

November 2015

Harold Robert Smart Correspondence

Harold Robert Smart 1892-

Maine State Library

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SMART, HAROLD ROBERT

Searsport

May 4, 1892.

Harold Robert Smart was born in Searsport, Maine, May 4, 1892. After completing the work in the public schools there ~~in 1907~~ he spent two years at The Maine Wesleyan Seminary, Kent's Hill, Maine, from which ~~institution~~ ~~institution~~ he graduated, the youngest member of his class, in 1909. He then taught for two years in Maine schools, entered Wesleyan University in 1911, and received the degree of B. S. in 1915. From 1915 to 1917 he was employed in the foreign exchange department of The National City Bank of New York, relinquishing that position to enter the Army as Ordnance Sergeant, attached to the 77th division. Upon his return from France he ~~taught~~ taught French for one year at The Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., and then, in 1920, began his graduate studies in philosophy at Cornell University. He received his M. A. in 1921 and his Ph. D. in 1923. For one year he was Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, and was then recalled to Cornell with the same rank. Most of his instruction is in the fields of logic and the history of philosophy, and he has established several courses in logic for undergraduates and graduates. In 1924 he married Miss Mabel V. Wilson (Ph.D., Cornell), and they now have one daughter, aged four. Professor Smart's doctoral thesis on The Philosophical Presuppositions of Mathematical Logic was chosen as one of the Cornell Studies in Philosophy (no. 17). His latest work, The Logic of Science (Appleton), is the outgrowth of a course on the History and Philosophy of the Natural Sciences, which he introduced at Cornell in 1924. He also edited Studies in Speculative Philosophy, by his former teacher, the late Professor James E. Creighton, and he is now engaged in the revision of a classic text-book in elementary logic, An Introductory Logic, also by Professor Creighton. Since 1929 Professor Smart has been Associate Editor of America's leading philosophical periodical, ~~The Philosophical Review~~ The Philosophical Review.

(Smart, 2)

and has contributed numerous articles and reviews to this and other journals. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and of the American Philosophical Association. He has been granted Sabbatic leave of absence for the second term of next year and plans to spend the time in travel and study in Germany.

April 15, 1931

Professor Harold R. Smart,
Department of Philosophy,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

My dear Professor Smart;-

We have at the Maine State Library an exhibition collection of books written by persons born in Maine or resident in this state during their creative years. We find that we may have the pleasure of numbering you among our Maine authors and we hope that you will be willing to send an autographed copy of your book, "The Logic of Science" to add to our Maine Authors Collection. Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the January, 1930 issue of our Library Bulletin which contains an item about this collection.

We make it a point to mention in our Bulletin all books written by Maine persons or about Maine. We should like to have a brief note about you and your work in the July issue. Will you please send us biographical data about yourself, something of a rather more personal nature than one finds in a Who's Who item?

Maine has had many authors but scientists are a rarer product of our soil. It will be especially interesting to have you, as an author-scientist, represented in our Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY MCF

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE SAGE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

April 20, 1931

Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Attention: Miss Marion Cobb Fuller

My dear Miss Fuller:

I am happy to comply with your request to deposit an autographed copy of my book in your Maine Authors' Collection. I am also enclosing the biographical statement asked for in your recent letter. May I hope to see a copy of the bulletin in which it appears?

Cordially yours,



~~Harold R. Smart~~

HRS/KS
Enclosure

C O P Y

April 22, 1931

Dr. Harold R. Smart
Department of Philosophy
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

My dear Dr. Smart,

Thank you very much indeed for your prompt and cordial response to my recent letter. "The Logic of Science," and "The Philosophical Pre-suppositions of Mathematical Logic" arrived this morning and we are delighted to have them to add to the Maine Author Collection.

Thank you, also, for the interesting biographical sketch which we shall place in our special Maine Author Collection files. You were very kind to bother to write it for us. I shall use it in mentioning your book in the next issue of the Bulletin which is due in July. I have already addressed a Bulletin mailing envelope to you, so that you will be sure to receive a copy of it.

If you can send us a photograph of yourself and a picture of your Searsport birthplace we shall be delighted to have them.

Very truly yours,

MCF.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE SAGE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

April 24

Dear Miss Fuller:-

after some rummag-
ing I have turned up the photographs
mailed to you under separate cover. Make
whatever use you see fit of them, provided
it does not entail their destruction,
especially those of my home, which I
hope you will return in due season.

If you do read my
book you will probably find the
two chapters on mathematics rather
abstruse and uninteresting, so perhaps
you had better skip at least those two.

Cordially yours,

Harold R. Smart.

July 1, 1931

Professor Harold Smart,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Professor Smart;-

We are returning today the three photographs which you so kindly took the trouble to send us several months ago. We should be glad to keep them, but I can readily understand that the pictures of the lovely little New England house at Searsport are much too precious to give away to a State Library. Thank you very much for lending them to us.

I hope that you will have a delightful vacation and that you will be able to spend at least part of it in Maine. If you come to Augusta, please call at the Maine State Library.

Very truly yours

Signed
M
F.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE SAGE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

July 6, 1931.

Dear Miss Fuller:-

Thank you for
returning the photographs, which
arrived safely the other day.

I regret to say that
I shall not be in Maine this summer,
but should be pleased to call at the
Maine State library whenever I do
pass that way.

Cordially yours,

H. R. Smart.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE SAGE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

aug. 18, 1931.

My dear Miss Fuller:

I just thought I
would inquire whether the July
Bulletin, containing a notice about
my book, had come out yet. I of
course want to be sure of my copy.

Very truly yours,

Harold R. Smart.

Copy.

August 20, 1931.

Dr. Harold Smart,
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Dr. Smart;-

I am so sorry that through
some oversight you did not receive a copy of the July issue
of our Library Bulletin. I am sending you a copy; if it doesn't
reach you, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

(Signed MCF)

COPY

November 9, 1932

Dr. Harold R. Smart,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

My dear Dr. Smart;-

Thank you for sending
for the Maine Author Collection a copy of An Introductory
Logic. We have placed it with the other books by you in
the collection ~~and~~ we trust that you will continue to show
your interest in our Maine Author project by sending us
copies of subsequent books.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By MCF

Former Searsport Man Writes Book On "The Logic Of Science"

Book By Harold R.
Smart Called, Like
Nothing Else
In English

Special Despatch to The Sunday Telegram
Searsport, April 18.—Friends of
Harold R. Smart of this town, now as-
sistant professor of philosophy at Cor-
nell University, are proud of the new
distinction which has come to him with
the publication recently of his book,
"The Logic of Science."

This book has been written in an at-
tempt to bridge the chasm between
some of the purely theoretical aspects
of science, especially of modern scien-
tific achievement, and the application
of science to the mental life of man-
kind. In a comparatively brief work,
packed with new and challenging ideas,
Professor Smart has tried to bring out
for the lay reader the issue between
science and understanding in the mod-
ern world.

"Nothing else in English that I know
of covers the same ground from the
same point of view," says Professor
Leighton of Ohio State University.
Professor Emery of the University of
North Carolina comments as follows:
"Our present scientific age sorely needs
this book. Indeed, no one interested in
either science or philosophy can afford
to ignore its message. For it rises
above the confusing mass of detailed
facts to show the scope and meaning
of the various sciences, their relation to
one another, is especially logic."

Searsport is especially proud of a
son who, starting in the common
schools of the town, has attained such
a high scholastic record. Professor
Smart had all his early training at the
Porter School on the Mt. Ephraim
Road. At the age of 11 he began to
attend the high school in the village,
graduating with a fine record in 1907.
He then attended Kent's Hill Seminary
for two years, graduating in 1909. After
teaching for a few years he entered
Wesleyan University, from which in-
stitution he graduated in 1915.

During 1916 and 1917, after his
graduation from college, young Smart
had a position with the City National
Bank of New York. In 1917 he was
drafted in New York, was one of the
first to go overseas, and served with
the A. E. F. as a private and non-
commissioned officer throughout the
war. He was in the Argonne Forest
in the midst of an active engagement
when the Armistice was declared.

After the Armistice, Smart availed
himself of the opportunity arranged
between the American and French au-



Harold R. Smart

thorities of remaining in France for
a course of study. He entered the
University of Lyons and remained there
until the Fall of 1919. Returning to
America that Fall he entered Cornell
University, graduating with honors in
June, 1921.

For the following two years he taught
in the University of North Carolina, at
Chapel Hill, N. C. In 1924 he ac-
cepted the assistant professorship of
philosophy at Cornell University, in
which institution he is now head of the
department. Only 39 years of age,
Professor Smart has a life work still
ahead of him, and will undoubtedly take
his place among the leaders of thought
in America.

He is the son of William D. Smart,
one of Searsport's oldest and most re-
spected citizens, who has been closely
identified with the public life of the
town for many years. For the past
20 years Mr. Smart has served Sears-
port as collector of taxes. Always in-
terested in education and in the intel-
lectual and cultural values of life, he
served 14 years as a member of the
school committee. He is to be con-
gratulated now on having reared and
sent out from his own family an in-
tellect which will make itself felt
more and more in the life of the
Nation.

Council Bluffs crippled children who
have difficulty walking to and from
school are called for each morning in a
special automobile and transported to
the schoolroom.