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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"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
Dec. 16, '26
Dear Sir:

I am mailing you a book 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
Dr. Brewer,
Maine.
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. Dannack

HED/NT

STATE LIBRARIAN
January 26, 1931

Mr. John Gordon
Port Clyde
Maine

My dear Mr. Gordon,

I am interested in your book "Confessions of Sandy McWhipple," 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.
Marion Cobb Fuller,

Dear Madam:

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

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 Dever, 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, (numer stories) 15c. each.
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 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 444½ 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

Dear Sir:

You may remember you bought three copies of my book, "Sandy McWhipple, Famous Inventor," and mentioned me in list of Maine authors.

Now I am back from 3 years in the Union Printers Home, Bol. Springs, Colo., and am trying to make a living. Enclose list of the pamphlet 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 Respectfully,

John Gordon.

Feb. 25-37
**Gordon's Miniature Library**

*My motto—"To hell with Gloom."*

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**PRICE LIST**

No. 1
"Vinalhaven Applesass," 50c. per copy
120 printed.

No. 2
"The Burning of The Royal Tar," 30c. per copy
90 printed.

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

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**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

HM
Encl--2

SECRETARY
Mar. 17-37

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 get my last son you haven’t got anything like mine in it! Better at soon payment would be much welcome.

Sincerely, John Gordon.
P.S. -
If you happen to know any collectors of curious literature you will do me a great favor if you'd recommend these little items for their collection.

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

If you or any of your friends here in summer please call. I'm lonely old chap, and "Gordon Praise" 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

Im
SECRETARY
Dear Sir:

Several years ago I sold you, for your $23 Maine Author's Collection, several copies of my books. So I thought to tell you I have one copy left of my first book, "The Sea Serpent," 1924. (I have one in my file), I printed 200 of them, sold at $1.00.

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,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: "O. D. My "Pilot" is a 16-page magazine of mostly my fantastic humor, published semi-annually. Sells for 10¢ but my books become in great demand, so I'll sell my few remaining "Pilots" for 25¢.

Located in the quaint old town of Vinalhaven, Maine, North Haven Road "Gem of the Ocean."

Dec. 22, 1937.

[Handwritten note: "(200 printed)"

[Handwritten note: "I will autograph any if you wish.

[Handwritten note: "Vinalhaven, UMaine.

[Handwritten note: "(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
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 other people 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.

Enclose circular—the prospectus.

I am sincerely, John Gordon.
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
Mrs. H. W. Jobs, Bee,

Dear Madam:

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

I am sorry I can't afford to donate any of the 100 edition of you care for a copies. 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.

Sincerely,

John Gordon