

7-9-2014

Jack Frost Correspondence

Jack Frost 1915-

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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Recommended Citation

Frost, Jack 1915-; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Jack Frost Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 17.
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JACK FROST

Eastport
1915

Maine Claims Pen-And-Ink Artist In Jack Frost

AUG 25 1945
By ALICE FROST LORD

Recent visitor in his native city of Eastport is Jack Frost, who has achieved a career in art with his pen. Mr. Frost makes his present home in Boston, but Maine is his first love, and it is here that he likes to spend his vacations. In Eastport live an aunt and uncle.

Miss Isabelle Sheehan, and Police Inspector Edward D. Sheehan.

After his graduation from University of Maine, he went to the staff of the Boston Herald, and later became a columnist and artist for the Boston Post. His pretty girls, and his interpretation of Cape Cod gave him a reputation in his line.

He had studied art at the Grand Central Summer School at Eastport and at Columbia University, and he began getting out books, his first being "Fancy This". His "Old Home Town" has been described as an overseas sketch folio of Boston for New England youth who have been in the service. "She Devils of the Sea" is a collection of drawings of U. S. warships, which he completed for the Office of War Information. Mr. Frost is now 30 years old—and still going some!

Early Talent

Mr. Frost's talent appeared early, for it is said that as a youngster he

earned spending-money by drawing pictures of his neighbors' houses and visited surrounding towns for the same purpose.

When he was working with the Grand Central outfit he was only 12 to 16 years of age.

His first newspaper drawing was done for the Bangor News when

President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Campobello, N. B., the Summer after his inauguration.

In 1934 he began a series of drawings of the historical and unusual, under the heading "Fancy This." The first 100 were gathered into a dollar book with the same title. Two years later he brought out "Fancy This: A New England Sketchbook." By 1939 he had "A Cape Cod Sketchbook" to his credit; and after that came "Harvard and Cambridge," "Eternal London," which takes him down to '42 when he began work on the book to come out soon, which he will call "A Yankee Sketchbook."

Maine In New York

"I expect this last book to be published in '46, and have been finishing the material for it in Rhode Island and Connecticut. There will be 30 or 40 sketches from Maine among the 200 in all. I think it will be a fairly thorough coverage of all the New England states."

Then, of course, there are his

warship sketches, in folio form for framing.

When Mr. Frost was asked why he has not branched out and done painting or etching, he replied:

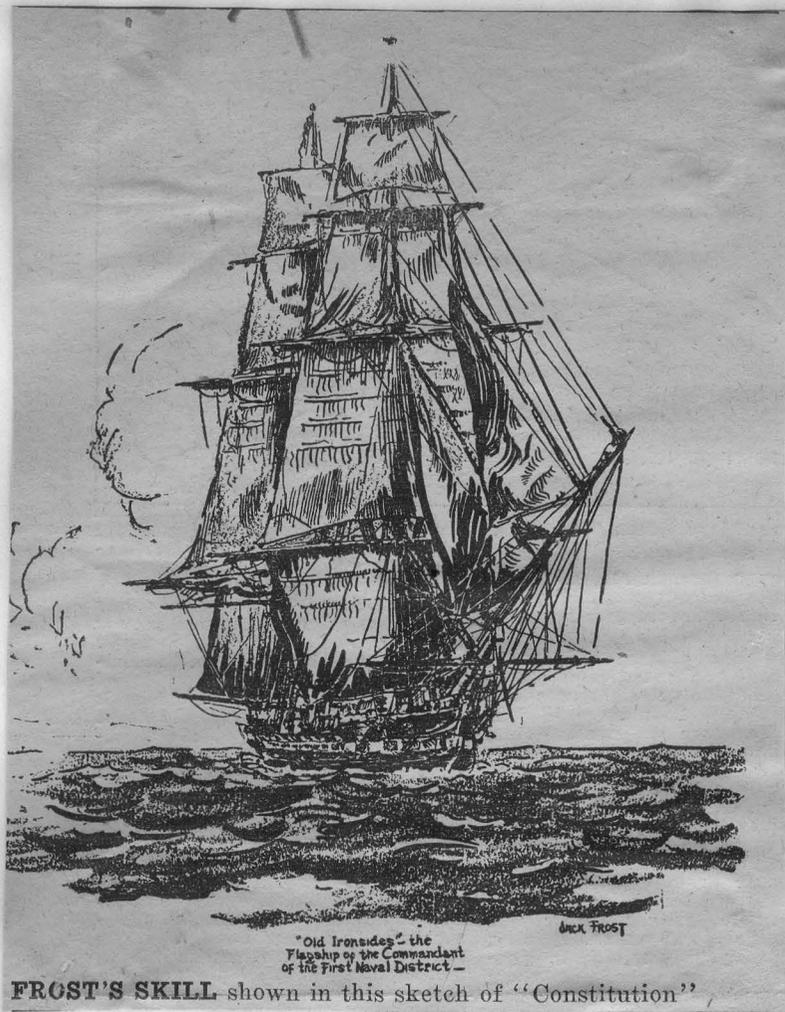
"I am too impatient to carry about all the paraphernalia essential to painting, or to draw the same thing several times for copper plates.

