September 2015

William Plummer Fowler Jr. Correspondence

William Plummer Fowler 1900-1993

Hilda McLeod Jacob

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FOWLER, William Plumer

b. August 5, 1900, Little Boars' Head, N.H.
Dear Mr. Fowler:

Recently we learned of your book, LANDMARKS, and noted it for the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and also added it to our order list.

It occurs to us that such a book would be a most fitting addition to the Maine Author Collection. Do you know of this permanent exhibit? It includes the writing of Maine people, and books about the state, and numbers about two thousand volumes, most of which are inscribed presentation copies.

The remarkable variety, the originality of the inscriptions, and the appeal of such a Maine collection are indicated by the enthusiasm of the many students and visitors who call to see the books and to study them. We are proud of it, and proud of all our Maine writers.

We hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of LANDMARKS for inclusion in the exhibit. It would give us pleasure to be able to add it to the shelves.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
November 2, 1954

Mrs. F. W. Jacobs  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

In accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter of October 26th, I am pleased to present the Maine State Library with a copy of my latest book of poems, *Landmarks*, to be added to the Maine Author Collection. The book is being sent to you under separate cover.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Fowler

WPF:V
WILLIAM PLUMER FOWLER

William Plumer Fowler is an attorney and trustee, who writes sonnets as a hobby. He is a member of both the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Bars. He maintains an office in Boston and one in his home at Little Boar's Head, North Hampton, New Hampshire, overlooking the ocean and the salt marshes.

He was born on August 5, 1900, at Little Boar's Head, N. H. He graduated from Roxbury Latin School in 1917, and from Dartmouth College in 1921. After two years' graduate work at Harvard and one year of teaching, in 1924, he entered Harvard Law School from which he received the degree of LL.B. in 1927.

At Dartmouth he was active in the Outing Club, and a member of Cabin and Trail. On May 31, 1920, he, in company with Sherman Adams (later Governor of New Hampshire, and now Assistant to President Eisenhower) walked a distance of eighty-three miles from Littleton to Hanover, N. H., over mountain trails and country roads in twenty-four hours. At Dartmouth, also, he was a member of the Ski and Snowshoe Team, and the winner of many snowshoe races; and in 1920 he was instrumental in founding the Ledyard Canoe Club, of which he was the first Vice President.

He has been for many years an enthusiastic skier, and in 1934, as Chairman of the Ski Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, was instrumental in purchasing for that Club a 600-acre tract of land on Mount Cardigan, the "Cardigan Ski Reservation," where he spent much time cutting and clearing ski trails. He handles an axe or a scythe with skill and enjoyment.
He was President of the Appalachian Mountain Club from 1940 to 1942. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Boston Authors Club, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of the Sons of the (American) Revolution, the Boston Shakespeare Club, the Poetry Society of England, and the Poetry Fellowship of Maine. He is a life member of the American Unitarian Association and of the Dartmouth Outing Club. He takes an active interest in civic affairs in his home community, where he is a Trustee of Trust Funds, a village District Commissioner, and Zoning Inspector.

He is interested in boats and fishing - particularly deep sea fishing and sailing - having fished and lobstered extensively off the coast between Little Boar's Head and the Isles of Shoals. For many years he was an amateur farmer, having raised many varieties of vegetables in his New Hampshire garden. He is married and has three children and one grandchild.

He writes poetry for recreation, having become interested in it very early as a result of gatherings in his father's home, where poetry was read aloud with enjoyment. He has experimented with various meters and forms, but is a particular devotee of the sonnet, of which he has written a total of one hundred and twenty-eight, for the most part of the stricter varieties - Petrarchan, Shakespearean, Spenserian, and variants of these. His poems cover a wide range of subjects, and include many outstanding nature sonnets. He has published three books of poems, "Flashing Wings" in 1941, "Granite Ledges" in 1943, and "Landmarks" in 1954, also various articles and brochures, including one entitled "The Challenge of the Sonnet." His first book "Flashing Wings" is out of print.

May 10, 1955
November 15, 1954

William P. Fowler, Esq.
84 State Street
Boston 9, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fowler:

It is extremely gracious of you to present a copy of your lovely and skilled poems which you have aptly titled LANDMARKS for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection, and we send you our warm and appreciative thanks.

Sometime, entirely at your convenience, would you be willing to let us have a brief biographical sketch? We try to have as complete information about authors represented in the collection as is possible; and often enough we cannot find in print much of anything that can be regarded as authoritative, so we have to inquire directly. (In such cases, the information is at least accurate!)

Again, our grateful thanks for the privilege of adding this volume of distinguished poems to the collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
May 12, 1955

Mrs. F. W. Jacobs
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Your letter of November 15, 1954, has lain long unanswered, but in the course of six months' time I have finally managed to revise and bring up to date a brief biographical sketch that I had written some years before. You will find it enclosed herewith, and I hope that it will serve your purposes.

Cordially yours,

WPF:

Enclosure
May 17, 1955

William P. Fowler, Esq.
84 State Street, Room 811
Boston 9, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fowler:

How very kind of you to remember the autobiographical sketch for us! Thank you very much indeed. It is just what we want, and we appreciate your taking the time and thought to send it to us.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

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