September 2015

Maurice Dolbier Correspondence

Maurice Wyman Dolbier 1912-

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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DOLBIER, Maurice
Skowhegan
May 12, 1912 -
Maurice Dolbier, now associated with the Providence (R.I.) Journal, who was well known in Bangor when he was prominent in the Little Theatre group, is author of one of the very popular juvenile books of the current season. It is "Jenny, the Bus That Nobody Loved," published by Random House, N.Y., with colorful illustrations by Tibor Gergely. The book, which is for children of from six to ten years of age, is finding many readers at the Bangor Public Library. Both author and artist have a real understanding of how to give children a good time by saying even serious things in a laugh-provoking way and there are many imaginative touches in the story, which after all, deals with the most popular of juvenile subjects—magic.
September 1, 1944

Mr. Maurice Dolbler
Riverside
Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Dolbler:

JENNY— THE BUS THAT NOBODY LOVED is an enchanting title, and we trust that the book is winning new friends constantly.

When we read that you were formerly of Skowhegan, we thought immediately of the Maine Author Collection, and the possibility of including you in it. This exhibit collection, as possibly you know, is composed of about fifteen hundred inscribed presentation books, written by Maine-born people, those resident here, or writing about the state. Together with our accumulated biographical and critical data, these books make a very valuable and fascinating display, which attracts visitors and students continually. We have been gratified by the enthusiastic and generous interest Maine authors have shown in the collection.

We do not have definite information of a biographical nature about you, but we hope that you are of Maine, and that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of JENNY for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection.

Our best wishes for the success of the book go to you, and a cordial invitation to call at the library and see the collection when you may be again in Maine.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Secretary
February 5, 1945

Mr. Maurice Dolbier
Riverside
Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Dolbier:

Recent newspaper mention of the popular juvenile book, JENNY, THE BUS THAT NOBODY LOVED, prompts us to write again about the Maine Author Collection.

Our letter of September 1 may not have reached you, or possibly it has been set aside for attention at some leisure moment. Or perhaps we did not sufficiently explain that the collection endeavors to include all the works of all Maine authors; and that it has real value to students and future researchers, as well as present interest to visitors. The biographical and critical material augments the informative nature of such an exhibit, and we are proud that the collection appeals to so many Maine writers as a project worthy their generous encouragement.

We hope that JENNY, THE BUS THAT NOBODY LOVED may be added to the collection. Our good wishes for its success continue.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Please forgive this long delay in replying to your kind letter.

My own stock of JENNYs was eaten up by relatives and friends, of whom there seemed to be an unconscionable number. However, I have asked Random House to send you a copy, and they have agreed. They inform me, however, that the forwarding must await the completion of the second printing, sometime in June. I shall be happy to inscribe that copy and honored to be included in your collection of Maine authors.

Thank you again for your gracious comments on the book and for your patience in dealing with its delinquent author.

[Signature]

Mrs. F.W. Jacob
Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta Maine

Providence Journal
Providence Rhode Island
25 February 1945
February 27, 1945

Mr. Maurice Dolbier  
Providence Journal  
Providence, Rhode Island  

Dear Mr. Dolbier:

Your very generous and friendly promise of an inscribed copy of JENNY for the Maine Author Collection is acknowledged.

We have been made unfortunately familiar with publishing delays, and we shall therefore try to be quietly patient until June, when we may anticipate JENNY's arrival.

You may recall that in an earlier letter we confessed to a lack of biographical detail -- such statistical dates as a Who's Who paragraph includes would be greatly appreciated; and we are grateful when authors are willing to let us have more biography than dates. Birthplace and date are perhaps the most important, but education, travel, hobbies, and so forth enliven the record. We hope you can send us material of this nature at your convenience.

Continuing good wishes for JENNY!

Sincerely yours

hmj  
Secretary
July 9, 1945

Mr. Maurice Dolbier  
Providence Journal  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Dolbier:

The Maine Author Collection copy of JENNY, THE BUS THAT NOBODY LOVED reached the library, and once again we were captivated by your unusual heroine -- the first time was when we ordered JENNY for our traveling libraries. She is now gadding about the state, making friends with boys and girls and with parents sufficiently discerning to appreciate the charm of Jenny.

Shall we send the book to you for an inscription, or may we anticipate a call from you? And what about the biographical sketch?

Your gift for fantasy is the best assurance we have of more books to come. Surely there will be others, and good luck to them. Meanwhile, for JENNY, our thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection