September 2015

Dorothy Mayor Correspondence

Dorothy J. Mayor 1909-1986

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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MAYOR, DOROTHY.
February 21, 1947

Miss Dorothy Mayor  
c/o William Morrow & Co.  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Miss Mayor:

Noticing that your new book, IT'S AN ILL WILL, has a "bleak Maine setting," we wonder whether or not you are from this state.

We are particularly interested because of the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of the works of those born in Maine, residing here, or writing about the state. These are inscribed presentation copies, with an engaging variety of inscriptions; the books themselves ranging from earliest literature to the most contemporary novel; and the authors testifying to the versatility of pursuits of Maine people. Here are history, law, mysticism; here are children's stories, cook books, mysteries; poetry is represented, education, art, autobiography -- in fact, almost every subject and every kind of book.

The collection constantly attracts visitors and students, and it is always a pleasure to welcome a new name and a new title to these shelves. We hope that IT'S AN ILL WILL really is set in Maine, and that perhaps we may be fortunate enough to claim you as a Maine author.

You have our very good wishes for the success of your book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

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

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Your letter asking about my book, IT'S AN ILL WILL, has been forwarded to me from the William Morrow & Co., and I am sincerely honored by your inquiry.

Although I have lived all my life in New England, I am not a resident of Maine and know your state only from touring through and about it. The setting of the story is purely fictional, and there probably is no place along your coast exactly like it. I only hope I may be forgiven for taking liberties in my description. When I was writing the book I needed a rock bound coast and at least one down to the earth, stable, New England character to offer contrast to the more neurotic individuals who move through the story, so I chose Maine.

When I receive my quota of copies from the publisher I will be very happy to send you one.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
March 7, 1947

Miss Dorothy J. Mayor
65 Spruce Street
Apponaug, Rhode Island

Dear Miss Mayor:

Thank you for your friendly response to our inquiry about IT'S AN ILL WILL. It is always very interesting to know why an author chose Maine as a background, and we appreciate the implied compliment in your search for character stability!

We regret that we cannot claim you through birth, but we shall certainly be pleased to claim you through "adoption," as we have other writers -- people like Laura E. Richards, Ben Ames Williams, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Louise Dickinson Rich and Henry Beston.

We shall anticipate the publication date of IT'S AN ILL WILL, and look forward to the privilege of including an inscribed copy in the Maine Author Collection. Won't you call at the library when you are again in Maine, and see the collection?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. F. V. Jacob

Maine Author Collection
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am sending under separate cover an autographed copy of "It's An Ill Will". I hope your readers will enjoy it.

Thank you again for including me by adoption in your Maine Author Collection. I shall look forward to visiting the library when I am again in Maine.

Sincerely yours,

65 Spruce Street
Apponaug, R.I.
April 2, 1947
April 7, 1947

Miss Dorothy Mayor
65 Spruce Street
Apponaug, Rhode Island

Dear Miss Mayor:

The inscribed copy of IT'S AN ILL WILL for the Maine Author Collection arrived this morning, and we express again our pleasure in your interest, and in your generosity.

The tense excitement of the story, together with the lonely stormy background, combine to offer readers a book which they will find difficult to interrupt before the final page.

Please accept our good wishes for the success of IT'S AN ILL WILL, and our thanks for your kindness which makes it possible to add this book to the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Encl--10¢ postal refund.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection