

7-9-2014

John Shand Gordon Correspondence

John Shand Gordon 1872-

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938

Maine State Library

Marion Cobb Fuller

Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod

Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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GORDON, John Shand

Huntly, Scotland

May 3, 1872

"John Shand Gordon, born in Huntly, Scotland, May 3, 1872; emigrated to Port Dover, Canada, 1880; learned the printing trade there; was a "Tramp Printer" for several years, all over Canada and the U.S. I was Editor of three papers, two in Canada and "The St. George Beacon," (here) two years ago. I have written for Portland Sunday Telegram long articles, often. My eldest sister, the late Isabel Gorgon Curtis, was quite a famous author."

-- from letter of Jan. 27, 1931



THE GORDON PRESS
R.F.D. 9, South Brewer, Maine



Dec. 16, '26

Dear Sir:

I am mailing you a book I printed and compiled myself, entitled "The Sea Serpent," which I hope you will consider worthy of a place in your library. The data is from authentic records which I have.

It is the first book ever published in Brewer and I hope it will not seem too bad to you.

If you care for it please remit price \$1, or if not kindly return it.

Would you know of any friend who would like a copy?

I am,

yours truly,

John Gordon
L & D?

So. Brewer,

Maine.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
RECEIVED

DEC 17, 1926

C O P Y

December 22, 1926.

John Gordon,

R. F. D. 9

South Brewer, Maine.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Please accept our thanks for your "The Sea Serpent."

I note that you say it is the first book ever published in
Brewer. The press of work at this time of the year is so great that I
have not had time to read your book. I hope, however, in the near future
to find the time and I am sure I shall greatly enjoy the reading.

Sincerely yours,

Henry E. Dinnack

STATE LIBRARIAN

HED/NT

C O P Y

January 26, 1931

Mr. John Gordon
Port Clyde
Maine

My dear Mr. Gordon,

I am interested in your book "Confessions of Sandy McWhiffle," and since it seems to be a Maine item I should like to mention it in the next issue of our Library Bulletin. The Bulletin notes on Maine publications include biographical data about the authors, so please send us some information about yourself and your work, something of a rather more personal nature than a Who's Who item. I trust that you were born in this state so that we may have the pleasure of adding your name to our list of Maine authors.

Very truly yours,

By MCF

Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the latest issue of the Library Bulletin.



Little drops of
printing ink
Little grains of
type
Handled at The
Gordon Press
Makes the jobs
look right

Try Us

The proprietor forty years ago!

Ye GORDON PRESS

LOCATED AT YE

quaint old town
of Pt. Clyde, Me.

owned and operated by
JOHN GORDON
an old timer chuck full
of original snappy ideas
and author of—Listen :

“John Gordon, His Book”

“The Sea Serpent”

“The Tramp Printer”

“The St. George Beacon”

and Other Crimes too
Numerous to Mention

EVERY THING, in the
line of job and small
book printing properly and
rapidly done. Prices very
reasonable for good work.

January 27
1931

Marion Cobb Fuller,

Dear Madam:

I am pleased to answer your letter about
my book. I mail you a copy by this post.

Now, if it is the custom to donate books
to the Library, I am glad to do it. But if not
I should be pleased to receive the price,— 75c.
for it, as, owing to misfortune and inability
to get work, I am very badly off financially.

I may say, I simply HAD to write a book
that would sell or starve, so "Sandy" is the
result, hoping you'll like it. I have got fine
reviews on it in large papers, and it may be

a success. I enclose a short story of myself for "Library Bulletin." Will you please send me a copy of it on publication?

Sincerely,

John Gordon,

John Shand Gordon, born in Huntly, Scotland, May 3, 1872; emigrated to Port Dover, Canada, 1880; learned the printing trade there; was a "Tramp Printer" for several years, all over Canada and the U.S. I was Editor of three papers, two in Canada and "The St. George Beacon," (here) two years ago. I have written for Portland "Sunday Telegram" long articles, often. My eldest sister, the late Isabel Gordon Curtis, was quite a famous author.

My next book is entitled, "John Gordon, Printer's Devil, by Himself." It is a word picture of my first delightful year in a printing office, aged 14. Also with Chapters and FACTS on "Customs in Ancient Printing Offices."

P.S.--If any more facts desired I shall be pleased to furnish them.

I think you already have copies of my "Sea Serpent" and "Tramp Printer" in Library.

My "Pickled Percy" and "Lucky Jake" are pamphlets, (humor stories) 15c. each.

C O P Y

February 4, 1931

Mr. John Gordon
Port Clyde, Maine

My dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you for your prompt response to our request for your book. We shall be glad to pay for it, so please make your bill for it in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

The day the copy of the book sent by you arrived two more came which Mr. Dunnack had ordered from Loring Short and Harmon. We are sending one of these, together with the copy you sent us, back to to be autographed. Will you please do so, at your earliest convenience and return them , the books to us. We enclose return postage, four cents. Please mark the package "Books. Mailes under Section 444¹/₂ B. L. and R."

It would be interesting to us to know how you happened to come to Maine, and when, and also how long you have been a resident of Port Clyde.

Very truly yours,

By MCF

GORDON PRESS

JOHN GORDON, Prop.

North Haven Road
Vinalhaven, Maine



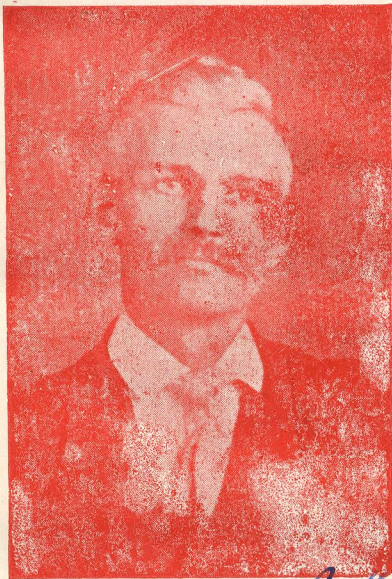
Job PRINTING

Neatly, accurately and
quickly produced.



Envelopes and letterheads
in small lots our Specialty

Prices very reasonable



Feb. 25-37.
Dear Sir:

You may remember you
bought three copies of
my book, "Sandy McWhiffle,
Harmon's Inventor?" and
mentioned me in list of
Maine authors.

Now, I am back from
3 years in the Union Printers Home, Col.
Springs, Col., and am trying to make a
living. I enclose list of two pamphlets
which I believe will get some notice.

If you like them I'd be pleased to
send on receipt of price. Only have
very few for sale.

Most Resp'y,

John Gordon.

Gordon's Miniature Library

My motto—"To hell with Gloom."

PRICE LIST

No. 1

"Vinalhaven Applesass," 50c. per copy
120 printed. Post paid.

No. 2

"The Burning of The Royal Tar," 30c. per copy
90 printed. Post paid.

No. 1 is simply a literary curiosity of purely original, unadulterated humor.

No. 2 contains the true story of worst sea tragedy near Vinalhaven, in 1836.

With the exception of making the paper I do everything to produce these pamphlets: Writing, hand-set type, Kelsey hand press 65 years old, whittled wood cuts, some painted, folding and binding.

All the above I accomplish in a building 8 feet square, 6 ft. ceiling, besides my stove, bed, cooking utensils, etc.

Small books printed at very reasonable cost. Also all classes of Quality JOB PRINTING

Published at

The Gordon Press

(Smallest Publishing House in America)

NORTH HAVEN ROAD

Vinalhaven, --- Maine

March 15, 1937

Mr. John Gordon
North Haven Road
Vinalhaven, Maine

Dear Mr. Gordon:

In Mr. Dunnack's absence, we are acknowledging your letter of February 25, regarding your new books, VINALHAVEN APPLESASS and THE BURNING OF THE ROYAL TAR.

We want to add a copy of each to the Maine Author Collection, and will be very glad to have you mail us these pamphlets. Will you be so kind as to inscribe each one for the Maine Author Collection?

As State regulations do not permit payment in advance, we will appreciate your sending a bill for these items.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm
Encl--2

SECRETARY

GORDON PRESS

JOHN GORDON, Prop.

North Haven Road
Vinalhaven, Maine



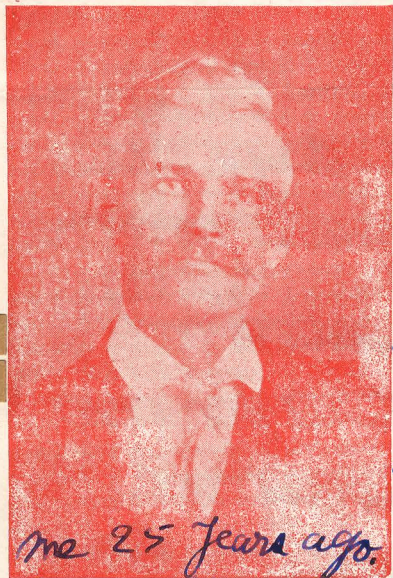
Job PRINTING

Neatly, accurately and
quickly produced.



Envelopes and letterheads
in small lots our Specialty

Prices very reasonable



me 25 years ago.

Mar. 17-87,
Miss Hilda McLeod,

Dear Miss:

I thank you for your
order of my two little
works, though not very
large, sometimes a book
has value in other ways.

I spent a month of my
spare time on "Applesass" and have still
half the cuts to hand paint. Some job!
But necessity, food, etc, spurs one to do
all he can.

I also consider it an honor to have
them in the "Maine Author Collection."
I'd bet my last sou you haven't got
anything like mine in it! Better so.
Soon payment would be much welcome,
Sincerely, John Gordon. (over)

P. S. —

If you happen to know any collectors of curious literature you will do me a great favor if you recommend these little items for their collection.

By your name I presume you are Scotch. In the old days the McLeod's clan was a great power in Scotia. I was born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. Came to America aged 8. My father was of the family of Gordons of Thorrybrae.

If you or any of your friends here in summer please call. I'm lonely old chap, and "Gordon Press" is quite a curiosity.

J.G.

March 19, 1937

Mr. John Gordon
North Haven Road
Vinalhaven, Maine

Dear Mr. Gordon:

We have received the inscribed copies of VINALHAVEN APPLESASS and THE BURNING OF THE ROYAL TAR, which we are very glad to add to the Maine Author Collection.

Due to the usual amount of governmental formality, it will probably require about two weeks for the check for these items to reach you, but we are sending the invoice forward for payment.

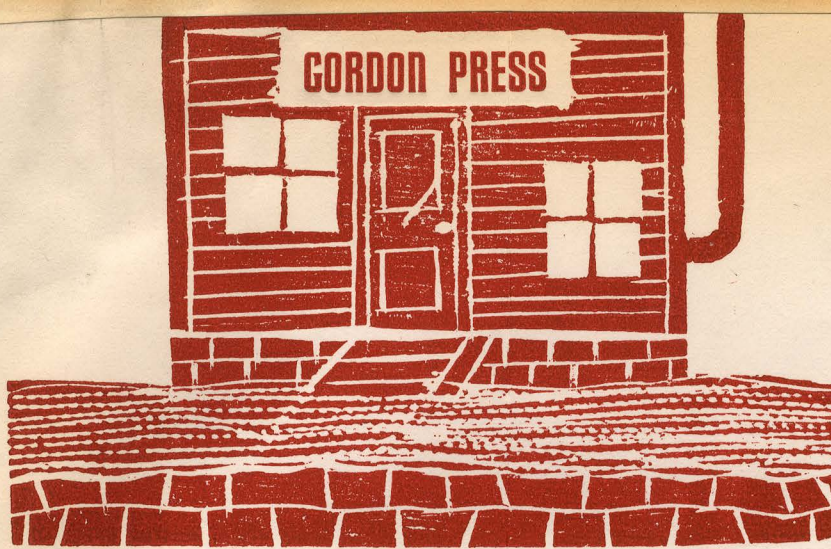
Thank you for your invitation to visit the Gordon Press. May we extend to you a cordial invitation to visit the State Library and the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

lm

SECRETARY



The Gordon Press

JOHN GORDON, Proprietor

Author of "The Sea Serpent," "The Tramp Printer,"
"Sandy McWhiffle, Famous Inventor," and "Gordon's
Miniature Library." Also "The Vinalhaven Pilot."

THE GORDON PRESS is the smallest Publishing House and
printing office in America. 8x12 feet in size, a 7x13 Kelsey
hand press, a 10x15 Gordon press, two cabinets modern type,
also antique type. Also stove, bed and cooking utensils, etc

Located in the quaint old town of

Vinalhaven, Maine

North Haven Road  "Gem of the Ocean"

^d
Dec. 22, 1937.

Dear Sir:

Several years ago I sold you, for your ~~E~~ "Maine Author's"
collection, several copies of my books. So I thought to tell you
~~you~~ I have one copy left of my first book, "The Sea Serpent," 1826.
(I have one in my file), I printed 200 of them, sold at ~~4~~ \$1.00. 9

Five years ago I saw them quoted in a rare book list at \$5.00.
If you'd like to get this one I'd sell it for \$3.00. It is slightly
faded on cover; otherwise exactly new.

I have a few copies left of my "Vinalhaven Pilot," Nos. 1 and 2,
July and Dec., 1937; price 25c. copy. Only 200 printed/.

I have, practically, no business now, so I am trying to sell
anything I have to get by winter.

Most sincerely,

*I will autograph any
if you wish!*

*John Gordon,
Vinalhaven,
Maine.*

*P. S. My "Pilot" is a 16-page
magazine of mostly my
fantastic humor, published
semi-yearly. Sells for 10c
but my books become in great demand, so I'll sell
my few remaining "Pilots" for 25c.*

(200 printed)

January 18, 1938

Mr. John Gordon
Vinalhaven
Maine

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Some time ago you wrote to us regarding remaining copies of your books. We regret that we are unable to purchase copies, although we are glad to report that we have these in the Maine Author Collection.

For the disposition of your stock, we suggest that you address an inquiry to:

Mr. A. J. Huston
92 Exchange Street
Portland, Maine

Mr. Huston deals in old books, especially Maine items, and may be able to assist you.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

ready about
Nov. 1,

John Gordon

Vinalhaven, Maine

Sept. 21/42.

Dear Madam:

Several years ago your library bought books I published.

Now I am writing a most interesting little work to the printing fraternity or anyone and I have invented and made the press I print it on. I do all except make the ink, type and paper, something ~~never~~ ^{done} before, except, of course, the ancient printers, who had to make everything.

I thought you might like a copy or two for library.

The edition is only 100.
I enclose circular - see prospectus.
I am, sincerely, John Gordon.

September 24, 1942

Mr. John Gordon
Vinalhaven
Maine

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you for notifying us about your new book, to be published about November 1, and for sending THE GORDON HAND PRESS, which we are placing in the Maine Author Collection.

Unfortunately the demand on our library for technical books is making it more difficult continually to purchase other material. It is, therefore, unlikely that we shall be able to purchase a copy of your book; but we shall hope that your generosity to the Maine Author Collection will continue; and that you may want to inscribe and present a copy for the exhibit.

We send you our very best wishes for its success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

Nov. 17/42.
Mrs. F. W. Jobb, Sec.,

Dear Madam:

My book, "My First Year as a
Printer's Devil" is now
ready, and will soon be in
a publisher's hands for 2nd
edition.

I'm sorry I can't afford to
donate any of the 1st edition.

If you care for a copy
I will mail on receipt of
price - \$1. copy.

When 2nd edition on market
it will be a rare item,

then price will be \$2.50.

I have got great praise for
it already I printed it on
press I invented.

I am, Sincerely,

Kinalhaven,
Maine.

John Gordon.

