SLOBODKINA, Esphyr
March 23, 1960

Miss Esphyr Slobodkina
c/o Abelard-Schuman
404 Fourth Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Miss Slobodkina:

THE LITTLE DINGHY was such a charming Maine story that we should have written to you long ago, expressing our pleasure in it, and letting you know that we included the book in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles.

We are of course especially interested in all books pertaining to Maine, and we wonder if you have some connection with the state — as a summer resident, perhaps?

Some years ago we established a permanent exhibit of Maine books, known as the Maine Author Collection. Most of the books (there are about two thousand now) are inscribed presentation copies, and we are proud of the variety of books and authors represented. The collection is fascinating, and has many visitors and students; and we try to keep it complete with biographical and critical material about the writers. Naturally we hope that THE LITTLE DINGHY may be included one of these days.

Best wishes to you for a happy continuation of your work.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
April 4, 1960

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
MAIN AUTHOR COLLECTION
Maine State Library
Augusta, Main

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Your very kind letter was forwarded to me by the publishers, and I am thoroughly delighted to hear that I have, apparently, struck the right note in doing the "Little Dinghy". This is very important to me because, after all, I am only one of the "summer people"....

You guessed it correctly, I am a summer visitor, but a devoted one. Many years ago I used to go to the Manhigan Island. Then, when Margaret Wise Brown and I teamed-up as a writer and illustrator, I used to stay at her house on Vinal Haven Island. She owned half of it, you know. Since her death, however, I haven't gone back for any length of time.

"The Little Dinghy" is, more or less, a homage to the lovely times I used to have in Maine.

Again, thanks a lot for letting me know that the Main people appreciate my work.

Sincerely,

Eugyrl Lobodkina
April 15, 1960

Miss Esphyr Slobodkina
20 West Terrace Road
Great Neck, New York

Dear Miss Slobodkina:

What a delightful, friendly letter from you!

We are so pleased to have a copy of THE LITTLE DINGHY for the Maine Author Collection, and we add it to the other Maine books with appreciation and a continuing satisfaction that there are such lovely books for children.

The loss of Margaret Wise Brown is one to which we feel not wholly accustomed even now, and you must feel the loss much more acutely. Perhaps one day, however, you will return for longer periods -- you must know, of course, that we are very fond of some of our "summer people"!

Thank you very much for your charming response, and for the copy of THE LITTLE DINGHY for the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection