September 2015

Rev. William Leo Lucey, S.J. Correspondence

William Leo Lucey 1903-1969

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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LUCEY, William Leo, S.J.
January 27, 1947

Rev. William Leo Lucey
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Father Lucey:

Congratulations upon the successful completion of your fascinating and diligently performed task. We notice that EDWARD KAVANAGH is soon to be published, and we look forward with uncommon interest to seeing the book, which we have already ordered for the lending section of the library.

We write at present regarding another part of the library, the Maine Author Collection. Possibly you know of this permanent exhibit of Maine books, which was started over twenty years ago, and now numbers about fifteen hundred volumes, inscribed and presented for this purpose.

It is a constant source of pride and delight to many visitors and students, and is the only place where all books of Maine writers or pertaining to Maine are gathered and permanently preserved. The inscriptions are unusual and as varied in nature and content as the authors themselves, and contribute greatly to the distinction of such a collection.

Your biography of Governor Kavanagh is certainly a book which should be on these shelves; and we hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy to the Maine Author Collection.

You have our very good wishes for the warm acceptance of this study, the completion of which must afford you much satisfaction.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Many thanks for your kind words about Edward Kavanagh; I am happy to say that the few reports so far arriving are quite favorable and I hope it will get sufficiently warm reception to restore Edward Kavanagh to the public favor he once enjoyed.

I have been to the State Library a number of times and regret to say that I missed the Maine Author Collection. Some one there should be mildly rebuked for failing to show me the collection, but I hope to be there again and will call on you to see the volumes; by then, Edward Kavanagh will be there, for I am glad to send you a copy for the collection. Is it customary to write a few words of presentation with the autograph?

I wonder if you will make an inquiry at the State Library for me. I am working on another book (I hope) on Maine, using one of Kavanagh's manuscripts as the basis. It is about an investigation by Kavanagh and Deane of the
inhabitants of the St. John's River in 1831, and a few months ago I made an inquiry by letter (either Miss Stuart or the Reference Librarian) about some points of information. I received no letter in reply as yet and wonder if the letter went astray; some information sought could have required considerable time and hence I was reluctant to write again for some time. I would appreciate it if you would, if not too inconvenient, ask if the letter arrived. However, if you are inconvenienced by this request, please do not bother about it. I can send another inquiry later.

Let me know if a few words besides the autograph is customary and I shall send along a copy. Edward Kavanagh was a quiet individual; perhaps he would prefer no words at all.

With best wishes,

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Sincerely,

Rev. Wm. L. Lucey, S.J.
February 13, 1947

Rev. William L. Lucey
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester 3, Massachusetts

Dear Father Lucey:

Your letter presents several points which require comment, but fortunately among the comments we believe we shall not have to include an apology: we seem not to have received the letter to which you refer. The matter has been referred to Miss Stuart, and you will have a reply from her shortly.

As for your non-introduction to the Maine Author Collection, may we hazard a guess that the interest in your own forthcoming book was so great that it superseded all other matters? We promise ourselves the pleasure of showing you the books the next time you call upon us.

The inscriptions in these books are as varied as the authors and as the books themselves, which range from history to metaphysics, from juvenile stories to cook books, from historical novels to poetry. Some authors write a spontaneous tribute to Maine; we find pen-and-ink sketches, bits of original verse, or occasional revealing autobiographical glimpses. Dorothy G. Wayman, as an inscription in her biography of Edward Sylvestor Morse, tipped in a letter of Dr. Morse's own handwriting. Some of our poets have indicated the exact setting of certain poems about Maine included in their books. So you see, there is no rule, no real custom, about the inscriptions; and there are those who prefer simply to autograph the book.

We shall leave the choice to you, and content ourselves with the agreeable anticipation of adding your excellent biography to the collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
February 19, 1947

Rev. William L. Lucey
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester 3, Massachusetts

Dear Father Lucey:

The Maine Author Collection copy of your biography of Edward Kavanagh arrived this morning; and we are delighted -- with the inscription, with your generous interest, and with the privilege of adding this admirable book to the collection. It is already in the lending section of the library, and we are extremely glad to have available this material on Kavanagh.

The new book promises value and enjoyment, and we trust it will progress to your satisfaction, and that perhaps we may be of some service to you in the matter.

Please accept our thanks for the inscribed copy of EDWARD KAVANAGH for the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
August 16, 1957

Rev. William Leo Lucey
Holy Cross College
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Father Lucey:

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MAINE is on our order list, and we hope to see it soon. It is fine to have a reference book of this authority and scope, and we anticipate its help on numerous questions.

Do you remember that the Maine Author Collection has a copy of your earlier book on Kavanagh? We think it would be wonderful to be able to include your new book, which is certainly another Maine book.

If you agree with us that it would be a proud and fitting addition to these Maine books, we shall be most happy to have it in the collection.

Meanwhile, our thanks to you for having written it; and may it find a wide reception.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

hmj

Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

A copy from your book for the MRC. It is really a gift of Monsignor George P. Johnson, St. Joseph's Church, Portland, Me. for my own copies have been exhausted. So he supplied the book. Send them a note of thanks, if you have time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Someday I must see the Collection.
September 12, 1957

The Very Reverend Monsignor
George P. Johnson
St. Joseph's Church
Portland, Maine

Dear Monsignor:

Please accept the warm thanks of the library for your generous gift of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MAINE to the Maine Author Collection.

Perhaps Father Lucey told you that we bought this fine book for the library, and that the copy which you have made available is for the permanent exhibit of Maine books.

We are grateful for your interest.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
September 12, 1957

Rev. William Leo Lucey
Holy Cross College
Worcester 3, Massachusetts

Dear Father Lucey:

Our thanks have been expressed to Monsignor Johnson for your book, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MAINE; but we know that it was you who prompted him, and so to you also go our thanks.

The book is in our library, and we are very much pleased with it. You have done a fine piece of work which will be most useful to us in our reference.

We are delighted to be able to add, through your kind interest and the generosity of Monsignor Johnson, this book to the Maine Author Collection. Yes, do come in and see the collection sometime. Right now, it is not putting its best foot forward, for the State House renovation disrupts our quarters; but that will be over one day, and we hope we shall have the pleasure of a call from you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj