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## Elizabeth Foster Correspondence

Elizabeth Foster 1905- 1963

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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FOSTER, ELIZABETH

born in Cleveland, Ohio

resident of Rangeley, Maine

April 3, 1941

Miss Elizabeth Foster  
c/o Harper and Brothers  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Foster:

One of the pleasures which we enthusiastically promise ourselves for the spring is the reading of your recently published novel, SINGING BEACH -- a most appropriate title, and withal perhaps a bit ironic. The reviews, we are happy to notice, are favorable; so, we hope, will be the reaction of the reading public.

The background of SINGING BEACH prompts us to write to you regarding the Maine Author Collection. Although we understand that you were born in Ohio, we think it possible that you, like other authors not born in Maine but writing of the state, may be interested in this permanent exhibit of more than a thousand volumes. The books are inscribed and presented by the authors -- people who were born in Maine, or who have lived here, or written about the state.

SINGING BEACH seems to us the sort of books that justly should be included, and we hope that you will want to inscribe a copy for this purpose.

Please accept our sincere good wishes for the success of your novel, and our congratulations upon its publication.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj  
Encl--1

SECRETARY

to Hangeley so that I could have been  
wish Mother had had the sense to come home  
there on business at the time, and I do  
was pure accident. Father happened to be  
the State of Maine, and my birth in Cleveland  
in Ohio. I was actually born a resident of  
me to live down the fact that I was born  
as it is getting increasingly difficult for

E. F. M.

Maine State Library,

Augusta,

Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you very much for your letter  
about my book, SINGING BEACH, and for your  
comments. I am slightly wild at this point,

born in Maine, but she didn't, and even the Portland Press Herald dubs me a "Native Ohioan". I suppose Ohio is a nice state, but I haven't the faintest idea what it looks like. I was brought up in the Rangeley region, and my great grandmother was born in Bangor. I am a resident of the State of Maine, and I don't let anybody forget it. You may have heard of my grandfather, Frederick S. Dickson. His Fielding collection is in the Yale library, and he also wrote a book on Maine, called "And the Wilderness Blossomed", which is now out of print but still good reading. My father, Maximilian Foster, has also written about the state, so it seems to be a family habit.

The comments in New York seem to be that it is a very vivid picture of the Maine coast, and owning as much property



W. E. F. M. Know

E. F. M. Know

Sincerely,

again.

If you have any ideas on the subject I  
would appreciate them. The next time I  
am in Augusta I might come and see you--it's  
on my way between the coast and Rangeley.  
I repeat, I wish I had been born  
in Rangeley and I hope I never see Ohio

E. F. M.

as I do in the state, I am always anxious to  
give it as much publicity as possible. I have  
been on the radio in New York, and when I get  
up to Portland I may try to get on one of the  
Maine stations simply to give the state (and  
the Rangeley region, and Port Clyde) a boost.

April 9, 1941

Miss Elizabeth Foster  
c/o Harper and Brothers  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Foster:

Such a genuine enthusiasm for the State of Maine appeals strongly to us! There are other writers who feel as you do, and we adopt them eagerly, proudly. We promise to help you "live down" the Ohio birth by claiming you very firmly as a Maine author.

Certainly a visit from you would be most enjoyable -- we don't guarantee ideas for the radio, but we do guarantee a cordial welcome, for you and for SINGING BEACH, which we hope it will be possible to include in the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

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July 15, 1941

Miss Elizabeth Foster  
c/o Harper and Brothers  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Foster:

Since writing to you in the spring, we have of course had opportunity to read SINGING BEACH; and we found it all that the reviewers claimed. It is indeed so vivid a picture of the Maine coast that one can sniff the salt air and feel the fog. The descriptive passages are so very true, and full of color and accuracy. As for the story itself, it is certainly skillfully and sensitively portrayed. Your perception of character and ability to write of it give us hope that SINGING BEACH is only the first of many novels.

It may be that you are in Rangeley now and enjoying the bright summer weather. If you are, possibly such an interruption as ours will not be too welcome; but we still want to claim the honor of an inscribed copy of your unusual book in the Maine Author Collection, and we therefore write to say that we hope you will want to make this pleasure possible.

Our good wishes continue, for you and your vacation and SINGING BEACH.

Very truly yours

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August 20, 1942

Miss Elizabeth Foster  
c/o Harper and Brothers  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Foster:

It was a year ago that we wrote to you about SINGING BEACH. You have since authored another, and we were interested to notice the varying reviews and undeniable interest which DAYS BETWEEN aroused. It is not, however, about this latest one that we write, although we wish it the very best of luck.

It is again about your charming SINGING BEACH. Do you remember how vexed you were at being called an Ohioan? -- how you reminded us vigorously that you were one of an old Maine family and intended to claim Maine as yours?

We remember, and that is why we are writing again: to extend anew the invitation to inscribe and present a copy of this lovely book to the Maine Author Collection. We cannot, of course, be insistent -- only with those authors whose fathers and mothers stayed in Maine at the proper time to insure our claim! But we can assure you of deep appreciation of generosity; and so we hope that you may want to have SINGING BEACH in this exhibit.

Our best wishes to you for further novels.

Very truly yours

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Encl--1

SECRETARY

August 31, 1942

Miss Elizabeth Foster  
c/o Harper and Brothers  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Foster:

The Maine Author Collection copies of SINGING BEACH and THE DAYS BETWEEN have been received; and we are delighted with your generosity. It is exceedingly kind of you to give us not only your first novel as an exhibit book, but also THE DAYS BETWEEN. Please accept our thanks.

Possibly some day when you are in Maine, you will extend this kindness to include inscriptions in each. We shall be patient and hopeful.

Enclosed is a postal refund. Your care in mailing these to us, and your generous interest in the Maine Author Collection are deeply appreciated. Perhaps some kind fate will bring you our way in the not-too-distant future, and we may then have the pleasure of showing you the Maine Author Collection, for which we are happy to have SINGING BEACH and THE DAYS BETWEEN.

Very truly yours

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