"It is my habit to sketch quickly on the spot, and hardly touch it again before publication.

"Some 25 people wanted to buy my original Louisburg sketch, but I did not have the patience to draw the same view even once more."

Then he added, with a droll smile: "As I grow older perhaps either my patience or acquisitiveness will increase and find me painting and etching." But it doesn't look that way—yet!

Lewiston Evening Journal
August 25, 1945



"Old Ironsides" - the
Flagship of the Commandant
of the First Naval District -

FROST'S SKILL shown in this sketch of "Constitution"



JACK FROST at his work

December 21, 1938

Mr. Jack Frost
c/o Boston Herald
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Frost:

Recently we learned that a number of your New England sketches which have been appearing in the Boston Herald have been accumulated, and published under the title, FANCY THIS. We also learned (from a classmate of yours, Miss Elizabeth Gardner) that your home was in Eastport, Maine, which leads us to believe that we can claim you as a Maine author.

For some years the library has gathered into an exhibit, incipend, presentation copies of books written by Maine persons. We also assemble all available material: biographical, critical, and photographic. Such material is filed for future reference; all correspondence is preserved; and the books are a fascinating array of Maine's contribution to literature, which increases steadily in value.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present to the Maine Author Collection a copy of your new book, which we are eager to see; and also send us some biographical material at your convenience.

Please accept our cordial invitation to visit the library and the collection when you are again in Maine, with our greetings of the season.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

Jan. 11, 1939

Third street,
Eastport,
MAINE

Dear Hilda McLeod,

Please do not think that I have been ignoring your letter of December 21. It is only that unfortunately (or fortunately, looking at it from another angle) I have had but a few books to pass out because of the paucity of books at hand to fill orders. ~~But now that Xmas is over~~ I should be receiving some copies to use for myself whereupon I shall be pleased to forward a copy to you - signed.

Please give my regards to Elizabeth Gardner whom I remember very well.

If ever in Augusta I should be happy to avail myself of your suggestion that I inspect this Maine Author exhibit of which you speak... as well as the many other things of interest which are there.

Please give my best to Mr. Hall whom my mother knew rather well when she was in Bangor. I believe he was on the Commercial at the time.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Frost

P.S. As you'll note by the book in accompanying mail; they arrived!

January 16, 1939

Mr. Jack Frost
Third Street
Eastport, Maine

Dear Mr. Frost:

It was most kind of you to respond so promptly, and so generously, to our letter; and we send you delighted thanks for such an enchanting book. It is quite unusual, and I personally regret that I didn't learn about it until after Christmas: what lovely gifts such books would have made!

Your regards to Miss Gardner and Mr. Hall were transmitted, and they return their best wishes to you.

We are ordering a copy of FANCY THIS for the regular lending section of the library, and already envying the patrons their first enthusiastic exclamation when they see the charm of the pages.

Perhaps, at your leisure, you will be so good as to send us some biographical information, that our files may be complete. We are thoroughly shameless about acquiring all the data that we possibly can about our authors, and we will appreciate any material which you may be inclined to send.

Please accept our sincere thanks again for the very attractive gift of FANCY THIS.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

JACK FROST
ARTIST
41 THIRD STREET
EASTPORT, MAINE

January 25,
1939

Dear Hilda McLeod,

I haven't rushed much about shooting you my biography, for there isn't even enough to make a half-decent obituary if needed. But such as it is :

Jack Frost, artist-author, son of Elizabeth S. Frost and John B. Frost, born at 41 Third street, Eastport, Maine, December 22, 1915. Graduated from Eastport's Shead Memorial High School in 1933; that Fall entered the University of Maine where he acquired enough background (evidently) to take the position which happily fell his way the following Fall with the Boston Herald. While at the work of doing a daily sketch and story for said paper he had a booklet of sketches published. Its optimistic reception paved the way for the second book which appeared in November, 1938 and which is the reason for this bit of biography.

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Thank you for your last nice letter.
Hope the above fills the bill.

Sincerely,

Jack Frost

January 26, 1939

Mr. Jack Frost
41 Third Street
Eastport, Maine

Dear Mr. Frost:

It is very kind of you to accede so promptly to our request for biographical information. You have sent us exactly what we wish, and we thank you, and send you our best wishes for continuing success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

September 18, 1941

Mr. Jack Frost
c/o The Boston Herald
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Frost:

With the publication of what one reviewer calls "the handsomest Frost book yet," ETERNAL LONDON, we again offer our congratulations. The book is of course on our order list to be purchased for the lending section of the library, where we know it will delight our patrons, as have your others.

It is surprising, and not a little embarrassing, for us to admit that we do not have HARVARD AND CAMBRIDGE in the Maine Author Collection. You were very kind about FANCY THIS, and it is a distinctive part of this exhibit. We think HARVARD AND CAMBRIDGE and ETERNAL LONDON should also be included. -- And just to show that we are not shy about corraling the works of Maine authors, what about your completely charming calendars? Somehow we had missed those, until Miss Gardner (our new Assistant State Librarian) showed us her personal copy. We almost think the calendars should be in this collection.

Certainly this letter sounds grasping, doesn't it? You do realize, however, the scope and intent of the Maine Author Collection; and we hope you know how extremely grateful we are for the cooperation and generous interest of all our Maine authors. We can only hope that you will want to help us maintain the standard of completeness in regard to your unusual and beautiful books.

All good wishes for the success of ETERNAL LONDON!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

Eastport, Maine

Nov. 26, 1941

Dear Mrs Jacob:

I have just returned to Eastport. Thanks for your friendly letter.

I am sending you a calendar as you requested, but that is the only volume I have an extra copy of here. You know, one gets about 6 free books at publication (which usually go to the press, tho' they're meant for friends) and additional copies have to be purchased even by the author - so that all I can shoot along is the extra calendar.

I wonder if you can give me some dope on the staff

compiling the Maine book for the state. Two or three people whose unusual architectural bits I sketched told me others had been also 'digging' for a state book. They might have some leads I should like to use either in the paper or in my New England book forthcoming.

I thank you for your good wishes. Hope Miss Gardner is well, as I heard this summer that she was ill. Congratulate her

-3-
for me on her new po-
sition. She's getting on
right well, I'd say - with
delight.

Yours.

Jack Frost

December 1, 1941

Mr. Jack Frost
41 Third Street
Eastport, Maine

Dear Mr. Frost:

Again we are indebted to you for your generosity in making it possible to add one of your charming books to the Maine Author Collection. We realize the limitations on free books, and are very appreciative of your kindness. All authors, we presume, have this problem; but we are glad that most of them want to place an inscribed copy in this exhibit. It is, of course, a permanent display, and the books are assured of preservation, as well as many visitors in the year.

We shall continue to hope that good fortune may some day find means of including HARVARD AND CAMBRIDGE and ETERNAL LONDON, as well as the forthcoming book on Maine, about which we recently read. That will be a delightful volume, and the only unfortunate point seems that we must wait another year for its publication!

Your phrase, "the Maine book for the state," is a little perplexing. If you mean MAINE, A GUIDE DOWN EAST, in the state series, that was published, as you probably know, by Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston. The Maine Development Commission (State House, Augusta) sponsored it; and it was prepared by the Writers' Project of the Federal Works Projects Administration. The State Supervisor is still, we believe, Mr. R. Richard Ellingwood; and their headquarters office is at 142 High Street, Portland, Maine. A direct request would doubtless bring you the desired information.

Mr. Jack Frost
December 1, 1941
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If it is some other book which you have in mind, perhaps you could furnish us with additional detail that would help us to identify the book.

Miss Gardner is indeed well, and filling her new position with eclat and elan. Your good wishes have been expressed.

Thank you again for the gift of your 1941 calendar to the Maine Author Collection. It is a most unusual and truly beautiful volume, and it gives us pleasure to place it beside your FANCY THIS.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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Encl--1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c postal
refund

SECRETARY