September 2015

Frank I. Dorr Correspondence

Frank Irving Dorr 1865-1935

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation
Dorr, Frank Irving 1865-1935; McLeod, Hilda; and Maine State Library, "Frank I. Dorr Correspondence" (2015). Maine Writers Correspondence. 219.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/219

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
DORR, Frank I

Orland, 1865-Dec.27, 1935
Mr. Frank I. Dorr, Pres.–Treas.
Raymonds Inc.
365 Washington Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We have noticed, in a Maine newspaper, the announcement of "Hayseed and Sawdust." Perhaps you know that the Maine State Library has an exhibit collection of the works of Maine authors. This collection is steadily growing in size, importance and value. Most of our authors have been glad to autograph or inscribe their volumes, which adds to the attractiveness and value.

We are, of course, most anxious that your new book be represented here, and are therefore seeking your cooperation. Will you kindly tell us where we may secure a copy; or better still, if you would be kind enough to send us an autographed copy, accompanied by a bill, it will be very much appreciated.

In connection with the Maine Author Collection, we are accumulating biographical data about the authors here represented, and we would be extremely grateful if you would sketch for us your life, that we may have it for our biographical files.

We have not yet had the pleasure of examining your "Hayseed and Sawdust" but assure you that we are anticipating the event. May we congratulate you upon the complimentary
reviews which, at least, we have read.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By
Secretary
November 21, 1934

Mr. Frank I. Door, Pres.-Treas.
Raymonds Inc.
365 Washington Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Dorr:

A few days ago your refreshing book, Hayseed and Sawdust, reached our office. We have delayed acknowledging it, thinking to report to you that the bill had been forwarded to the State Treasurer; but there has been no bill, and we have reached the conclusion that the book is a gift from its author! Please accept our sincere thanks for your kind contribution to our Maine Author Collection.

The request for biographical material seems to be answered so satisfactorily in the Hayseed and Sawdust pages, that I think we need trouble you no further.

In case you should publish further works, please don't forget our collection, of which we are extremely proud; and should you be in Maine at any time, we wish to extend our hearty welcome to you in advance, and an invitation to call upon us.

Very truly yours

[Signature]

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By
Secretary
"Hayseed and Sawdust" by Frank I. Dorr tells the story of a young man who left the rocky Maine farm, got his education in the best of all training schools, "The University of Hard Knocks," and who has now taken time from his still busy life to satisfy the requests of his many friends and "Raymond's," that he write a book telling of his experiences from boyhood on the farm to his present success.

The story is simply told with no literary pretentions, and will prove an incentive to the youth of today, that success is not easily gained:- It requires pluck, courage, defeat, struggle and ambition to gain a foothold in life's business world.

Frank I. Dorr was born in Orland, a little town not far from Ellsworth. It was in this section of Maine, working on the farm and in the sawmill that his youth was spent. Here he made his first business venture—a bucket of homemade soap that he peddled from door to door. He now heads hundreds of employees.

His story is the story of "Raymond's", the unique store in Boston which he first entered as an employee, making himself valuable to his employers and in course of time buying out the business and becoming the head of the store. How he did it is told in 228 pages, interspersed with epigrams, jokes, humorous stories and bits of philosophy. Certainly Mr. Dorr has a sense of humor.

"Sawmill Philosophy"

Here are a few samples from the many "sawmill" bits of philosophy to be found in this book and which have characterized the unique advertising written by Mr. Dorr for many years to attract attention to Raymond's.

"Nobuddy ain reel edicated who ain't had a few degrees from the University of hard noks..."

The feller who is alius talking about how th wurrld owes him a livin is apt tew find th collectshuns mighty pore... Keep your bank account tuned up like an old violin and when you draw on, play lightly.

"There's more chaps doing dirty work in dresser suits than in overalls, but it's hard to catch 'em at it... Never trust your secrets to a cracked beanpot—they'll leak out... There are more thieves found around er sawmill than around a bank... Uncle Addissoon says "There is tew kind of countrymen, wise ones and fool ones, wise one wear pants, the fool ones wear trousers... Produce big pumpkins—the pies follow... Repeated failures probably prove that the people are outer yer... Society doesn't punish those who sin, but those who sin and 'got caught'..."

The book is priced in true Raymond-esque form: "Choice 95c an tain't no bargain."

Fine Tribute to Wife

Mr. Dorr pays a touching tribute to his wife. "At this time I want to say that my wife, Claribel N. Gray, was to my mind the perfect, ideal mate. Kindly, intelligent, with an unusual amount of common sense, I have often said that had it not been for her I might have been a tramp. And if I have succeeded in achieving anything worth while it is due to her good judgment and the great incentive she became to me to cause me to push forward.

"Whenever attempting to overcome obstacles she was always in my mind and my thoughts were, 'I must accomplish this for her sake.' She passed away March 26, 1926—and my interest in life passed with her. Since that time life is a mere matter of enduring existence."

To Mrs. Lydia G. Raymond he dedicates his book with affectionate regard for the widow of the founder of the firm.

Hayseed and Sawdust

Almost as famous as Bunker Hill Monument, the Old South Church, Brimstone Corner or other well known Boston landmarks is Raymonds—where not only you but thousands of others "bot th hat."

At the head of the store is Frank I. Dorr, a Maine Yankee who was associated with George J. Raymond, the founder of the business and who became the operator of the store after Mr. Raymond's death.

The "sawmill philosopher" has made Raymonds a most unique institution. Of course it is "different", but to thousands of people it is known as a place where common sense business methods mean lower prices and where "The Customer is always right."

With an unusual flair for real showmanship combined with ethical standards unsurpassed by anyone in the mercantile industry, Frank I. Dorr has built his success on the rugged old fashioned principles of absolute honesty, a square deal and common sense. He has "played the game" fairly and had a lot of fun doing it.

Many people who know the store from their personal contacts will be glad to learn a little about its guiding genius and the principles that have made Raymonds famous far outside of New England.

"Hayseed and Sawdust" tells the story of a boy who left the rocks of a Maine farm, got his education in that best of all training schools, "The University of Hard Knocks," and who has now taken time from his still busy life to satisfy the requests of many friends of his and the store, that he "write a book about it." The story is simply told with no literary pretentions. Perhaps that will add to its attraction for common every day people—and after all they are the ones who count most.