January 2016

Ernest E. Ward Correspondence

Ernest E. Ward 1884-

Maine State Library

Edward Martin

John P. Burnham

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation
Ward, Ernest E. 1884-; Maine State Library; Martin, Edward; and Burnham, John P., "Ernest E. Ward Correspondence" (2016). Maine Writers Correspondence. 651.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/651

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
WARD, ERNEST E

b. Norway, Maine - June 2, 1884.
Miss Ruth A. Hazelton,
State Librarian,
Augusta, Me.

Dear Miss Hazelton:

Thank you for your letter of the 24th, with reference to book "The Cat's Meow".

I note you do have an exhibit of books by Maine authors and you would like to retain this copy to place in that collection. I would like to know what the purpose of this collection is. In other words, does the State Librarian exhibit these for the purpose of selling to other libraries? This is new business for me and I am of course anxious to get this book off the ground in every way possible. I may say in passing it is going very well, both locally and in the middle States.

I have another book "My first sixty Years in Harrison" copy of which I am sending under separate cover. This book, while more of less for local consumption, does however appeal to the railroad fans as it contains much information regarding the rise and demise of the Bridgton & Saco River Narrow Gauge Railroad heretofore unpublished.

I will appreciate any further information you can give me.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

June 28, 1966
Book Beat

Local History With Twist Of Humor

Alex's personal life is marked by divorce and remarriage, and he becomes involved with the troubles of his editor-friend and protege, Ernie Hunter, who has allowed himself to become distracted by a mistress. On the professional side, Alex and Ernie run into such problems as a talented young author who happens to be a real rat, and another author who proves to be a plagiarist.

Perhaps the theme of the gifted author fighting for his ideals could be more clearly defined, and novelist Baker certainly could have used the talents of his fictional Ernie Hunter if nothing more than some plain, ordinary editing.

* * *

IF YOU DON'T MIND reading about a nightmarish world, a grotesquely irrational place such as Breughel once painted and Goya sketched, you may find Jakob Lind's "Landscape in Concrete" (Grove Press) a devastating document.

If you're a bit squeamish about such matters, the book is likely to upset you.

Lind's theme is the madness of war, developed through the story of Gauthier Bachmann, a bulging giant of a sergeant in the German army of World War II.

Bachmann's mind has been added to the horrors of a ghastly battle at Voroshenko on the Russian front, but he feels compelled to search for his lost regiment. Of course it is Bachmann who is lost, a wanderer.

In the Ardennes he has a brush with an animal-like deserter, then is shipped off to Portland, Maine, Sunday Telegram, July 3, 1966

MY FIRST SIXTY YEARS IN HARRISON, MAINE, By Ernest E. Ward, Cardinal Printing Co., Denmark, Maine.

By RAYMOND GAILEY

A FEW ASPECTS of life are strange to busy, lively Ernest E. Ward of Harrison—unless it be space-walking. He might even take that up—at 82.

His latest venture, a book about his home town, titled "My First Sixty Years in Harrison, Maine," is a labor of love (and, incidentally, three years) which reflects his wry optimism and his love of this lake-and-forest area. He was born in Norway (Maine, that is), but moved to Harrison, 12 miles away, in 1907.

Although his 80-page book zeroes in on Harrison, it encompasses legends, tales and honest-to-goodness history—of people as much as places—touching often on its neighbor communities of Naples, South Paris, Bridgton, Raymond, Waterford, Brownfield, and, of course, Norway.

It's not the type of book to take to bed with you—to read you to sleep, that is. It's written in the style of one who likes to read. It's even illustrated by some of Ward's own drawings.

WARD ALSO has included a lot of rare old pictures of the area—its early stagecoaches and inns, Portland-to-Harrison and Long Lake canal boats, narrow gauge trains, wrecks and town stations, and late 19th and early 20th century local prints.

Modestly, the author says that "this book is not intended to be a history of Harrison but, rather, a recollection of events that have occurred during my 60-odd years as a resident."

To show you he's looking forward to many more "odd-years," he writes, "I have enjoyed every one of them and hope the next 60 will be as pleasant."

His disclaimer that the book is not intended to be a history is not entirely true. It is a history of the time—a colorful era of the Long Lakes-Sebago area, injected with personal warmth, fond recollections and personal anedoctes (he's got a genuine sense of humble humor).

MUCH OF Harrison history, actually is Ernest E. Ward.

He organized and built the Waterford and Brownfield Light and Power Companies (both later sold to Central Maine Power), the Harrison Water Co., and was organizer of the Harrison Fire Department, incorporated in 1941.

His other activities include being a real estate broker, dedimus justice, and notary public, justice of the peace. "I wed 120 couples and only two marriages went sour."

A life-long Democrat, he was chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, from 1923 to 1959, served 12 terms as Harrison selectman, was moderator numerous years and in 1932 served in the Legislature—the first Democrat to represent the class towns of Harrison, Otisfield and Windham. He was also a principal founder and first secretary of the Maine Municipal Officers Association.

Ward was married to the former Hazel P. Burnham in 1946. She, too, is a history-antique lover, and, on their side-trips to out-of-the-way spots, makes sure he doesn't miss a place where they might pick up some unusual buttons of which he has a unique display.
Intimate memories are often quite as valuable as are formal history and usually much more interesting. Such is the case with Ernest Ward's "My first 60 years in Harrison, Maine." One could wish that Ward had sixty more years to live in that Northern Cumberland town with its picturesque village snuggled at the head of Long Lake of the famous Sebago chain. To many such books are either cluttered with illustrations or utterly devoid of them. Ward's has just the right balance and every picture carries story of its own. We can do with a lot more of these little books that give memorable impressions of our old Maine towns. Ernest Ward has rendered a service to not only Harrison but to everyone who reads his book.

Ernest E. Marriner
Interested memories are often quite as valuable as are formal histories and usually much more interesting. Such is the case with Ernest Ward's "My First Sixty Years in Harrison Maine". One could wish that Ward had sixty more years to live in that Northern Cumberland town with its picturesque village snuggled at the head of Long Lake, of the famous Sebago chain. Too many such books are either cluttered with illustrations utterly devoid of them. Ward's has just the right balance and every picture carries a story of its own. We can do with a lot more of these little books that give memorable impressions of our old Maine towns. Ernest Ward has rendered a service not only to Harrison, but to everyone who reads his book.

Dean Ernest C. Marriner
September 22, 1966

Mr. Ernest E. Ward
The Anchorage
Harrison, Maine 04040

Dear Mr. Ward:

Some time ago you sent us a copy of each of your books, THE CAT'S MEOW and MY FIRST SIXTY YEARS IN HARRISON. These were evidently sent on approval, which very likely accounts for the confusion and delay. We prefer not to have any books sent to us on unsolicited approval, but we are always glad of knowledge of Maine books, and welcome advertisements and flyers.

At any rate, we are approving your invoice for payment, and regret the delay.

These copies are being placed in the Maine Author Collection, which is an exhibit collection of books written by Maine people, or written about the state. Most of them are inscribed presentation copies, and we also gather biographical information about Maine writers. Perhaps you will be kind enough sometime to let us have a few facts of this nature -- for instance, your birthplace (Harrison?) and birthdate.

We will note the books in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and thereby bring them to the attention of the Maine librarians. We do not have any sales outlet, of course, but are always glad to list Maine books in the Bulletin.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Miss Ruth Hazelton,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Hazelton:

I wrote you on May 31st. at the suggestion of Edward Martin local driver for Bookmobile, asking who to contact for possible sale of children's book "The Cat's Meow". I received your reply on June 24th. stating that you do have an exhibit of books of Maine authors and that you would like to retain copy sent you and asking that I bill you for it. I wrote you in answer to this on June 28th. and enclosed copy of my book "My first sixty years in Harrison" for your consideration. I did not enclose bill but am doing so now and will ask that the Sixty -year book be returned to me Postage enclosed.

For your information the Cat book is going over big in Cincinnati Ohio and Kentucky where it is on sale and a considerable number have been sold in Maine. The Sixty year book has received very good comments in the Book Review of the Sunday Telegram, the Down East Magazine and from Dean Ernest Marriner of Colby College and is selling very well both in Maine and other States where we have orders from Seattle Washington, Mass. Connecticut, New York and today an order from Ontario Canada.

I had expected this book would be of more interest locally and to Railroad Buffs, Mr Marriner's comments indicate it may have general interest to others.

You may return both books if desired or the price of The Cat's Meow is $1.75 Sixty Year book $2.95 single copies, Lots of ten $1.00 and $2.45.

Thank you for all the trouble I have evidently put you to.

Yours very truly,

Ernest E. Ward
October 4, 1966

Mr. Ernest E. Ward
The Anchorage
Harrison, Maine 04040

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for the biographical information which we requested.

The Bulletin of the Maine Library Association is published quarterly, and the present editor is Mr. John P. Burnham, who is at the University of Maine Library in Orono. For copies of the Bulletin, we suggest that you write to him. As you may know, the Maine in Print list does not offer extended reviews, but is simply an annotated list of Maine items. In this way, however, books of Maine interest are brought to the attention of Maine librarians.

We are glad to hear that your records indicate a good sale for the books. Our best wishes to you for the one on which you are now at work.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Madam:

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd. in re. my two books, "My first 60 yrs. in Harrison" and "The Cat's Meow" sent to Mrs. Hazelton some time ago. I feel that an apology is due you people.

For your information, I wrote Miss Hazelton at the suggestion of our local driver of the Maine Bookmobile as I was anxious to get in touch with someone connected with the State Library. As an amateur I of course wanted to bring my books to the attention of the State. I received today orders for three books so evidently my persistence has not been in vain.

I note the books will be listed in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. Is it possible for me to get a copy of this?

You will be interested to know both books are enjoying a good sales, thanks for the very good review given them by the Down East Magazine and Portland Sunday Telegram, also an extra nice boost from Dean Mariner, former Dean of Colby College and present Librarian.

Biographical information - Born in Norway Maine June 2nd, 1884. Led very active life until stricken with, I hope a light heart attack which grounded me two years ago. To keep out of mischief wrote these two books and am working on a third.

Sincerely,

[Signature]