

January 2016

Marguerite Vance Correspondence

Marguerite Vance

Maine State Library

E.P. Dutton Company, Inc., Publishers

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VANCE, Marguerite
b. Chicago, Illinois

September 30, 1960

Miss Marguerite Vance
c/o E. P. Dutton & Company
300 Fourth Avenue
New York City 10

Dear Miss Vance:

Your book JEPHTHA AND THE NEW PEOPLE delights us, and we hope that it is bringing pleasure to many youngsters, and staisfaction to you because of its popularity.

Because the setting is Maine, we venture to write to you about the Maine Author Collection, which is a pernament exhibit of books written by Maine people, or using Maine as a background, or being about Maine subjects in some way. Most of these two thousand volumes are inscribed presentation copies, and the inscriptions are varied and original and most interesting to the visitors and students who browse among the books. The books themselves are varied, of course: children's books, histories, novels, cook books, volumes on poetry and art and religion and travel: all kinds, even as we have all kinds of authors. We also gather biographical and critical information, and try to keep complete files on our writers.

We think your new book would be a suitable and delightful addition to the Maine Author Collection, and if you think so too, please know that it would give us much pleasure to have a copy for this purpose.

Our continuing good wishes to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Parkside Hotel
MARGUERITE VANCE
18-36 GRAMERCY PARK EAST *South*
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

October 4, 1960

Miss Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta Maine

Dear Miss Jacob,

Your very kind letter was forwarded to me and you cannot know how happy I am to learn that you like little Jeptha! The real Jeptha, a lad of eleven who became one of my favorite people when I was living in Lincolnville two years ago, was just such a boy and writing about his imaginary counterpart was sheer delight. I only hope I did him justice. This afternoon I'll go over to Dutton's and get off an autographed copy to you. I feel so highly honored to be included among your 'Maine Authors.'

Maine has always been my promised land, somehow, and three years ago when I found a sweet old house in Lincolnville and went there to live I felt that a dream had at last come true. Then a combination of unforeseen circumstances made it imperative that I return to New York, so the little house was closed, sold. However, last summer - this past summer - I spent a glorious month with old friends in Rockport, just outside Camden, and now again I'm telling myself that, all things being equal, I may eventually go back "for keeps." It is all so beautiful, so unspoiled, that State of Maine, and to be able to live there again, the year round, is a hope I shall hold to always.

The book coming in the spring of '61, THE WORLD FOR JASON, is partly laid in Maine, too, and when it is released I'll have Miss Ward, head of library work, get off a copy to you. You might like it. Again, I'm sure Dutton will be glad to send you biographical material, uninspiring though it may be, and I'll bring it to their attention when I go over today.

Thanking you again for your consideration, and with all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours

Marguerite Vance

I have only recently moved to the hotel and haven't had time to think of suitable paper. Please forgive this makeshift bit!

M.V.



E. P. DUTTON & CO. INC. PUBLISHERS

300 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

OR 4-5900 Cable Address YARDFAR N. Y.

October 7, 1960

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

We are happy to send to you, under separate cover, a copy of Marguerite Vance's JEPHTHA AND THE NEW PEOPLE which Miss Vance has autographed for you. We are delighted that you have enjoyed this book so much, and hope that it will give much pleasure to those who visit your Maine Authors Collection.

Our best wishes to you for the success of the Collection.

Sincerely,

Helen Ward

Director

Education and Library Department

HW:cm

October 11, 1960

Miss Marguerite Vance
Parkside Hotel
18 Gramercy Park South
New York 3, New York

Dear Miss Vance:

Thank you very much for your friendly and informative letter, and for making it possible for the Maine Author Collection to include Jeptha. We are not surprised to learn that Jeptha was real. He and his friends are indeed very real in the pages of his book, and you are kind and wise to let youngsters share his experiences.

It is good to know that THE WORLD FOR JASON may be ours, too. We'll make a note of it now. If Jason is as appealing as Jeptha, he will win our hearts.

We certainly hope that you will find it possible to return to Maine, for vacations now, and later on a more permanent basis. Your delightful enthusiasm is a guarantee of your welcome, wherever in the state your home may be.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 11, 1960

Miss Helen Ward, Director
Education and Library Department
E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
300 Fourth Avenue
New York City 10

Dear Miss Ward:

The copy of JEPHTHA AND THE NEW PEOPLE by Marguerite Vance, sent to the Maine Author Collection, is gratefully acknowledged.

Miss Vance tells us that when THE WORLD FOR JASON is published next spring, we may anticipate having that, also.

Is it possible to obtain from you some biographical material on Miss Vance? We like to have as complete information as possible on the authors represented in the collection, and would therefore appreciate whatever you may be able to send us.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

NEWS ABOUT BOOKS AND AUTHORS

About MARGUERITE VANCE

Marguerite Vance was born in Chicago, Illinois, and attended Miss Martin's School there, from the primary grades to graduation from the collegiate department.

Following graduation she spent three years in Paris. Returning home she married and lived for twenty-one years in Cleveland.

After her husband's death in 1931 Mrs. Vance had charge of the book department in the Eastman Bolton Gallery, then for two years was with the Higbee book department, both in Cleveland.

In 1933 she came to New York to take charge of the children's book department in Dutton's Book Store on Fifth Avenue at 53rd Street. That year her first book, A STAR FOR HANSI, was published by Harper.

In 1940 she joined the staff of E. P. Dutton & Company as editor of children's books. Of her own published books, the most recent carry the Dutton imprint. They are: BOY ON THE ROAD; A Christmas Story; WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED; MARTHA, DAUGHTER OF VIRGINIA; PATSY JEFFERSON OF MONTICELLO; THE LEES OF ARLINGTON; MARIE ANTOINETTE, DAUGHTER OF AN EMPRESS; LADY JANE GREY, RELUCTANT QUEEN; THE JACKSONS OF TENNESSEE; ON WINGS OF FIRE; WINDOWS FOR ROSEMARY and THE EMPRESS JOSEPHINE (September 1956).

Mrs. Vance lives in New York City.

MARGUERITE VANCE
18 GRAMERCY PARK, SOUTH
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Christmas Day - 1960

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Possibly I should address this to Miss Hazelton, but I have your very cordial letter of last October 11th before me, so I am coming to you with something which is very much on my mind - even on Christmas day.

My autumn book for 1961 has just been delivered - the manuscript, I mean - to Dutton, so now I am just clearing my desk and beginning to cast about for a subject for the spring, 1962, book. Last summer while in Rockport I heard of a young girl who, back probably in the eighteenth century, was kidnapped by Indians and grew up among them but was eventually found by the lad who was in love with her. The details are vague but as I recall she was from one of the islands off the Maine coast. The more I have thought of it the more I have felt that perhaps it could be worked into a good historical romance. But perhaps it has been done?

Do you know the story? And, (such is this ridiculous enthusiasm of mine) I thought if it had not been done and I could write it, then possibly there might be other Maine stories for teen agers which I could work into a sort of series, much as I dislike the word. I have fallen so hopelessly in love with the Maine coast that I should really love to spend the next few years writing about it, possibly even living on it while I wrote.

Please forgive what must sound sophomoric to say the least, and know how I would appreciate learning more about the kidnapped settler girl. Her story is in a collection of Maine stories, I am sure, but is told only in passing, not as a story. I find myself growing terribly excited at the thought of a group of Maine stories based on fact, and if there is anything you can tell me about the possibility of such a group's being popular, and if so where I can locate the basic material, I should appreciate it more than I can tell you.

With every wish for a very happy New Year, I am
Sincerely yours

question copied 1-9-61

Marguerite Vance
(Mrs. Wm. L.)

January 9, 1961

Mrs. William L. Vance
18 Gramercy Park, South
New York City 3

Dear Marguerite Vance:

Your letter is far from sophomoric, and we are ever delighted with the prospect of a good Maine story -- for children or adults -- and glad to help in any way that we can.

Your letter is being referred to our Research Librarian, Miss Margaret A. Whalen, who can probably help you better than anyone else on the staff.

We certainly hope that the book comes to fruition, and we shall watch eagerly for it. Thank you for letting us know of its possibility.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection



E. P. DUTTON & CO. INC. PUBLISHERS

300 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

OR 4-5900 Cable Address YARDFAR N. Y.

May 9, 1961.

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

At the request of Mrs. Vance, who especially wishes you to have the opportunity of reading her latest published book, we are sending you with our compliments a copy of *THE WORLD FOR JASON*, and are writing these few lines to let you know it is on the way.

We feel sure you will enjoy this appealing story and will find it up to the author's usual high standards.

Sincerely yours,

Barbette Thompson
Barbette Thompson
Library and Education
Department

BT

May 19, 1961

Miss Barbette Thompson
Library and Education Department
E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
300 Fourth Avenue
New York City 10

Dear Miss Thompson:

Isn't Mrs. Vance thoughtful? We are delighted almost as much with her remembering this library as with the new book itself.

THE WORLD FOR JASON is a heart-warming story, and Jason, Cleo, and the others combine to make a tale of excitement and satisfaction. We are certainly pleased to have this copy for the Maine Author Collection; and we shall order copies for our traveling libraries and bookmobiles.

Good luck to the book, and our thanks to you for the complimentary copy of the WORLD FOR JASON.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

May 19, 1961

Mrs. William L. Vance
18 Gramercy Park, South
New York City 3

Dear Mrs. Vance:

Your publisher has, at your generous suggestion, sent us a copy of the new book, THE WORLD FOR JASON, for the Maine Author Collection.

Once again we are delighted to welcome such an exciting and appealing story, and you may be sure that it will be included in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles. We'll note it in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, too.

Jason is a most attractive youngster, and his problems should hold the attention of all young readers. We know that he will make many friends wherever he goes.

Thank you for your continuing interest, and best wishes to Jason.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection