September 2015

Louis Osborne Coxe Correspondence

Louis Osborne Coxe 1918-1993

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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COXE, Professor Louis Osborne
b. Manchester, New Hampshire
June 2, 1959

Professor Louis Osborne Coxe
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine

Dear Professor Coxe:

Some say yes, and some say no -- to the question of whether or not you are a Maine native. There is only one way to be sure. Are you?

We are especially interested because of your book of poems, WILDERNESS, AND OTHER POEMS. We are ordering it for the library, but we write at present in behalf of the Maine Author Collection, which is a permanent exhibit of Maine books and the work of Maine writers. The volumes are inscribed presentation copies for the most part, and now form an impressive array of Maine literature. There are all kinds of books, all kinds of authors; and the inscriptions are an added touch of distinction. Also, we gather any available information, biographical and critical, on our authors, so that we may have as complete files as possible.

Even if you weren't born in Maine, we think your connection with the state so close that your book should be in the Maine Author Collection. Do you agree with us? If you do, we would certainly be happy to be able to include a copy of WILDERNESS with these other Maine books.

Our best wishes for the success of your book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
June 4, 1959

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

In response to your question, I must, regretfully, inform you that I am a native, not of Maine, but of New Hampshire—and Manchester, too, alas. I was brought up in Salem, Massachusetts and came to live in Maine in the fall of 1955.

I have published three books of poetry and a fourth will be born in the fall. Of course I should be glad to be represented in the Maine Author Collection, but I fear that as a matter of principle I must decline to donate a book. Poets have few sales, and I think I owe it to the art to ask that anyone interested in my book, for whatever reason, buy it as he would anything else.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
June 8, 1959

Professor Louis Osborne Coxe
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine

Dear Professor Coxe:

Thank you for letting us know, and for telling us just how you feel about giving your books as presentation copies. We respect your stand, and hope that it will play its part in increase of financial rewards to all poets.

The Maine Author Collection has not, unfortunately, the economic capacity to buy all the books it would like to, and so we have always had to rely to a great extent upon the interest and generosity of our authors. We shall keep in mind your book, and hope that sooner or later we may be able to purchase it for the collection.

Thank you, too, for the information about your birthplace. We won't hold it against you!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection