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Letter from Robert M. MacGregor to Hubert Creekmore (14 May 1954)

Robert M. MacGregor
New Directions Publishing Corporation

Hubert Creekmore

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Recommended Citation

MacGregor, Robert M. and Creekmore, Hubert, "Letter from Robert M. MacGregor to Hubert Creekmore (14 May 1954)" (1954). *Hubert Creekmore Collection*. 211.
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NEW
DIRECTIONS



NORFOLK
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May 14, 1954

Mr. Hubert Creekmore
1835 Devine Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Hubert,

The copy of THE FAMOUS BOATING PARTY by Kenneth Patchen was already on order to go to you, and it actually represented the last of the books to be sent you free under our agreement covering Jay's agreement with you. However, I am happy to throw a copy of Dylan Thomas' UNDER MILK WOOD in to call it a day and a fine one. (Incidentally, it is all of that here today, but we have had a wonderful spring as you may have heard.)

I will put through today an order for HARD CANDY for you at 40% and have every belief that it will not get lost. We have these matters much better under control than they used to be, but there is a very strong possibility that we will be taking back the operation of our order department around July 1st and things might go awry then. This is the only book that we will be publishing soon thereafter (it is announced for the 14th of July, although I personally think it will be later than that).

I don't usually see HOLIDAY magazine, but I will certainly take a look for your article on Memphis. I don't know very much about the city, but am fascinated by the courtly descriptions of it given as if over a megaphone by Tennessee's very deaf grandfather, the Rev. Dr. Walter Dakin, who at one time had a pastorate in Memphis and goes there every spring to visit there with various people he had baptised.

Did I ever tell you how much I liked THE CHAIN IN THE HEART? There were a lot of qualities in it which for some reason I was unprepared for. For one thing, I suppose we all think that a Southerner in the genteel tradition cannot possibly portray Negroes as we believe they actually are, and yet you have done it without patronizing and almost as if you had lived with the Murchison family. You have handled the ramifications of their feelings not only with sensitivity but with a leanness that I found very attractive. I hope that the book had a large success, although we all know that a book's qualities are no longer a

Mr. Hubert Creekmore

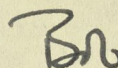
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guarantee of a wide public, at least in its hardbound form.

I got talking about this book with Frank Taylor the other night. He was surprised at it from quite other reasons. As you may know, he evidently didn't think that you were doing a great deal of work when you were at the Huntington-Hartford Foundation. How deceptive creative workers always are.

Jay is in Japan, and will probably be there another month. He has not been back since he went to Europe in January. I do hope you are coming to New York nonetheless and will give us a ring.

Yours ever,



Robert M. MacGregor

RMM/md

NEW
DIRECTIONS



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1835 Devine Street
Jackson, Mississippi

