SIMON, Joan
February 23, 1961

Miss Joan Simon
c/o Atheneum Press
162 East 38th Street
New York City 16

Dear Miss Simon:

Reading about your novel, PORTRAIT OF A FATHER, and observing that part of it is laid in this state, we wonder whether or not we may claim you as a Maine author.

It is of special interest to us because of the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or about the state in any way. Most of the nearly three thousand volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions lending a particular distinction to the valued exhibit. The books are as varied as the authors, of course -- poetry, cookbooks, children's stories, novels, biographies, travel, religion -- old and new, small and large, the one bond being Maine, either because of the author or the content of the books.

We also maintain a file of biographical and critical material, to have as complete information as possible on our authors.

It is a pleasure to welcome a new author, and we hope that perhaps you will want to inscribe and present a copy of PORTRAIT OF A FATHER to be included among the other Maine books. And won't you tell us what your connection with the state is? Were you born here, or have you lived here?

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

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 13, 1961

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

I would be delighted to inscribe and present a copy of PORTRAIT OF A FATHER to the Maine Author Collection but I am afraid I might be doing it under false pretences as an error was made on the blurb referring to the Maine woods when the woods described in the book were the Adirondack woods. The error was made because the Atheneum people knew that I had written a portion of the book while summering in Maine. We did own property there. My husband, Sidney Simon, was a founder of the Skowhegan School along with Henry Varnum Poor and Willard Cummings and we summered there off and on for thirteen summers. If this is reason enough to have my book included in the Maine Author Collection please let me know and you will receive a copy post-haste if not I understand.

Thanking you for your interest and hoping I am not causing undue trouble.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Simon
March 28, 1961

Mrs. Sidney Simon
164 South Mountain Road
New City, New York

Dear Mrs. Simon:

Thank you for your friendly and candid letter about PORTRAIT OF A FATHER. We are glad to have the explanation, and although the woods are not Maine, we still wish the book well!

As a matter of fact, your residence here while writing the book, and especially your several summers in the state, are ample reason for including you in the Maine Author Collection. We never feel that we are entitled to be insistent under such circumstances, however. All we can do is to say that we would be delighted to include PORTRAIT OF A FATHER as the work of an "adopted" author; but if you yourself feel that your connection with the state is too slight to give us this pleasure, we shall understand and be content to send good wishes and the hope that Maine may one day have more permanent claim upon you.

This leaves it entirely up to you, doesn't it?

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
June 2, 1961

Mrs. Sidney Simon
164 South Mountain Road
New City, New York

Dear Mrs. Simon:

It is indeed kind of you to let us adopt you as a Maine author, and we welcome PORTRAIT OF A FATHER into the Maine Author Collection. Thank you very much.

We hope that some day you will return to Maine. Meanwhile, the best of fortune to the new book, and our good wishes for a happy and satisfying continuation to the writing.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection