September 2015

Gertrude Coté Correspondence

Gertrude Metivier Coté 1909-1977

Deborah Louise Coté

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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COTÉ, Gertrude
(Mrs. Emile)
b. Canada
GOOD READING AND EATING—Mrs. Gertrude Cote, author of the recently published "As I Live and Dream" and Deborah Louise, the youngest of her nine children. Mrs. Cote's book relates the antics of family life in Rumford and recalls the picturesque scenes of a Canadian childhood.

RUMFORD MOTHER WRITES BOOK

RUMFORD, May 1—Keeping house for a family of nine is not enough to use up Mrs. Gertrude Cote's spare energy. She has found time to write a 221-page book of reminiscences of Canadian childhood and a busy adult life in Rumford. Mrs. Cote's book, "As I Live and Dream," has recently been published by the Falmouth Publishing Co. of Manchester.

Reflecting on her achievement, Mrs. Cote is a little surprised herself that she was able to steal the time to write the book. She takes it as an example of the truth that you can do anything that you really want.
January 22, 1953

Mrs. Emile Cote
East Rumford
Maine

Dear Mrs. Cote:

Congratulations upon the completion and prospective publication of your book, AS I LIVE AND DREAM. It is of special interest to us, of course, since its author and much of its material are Maine. We look forward to seeing a copy when it is available, and shall note it in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association this spring.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? This is a permanent exhibit of the work of Maine people, and Maine books; most of the volumes inscribed and presentation copies. The inscriptions are original and distinctive, varying from autobiographical sketches to pen-and-ink illustrations, from tributes to Maine to bits of verse. The collection, as is to be expected, includes books of all kinds -- children's stories, cook books, poetry, travel, art, religion, novels -- and is a fascinating and valuable testimony to the capability and creativeness of Maine writers.

We also gather all available information, biographical and literary, on our writers, so that we may be prepared to answer the requests about Maine authors that are constantly asked.

We hope when AS I LIVE AND DREAM is published that you will want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection. We should be happy to have it on these shelves. Our very good wishes go to you for its immediate and enduring success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

due July 1953 from Falmouth
newspaper articles RFT 1.15.53 and LS 1.20.53
September 24, 1953

Mrs. Emile Cote
Rumford
Maine

Dear Mrs. Cote:

Last winter, you may remember, we wrote to you about your forthcoming book, AS I LIVE AND DREAM. Later when you were in the library, we had the pleasure of meeting you and speaking about the Maine Author Collection.

We have not yet seen the book, and we do hope that we have not been remiss. Has it been published? If it has not, have you any information as to publication date? We have delayed noting it in the Maine Library Association bulletin until we knew certainly that the book was available, and we are sadly familiar with the publication postponements that occasionally occur.

We hope that AS I LIVE AND DREAM is nearing publication, and that all problems pertaining to its date of issuance are clearing satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. F. W. Jacob  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

October 7, 1953

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you so much for remembering me and my forthcoming book "As I Live And Dream," which I am told will be out about the 15th of November. As you say that you are familiar with publication postponements, it will be no surprise to you that the publisher is only now getting around to it. I feared for a while that the manuscript had fallen...
behind the desk and couldn't be reached, but it seems that the editor was so overworked it took her an exceptionally long time to read it and make necessary editing— but we are finally rolling. I finished reading the galley proofs last week, work in being done on the jacket, and all in all it looks as if I may yet have a book on the market.

Now for the autographing of a copy for the State Library, I wonder if you would be kind enough to give me a few suggestions, as I haven't the remotest idea of what is expected. I had so little time to browse when I was in last week, that I don't remember anything helpful, and I am naturally anxious to do the right thing. This is all so different from housekeeping that I am a bit lost.

Thank you again for your interest, I will notify you as soon as the book is off the press.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Signature]
October 23, 1953

Mrs. Emile Cote
Box 242
Rumford, Maine

Dear Mrs. Cote:

It is indeed good news to know that your book will really be published this season. What a relief it will be to you when you can finally see a copy between covers, and listen to the compliments. Are you already at work on another?

As for the inscription in the Maine Author Collection copy, that is really quite up to you. We have as varied inscriptions as we have writers: ink sketch as his inscription -- sometimes it's a seagull, sometimes a bit of evergreen or seacoast; Arthur Guptill is a professional, of course, and does beautiful sketches; some authors write a little life history, just a bit about the birthplace or some childhood incident, or how the literary career started, or some Maine memory. Some of the inscriptions are glowing tributes to Maine -- its charm, or fortitude, or weather, or character, or whatever the author remembers and knows with delight. Occasionally an inscription carries illumination about the writing of the book -- like the words of Frederick Pottle in his writings on Boswell. Louise Dickinson Rich dashed off a little jingle as an inscription. And then, of course, there are some who are more, and simply autograph the book, saying that it is for the Maine Author Collection, or something like that.

You see, you have all the latitude you want! We shall buy AS I LIVE AND DREAM (same title, still?) for the lending section of the library, and we are glad that the Maine author Collection may anticipate having one from you. Good luck to the book.

Sincerely yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
December 16, 1953
Rumford Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

At long last, here I am with my book. This particular dream has almost become a nightmare. I seem to have collided head-on with every difficulty and delay known to publishers and authors, but finally the end of the road is in sight. I hope you will like the little story of my family; I have had oodles of comments, all good so far, could be that the ones who don't like it are charitable enough to keep their opinions to themselves, and of course I kind of hope they go right on that way, yet it might be better to know the bitter truth. At any rate every one who has called or written to-date assure me that I should make the best seller list. What they seem to like especially is that it is so like their own brand of living that they can see themselves in almost any of the situations.

I believe I have told you that since I was in the library last winter we have added a ninth child to our already numerous brood. While I could have thought of several things I would rather have then, now that she is here we are the 'doting parents' all over again. She really is sweet and would be good as pie if there weren't so many to spoil her. I would have liked to paste a snapshot of her, but fear that it would be overdoing so I settled for the inscription. Hope that is O.K.

If you have the time I would like to hear what you think of the book....(or would I?)

Thank you very much for your interest. It made me feel quite important to be hailed as an author by the State Librarian.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mrs. F.W. Jacobs
Maine State Library
Augusta Maine
Mrs. Emile Cote  
Box 242  
Rumford, Maine

Dear Mrs. Cote:

Having the book finally published is almost like a Christmas gift, isn't it? Its arrival delighted us, and although I haven't had opportunity to do more than dip into it here and there, it certainly seems like a most appealing book, and one which should enjoy wide popularity.

The lending copy which we ordered for the library has not yet come, but we hope it will clear the Christmas rush, and come along soon.

Dee was quite enchanting, and her picture will certainly be incorporated into your inscription. Thank you for sending the snapshot. She is a lively and alert child, who already shows a sense of humor.

Let's hope AS I LIVE AND DREAM does make the best seller list. It has all the necessary charm and it makes a spirited story. May there be more about your delightful family.

Thank you very much for remembering the Maine Author Collection, and presenting a copy of your first book. A happy Christmas to you all.

Sincerely

nmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection