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Maine Writers Correspondence

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November 2015

# Helen Harriet Salls Correspondence

Helen Harriet Salls

Georgiana Lunt

Auburn Public Library

Maine State Library

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SHAW, Harriet Newell

Born in Hampden, Feb. 13, 1859.

January 30, 1947

Mrs. Harriet N. Shaw  
c/o Mrs. William F. Scammon  
Orono, Maine

Dear Mrs. Shaw:

It was with pleasure that we noticed recently in the Bangor Daily News that you had published a book of verse. Please accept our congratulations and good wishes.

It is always a delight to be able to welcome a new name to Maine's literary roster, and we hope that you will share with us the feeling that VERSES should be in the Maine Author Collection. This is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, those resident here, or writing about the state. It includes about fifteen hundred volumes, inscribed and presented for this purpose; and we also gather all available biographical, critical and pictorial material on our authors.

The inscriptions are especially distinctive. Some of them are bits of verse, some take the form of revealing autobiographical notes, some pertain to the writing of the book; we have pen-and-ink sketches, tributes to Maine -- in fact, these inscriptions are as varied as the authors and their books. The collection constantly attracts visitors and students, and it is with great pleasure that we add new volumes and names.

We hope you will want to inscribe and present a copy of VERSES for the collection. We should be happy to see it in this exhibit.

Please accept our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj  
Encl



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
ORONO, MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

February 1, 1947

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

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

In behalf of Mrs. Harriet Shaw from whom you requested a copy of her Verses on January 30, I am today mailing a copy to you.


Mrs. Scamman inadvertently opened Mrs. Shaw's letter. We are writing Mrs. Shaw today informing her of the circumstances and of our sending the copy to you.

I believe Mrs. Shaw would appreciate receiving acknowledgment of its receipt at her present address, which is --

# Mrs. T. M. Gunn  
290 North Pleasant Street  
Amherst, Mass.

Your project seems very much worthwhile, and your letter soliciting the copy is gracefully done.

Yours very sincerely,

  
William F. Scamman

February 6, 1947

Mrs. Harriet N. Shaw  
c/o Mrs. T. M. Gunn  
290 North Pleasant Street  
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Shaw:

About a week ago, we wrote to you at Orono, congratulating you upon the publication of VERSES, and expressing the hope that an inscribed copy might be included in the Maine Author Collection.

We have had a most friendly reply from Mr. Scamman, who has kindly sent a copy of your attractive book for this permanent exhibit of the writings of Maine authors. We are delighted to add your collection of poems to these shelves.

They have the charm of familiarity of theme, simply and appealingly worded; and they must be of interest to many readers, and special significance to those who shared with you many of the experiences and scenes.

We hope it will be possible one day for you to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection, and give us the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the writer of VERSES.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

February 6, 1947

Mr. William F. Scamman  
Orono  
Maine

Dear Mr. Scamman:

It was very kind of you to send a copy of Mrs. Shaw's book, VERSES, for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection; and we also appreciate the friendliness of your letter. Will you not also accept our invitation to call and see this exhibit sometime when you are in Augusta?

We have, as you suggested, written to Mrs. Shaw in Amherst, telling her how delighted we are to be able to include VERSES in the collection. We hope we shall have the pleasure of meeting their author one day.

Again, thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj



Amherst, Mass. Feb. 8, 1947.

To the Maine State Library -  
your letter of Feb. 6. is here and  
I feel that I am honored by your  
request, which I would be pleased  
to accept, if it comes, as it may, this  
summer, when the U. of M. has its  
"Commencement." (at my old home place)!

It seems to me I am having far more praise  
than belongs to me! My children should have  
most of it. They planned, and carried it out.  
I know nothing of it, till it was well underway!  
Now, I will ask a favor of you; we didn't know of  
a mistake, till this a.m. and it is this. On page  
34. the last word of the last line, should be  
noon! not Moon! "On God's eternal noon,"  
We have been so <sup>long</sup> answering letters, and receiving them  
that the book is hardly noticed. A letter just recd. from the  
Orons. (My Neighbor) near Prof. Scamman's) spoke of  
"Age" as her favorite, in spite of one misprint!  
We looked it <sup>up</sup> as I said! Now, here is the favor



2,

I'm asking! Are you willing, if it is not too much trouble, to ask those you know who have the book, to put the "N" in place of "M."? I shall do the same, as I answer numerous letters, after this! I am so sorry that, one misprint is there; but it can't be helped now!! I shall be very grateful to you, if you will do this.

Sincerely Yours,  
Harriet Kerrell Shaw.

P.S. Am preparing something to be placed in the front of the book.



February 18, 1947

Mrs. A. N. Shaw  
290 N. Pleasant Street  
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Shaw:

Thank you very much for your friendly response. We are sorry for the misprint, and we shall do as you request, of course. Who knows but that this very misprint may in the future serve to identify the first edition, and perhaps make it a "collector's item"!

We look forward to having the inscription you mention for the book, and also to the possibility of a call from you next summer.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection