours or a few days off.

Cordially yours,



Willan C. Roux

November 9, 1964

Mr. Willan C. Roux
Windswept
Orr's Island, Maine 04066

Dear Mr. Roux:

Of course -- send the biographical sketch at your convenience. We do indeed want it.

Your request for material on Dr. Steward is being referred to our research librarian, Miss Margaret A. Whalen. It sounds like a most interesting subject. Many such "doctors" were colorful individuals, and it is a curious fact that they were to be found flourishing in supposedly staid and hard-headed New England.

It is good to know that WHAT'S COOKING is doing well. I was delighted to have a copy as a birthday gift this summer. After all, nothing is more fun than a really good cook book. May it continue its lively course.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mr. Roux later called in person and conferred with Miss Whalen.

WINDSWEPT
ORR'S ISLAND, MAINE

November 13, 1964

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you so much for referring my request for information about Dr. Steward to Miss Whalen. I will very much appreciate anything she can dig up about this precious character.

I don't know in what form you want the biographical material but here are the facts:

Born in Newark, New Jersey, August 18, 1902. Parents: Professor Louis A. Roux and Gertrude (Willan) Roux. I graduated from Newark Academy where my father was head of the French Department for 40 years. Entered Brown University in the Fall of 1919, graduating with the degree of PhB in 1923. Returned to Newark and engaged in the advertising and promotion business from 1923 to 1932. Joined the National Broadcasting Company and held various advertising, promotion and selling jobs during a 15 year stay. I was Manager of NBC Spot Sales when I resigned to become owner and president of the Colyer-Roux Printing Company in Newark. This was in 1947. Retired from this in 1962 and made Orr's Island my permanent residence.

Married in 1929 to Gertrude Smith. Two children: John Willan Roux and Suzanne Roux Spurlock. At the moment - six grandchildren.

First came to Maine in 1908 and spent all my summers here until graduation from college. My father's cottage was in Ash Cove, South Harpswell, next door to the Etnier place. Thus Stephen Etnier and I grew up together and are, to this day, good friends.

Our first home on Orr's Island, bought in 1951, was the Pearl House, made locally famous by Harriet Beecher Stowe who spent at least one summer there, wrote part of Uncle Tom's Cabin and another book called the Pearl of Orr's Island. Sold this house last Fall and built Windswept high on a hill overlooking Harpswell Sound on one side, a delightful fresh water pond and woods on the other.

Author of various articles and of "What's Cooking Down in Maine". Have another book coming out next fall "Fish Have Their Problems, Too, or How To Fish Watch Without Getting Wet", nonsense verse ably illustrated by Jack Loughlin.

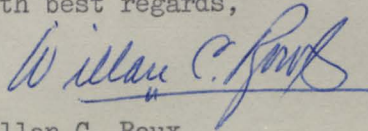
Am a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and a former member of the Maplewood (N. J.) Country Club and the Orange Lawn Tennis Club. Lived in South Orange for 12 years and Maplewood for 12.

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I think that's about it. I enclose a picture (throw it away if you have no use for it) taken for publicity and advertising purposes in connection, obviously, with "What's Cooking".

Thanks for evrything---

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willan C. Roux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Willan C. Roux

November 18, 1964

Mr. Willan C. Roux
Windswept
Orr's Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Roux:

Your home is well named, if your weather today is like ours. A March-like blast is tossing the treetops, and the picture of you in your kitchen is tantalizing, because we are sure that a rugged stew is in that pot -- the perfect meal for this weather.

Thank you very much for the picture and for the biographical sketch, which is just what we santed.

What fun to anticipate the next book!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection