

10-31-2014

## Olive Hamlin Correspondence

Olive Hamlin

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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HAMLIN, OLIVE (pseud.)



February 25, 1946

Miss Olive Hamlin  
c/o Bruce Humphries, Inc.  
306 Stuart Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Hamlin:

Please accept our congratulations upon your literary debut. When we learned of the publication of THE VERNAL EQUINOX, we were especially interested to notice that the author is a Maine woman.

It is possible that you know of the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of inscribed presentation books written by Maine people. These books are cared for in the State Library, the only place where all the works of all Maine authors are available for consultation. The inscriptions are particularly delightful, ranging from pen-and-ink sketches or autobiographical anecdotes to tributes to the state or sometimes a bit of verse. Such a collection is of increasing importance and value, and many students and researchers visit it to examine and study the books.

We also gather and preserve all biographical and critical data, and any other information available about our authors.

Recognizing your wish for complete anonymity, we know that we cannot expect to have our files contain information about you; but we do hope that you may want to have THE VERNAL EQUINOX in the collection. If an inscribed presentation copy may be made available for this purpose, we shall be very pleased to add it to the exhibit.

You have our warm wishes for the success of your first novel.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

25, 1946

**Olive Hamlin**

March 16, 1946

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am sorry that the press of work has kept me from answering sooner your very cordial letter. I am pleased and proud to add my novel *The Vernal Equinox* to the Maine Author Collection. The state is to be congratulated on having such a project to encourage its native sons and daughters.

My 'pen name' is so only partially, as relates to my immediate identity, for I have used, in writing, a real family name. I do not at all mind it being recorded in biographical data concerning me that the Hamlin family referred to is that of Cyrus Hamlin who founded Robert College in Constantinople, and of his brother Hannibal, who was vice-president of the United States under Lincoln. They were both born in Maine, and were active in the politics and affairs of the state all their lives. Another direct ancestor is Eleazar Wheelock, who founded Dartmouth College.

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

lml



I am sending you today a copy of The Vernal Equinox for the collection. I hope it is suitably inscribed. It has not been noticed, so far, outside of Maine, and I feel doubly grateful to the State for understanding the necessity of encouraging authorship.

Sincerely,

*Olive Hamlin*

% Bruce Humphries, Inc.  
30 Winchester Street  
Boston, Mass.

March 20, 1946

Miss Olive Hamlin  
c/o Bruce Humphries, Inc.  
30 Winchester Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Hamlin:

You are indeed kind to answer in such a friendly manner our letter about the Maine Author Collection. Following close upon your letter came the inscribed copy of THE VERNAL EQUINOX, which we are very pleased to add to the Maine Author Collection.

Yes, indeed, the inscription is "suitable" -- in fact, there is such variety in the inscriptions of these volumes that we are exceptionally delighted to have yours. Such an interesting note about the senatorial chairs -- one wonders where others might be. Of course you must be intensely proud of them and their historical associations.

Thank you, too, for the information about your Hamlin family. One other detail we would like to ask, if it is in keeping with your anonymity: were you born in Maine yourself; and, if so, would you be willing to tell us the place and date?

Please accept our appreciation of your interest in and presentation to the Maine Author Collection, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the exhibit when you may be in this vicinity.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

