

September 2015

Alexander Laing Correspondence

Alexander Laing 1903-1976

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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LAING, Alexander
Long Island,

January 29, 1936

Alexander Laing
c/o Farrar & Rinehart, Inc.
12 East 41st Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Laing:

May we congratulate you upon the publication of your new book, THE MOTIVES OF NICHOLAS HOLTZ, and wish for it the success which it undoubtedly merits.

Since the background of THE CADAVER OF GIDEON WYCK is Maine, we wonder if we can claim you as a Maine author. Some years ago, the library started what is now known as the Maine Author Collection, comprising several hundred volumes, inscribed and presented in most cases, by writers who have been born in, or lived in this state.

We are always eager to include some new writer, especially when the setting of his book is Maine, and for that reason, we are writing to ask if by any chance you were born here, or have lived here. We will greatly appreciate any biographical information which you may be kind enough to send us, and we hope that we may add THE CADAVER OF GIDEON WYCK to the Collection.

With best wishes for your continued literary success, we are

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

East Wolfeboro NH
4 February 1986

Dear Miss McLeod:

I'm sorry I can't claim the honor of inclusion in your Maine collection. I'm a Long Islander born and a New Hampshireman by virtue of long residence.

So my young friend Carlos Baker will have to make up for my delinquencies of origin & residence. I don't think he's authored a book as yet, but he's had at least one able article in one of the New England historical magazines.

You'll have to make a niche for him eventually if you've not already done it.

Cordially,
Alexander Simpson

PS Don't congratulate me on my pot-boilers!

February 5, 1936

Alexander Laing
East Wolfeboro
New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Laing:

Thank you for your letter of February 4th.

We are sorry that we cannot claim you, especially after reading your charmingly friendly letter!

We are indeed glad to know about Carlos Baker, and we confess that Mr. Baker and his work are unfamiliar to us. We intend to discover more about him, and we greatly appreciate any assistance which you may be able to give us.

Thank you again, and please accept our very cordial invitation to visit us when you are in Maine.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

East Wolfeboro NH
6 February 1936

Dear Miss McLeod:

Carlos Baker is a young Dartmouth graduate
→ class of '32 I think. When last heard from
he was teaching in Buffalo. You would best reach
him in care of the Alumni Records Office, Hanover,
NH. When last I saw Baker he was at work
on a novel. That was 18 months ago, when I
was just departing for a year abroad, so I don't
know what he's been doing since. But he wrote
exceptionally well in college, and ought to "arrive"
soon. He's from somewhere on your coast here.

Sincerely
Alexander Loring

P.S. I would rather have you dislike my End of
Roaming than like my pot boilers. Most
feminine readers do dislike it, bless their hearts!

P.S. cf. Old Man Greenland
a Maine novel about to
be published by F&R

February 17, 1936

Alexander Laing
East Wolfeboro
New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Laing:

Thank you for your information about Carlos Baker. We have written him, as you suggested, and hope that we may add another name to our list of Maine writers.

We have also written to Mr. Kempton regarding his new novel, OLD MAN GREENLAW, and he has very kindly promised us an inscribed copy.

We regret that we cannot include you and your books in our collection, but we are grateful to you for your suggestions, and for pleasant hours of reading the books, anyway!

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary